



**Kent United Church of Christ**  
*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, W.I.S.E.,  
and CREATION JUSTICE CONGREGATION*

**TRANSFIGURATION/NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**  
**February 15, 2026**  
**10am**

BELLS

PRELUDE

*How Firm a Foundation*

arr. Sandra Eithun

GREETING

Rev. Amy Gopp, senior minister

INTROIT

*This is the Day the Lord has Made*

Marty Haugen

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Bill Peck, liturgist

Come, all who are weary from the valley below.  
Come, all who long for beauty, truth, and courage.

**Jesus leads us up the mountain—  
not to escape the world,  
but to see it more clearly.**

Here, light breaks through flesh and fear.  
Here, the Holy shimmers in ordinary human life.  
Here, God speaks love over beloved bodies and trembling hearts.

**Let us listen.  
Let us be changed.  
Let us worship the One  
who calls us down the mountain  
to love the world as it is becoming.**

Come, and be transfigured.

\*OPENING HYMN Insert

*Gather Us In*

Marty Haugen

\*INVOCATION

Bill Peck

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST  
May the peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*"Jesus Loves the Little Children" is sung to bless the children.*

Pastor Emily

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

Richard F. Abbott  
Lily Baker  
Sophie Morrison  
Erin and Alex Morse  
Jillian Tipton  
Tayah Watts

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

*Matthew 17:1-9*

Here ends the reading from God's word.

**Thanks be to God, who is still speaking.**

SERMON

*Only Jesus*

Pastor Amy

ANTHEM

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*  
Chancel Choir

Gilbert M. Martin

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Amy

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Gayle Wall, community meal coordinator

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #182 *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

HYFRYDOL

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Bill Peck

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Amy

\*CLOSING HYMN #1

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Amy

\*POSTLUDE

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

arr. Lani Smith

***Our service has ended. Now our service begins.  
You are the Body of Christ, and the whole world awaits you.***



# Gather us in

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place--- new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness  
2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - tery, we are the old who  
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav-en,



van - ished a - way, --- see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
yearn for your face - --- we have been sung through - out all of his - tory,  
bread of new birth - --- here you shall cal your sons and your daugh-ers  
light years a - way, but here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the Ki - ing - dom, now is the day.



Gath - er us in the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in the  
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame: call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peop - les to - geth - er,

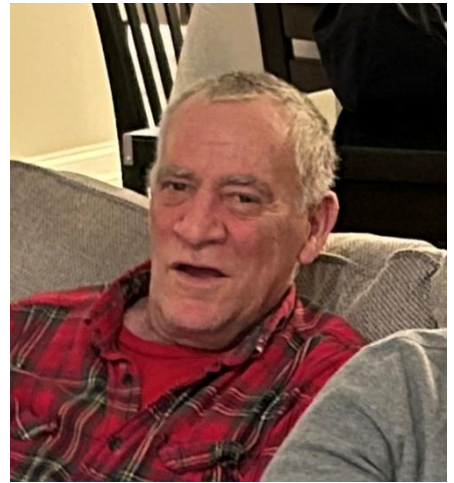


we shall a - rise in the sound of our name.  
give us the cou - rage to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire - - of love in our flesh and our bone.

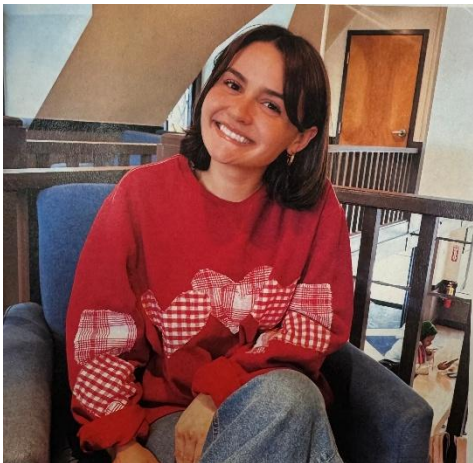
## Welcome New Members!

### **Richard F. Abbott**

Richard's family moved to Kent when he was in high school. Hew grew up in the Methodist church. Richard recently retired from his job at Altercare in Brimfield. He has been attending services with his sister and brother-in-law, Jeff and Sally Saltzman. Richard really likes what the sermons have to say. He also likes that everyone is friendly and kind. He enjoys helping with fellowship events and is excited to become a member of Kent UCC!



### **Lilia (Lily) Baker**

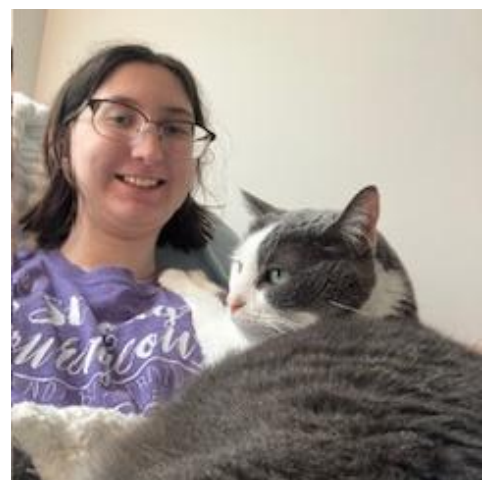


Lily is a junior at Kent State University studying nursing with the hopes of becoming an ICU nurse. Currently, she works as a nurse tech at Akron General. Over the past three years, caring for vulnerable populations has drawn her closer to God and deepened her faith. Lily was drawn to Kent UCC because of our welcoming community and our mission to serve others with compassion and purpose. Lily feels that our values are deeply intertwined with her work as a healthcare provider. She is also the president of the Kent State *Nurses of Faith Fellowship* and hosts a weekly Bible study to help fellow nursing students feel more connected to God's vision for their lives and careers.

Outside of school and work, she loves running, biking, and spending time with her cat Frankie. Lily is grateful to be part of a church that celebrates faith, service, and the uniqueness of each person.

### **Sophie Morrison**

Sophie had previously attended a UCC church in Lancaster, Ohio and really enjoyed it. She looked for a UCC church that was closer to her in Kent and found us. She is really drawn to our focus on social justice and mental health. Kent UCC's acceptance and affirmation of everyone, no matter what, is very important to her. Sophie is a junior at Kent State University majoring in psychology. She has plans to eventually get her master's in clinical counseling. She has an interest in history, folklore, and religion. Sophie enjoys reading, drawing, and musical theater. Her family has 2 dogs, Max and Katie, and a cat named Lily.



**Jillian Tipton**

You may have seen Jillian with her two children, Remy and Ellis. They live in Kent, and absolutely LOVE their town. Jillian works in business development and nonprofit management, and is a member of the Kent Junior Chamber of Commerce, as well as also sitting on the Kent Parks and Recreation board. Both Remy and Ellis attend Kent State's Child Development Center and are excited every Sunday to come to church (seriously!). They were drawn to Kent UCC for our welcoming spirit, strong sense of community, and genuine excitement around youth programming. They are thrilled to be joining a church that values connection, play, and giving back. They cannot wait to get involved, make friends, and grow together.

**Tayah Watts**

Tayah founds us via Google, and loves that we run on inclusivity. She came to church because she was not raised in it and wants to learn more about the word of God alongside a Godly community, and to become a part of the church community in general. Tayah loves that Kent UCC is big on acceptance of all no matter what walk of life everyone comes from. She loves to eat new foods, draw cartoon characters, and learn new things!