

Kent United Church of Christ

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, W.I.S.E.,
and CREATION JUSTICE CONGREGATION*

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 28, 2025

10am

PRELUDE *In Quiet Faith* arr. Edward Broughton

BELLS

*OPENING HYMN #436 *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

GREETING Rev. Amy Gopp, senior minister

INTROIT *This is the Day the Lord has Made* Marty Haugen

*CALL TO WORSHIP Ms. Emily, liturgist

Come, beloved community —
in a time of turmoil and transition,
let us center ourselves in God's presence.

**We come to be rooted in grace,
to rise in hope,
to walk humbly with God.**

When the world feels unsteady —
when leaders fail, structures shift, and roads detour...

**We remember our mission:
to do justice,
embrace faithful love,
and live with humility before God.**

Let this place be a sanctuary,
not from the world, but for it.

**Let us be a people of peace,
grounded in prayer,
guided by purpose,
growing in hope.**

*INVOCATION

Ms. Emily

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Emily

"Jesus Loves the Little Children" is sung to bless the children as they depart.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Luke 16:19-31

SERMON

Bridging the Chasm: Dreaming God's Dream Together

Pastor Amy

SPECIAL MUSIC

Dream God's Dream
Harold Hight

Bryan Sirchio

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Amy

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.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #498 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Ghanaian Folk Song
adapt. Tom Colvin

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Barb Hanniford

*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 #81

God Be with You
vs. 3 & 4

GOD BE WITH YOU

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Amy

*POSTLUDE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

arr. Dan Forrest

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



World Communion Sunday October 5, 2025



To celebrate World Communion Sunday next week, **you are invited to bring a loaf of bread to worship.** Perhaps you bring bread representing your ethnic heritage, or bread you especially love from another culture. Whether homemade or store-bought, please ensure your bread is wrapped and sealed. Please include a message or a scripture verse with the loaf. Everyone who brings bread will place the loaf on the Communion Table before we partake of the Lord's Supper.

At the end of worship, those who brought bread will be invited to choose another loaf to share with someone else after the service. In this way, we are taking Communion out into the world as an offering of Christ's peace, healing, and love. World Communion Sunday is a global celebration that focuses on our unity—honoring the beautiful diversity of each member of the one body of Christ.

Let's extend the Lord's Table to all in need of sustenance and new life. May the whole world know that all are welcome at Christ's Table!



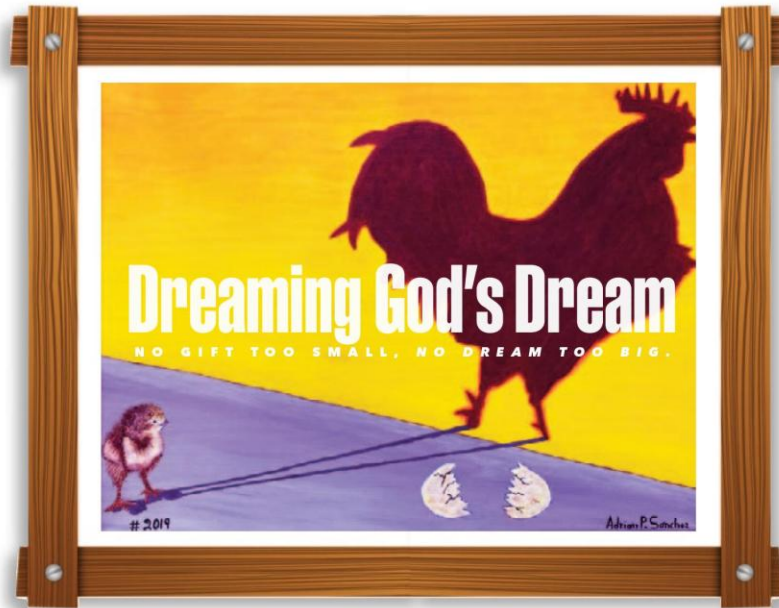


**“Aging: Everyone is Doing It”
Workshop on Abundant Aging
with Rev. Beth Long-Higgins
Sunday, October 12 after worship**

We all are aging. Society around us informs as how we are to think, talk and feel about our aging, all of which impacts how we actually age. The challenge is that the messages from the wider culture don't provide us with a very positive or supportive image of later life. Come and hear what the research tells us about those cultural images. Learn about some simple ways to change those messages and consider how we can reframe how we think about aging through a lens of faith in order to embrace the gift of later life.

Rev. Beth Long-Higgins will preach and present her workshop on Sunday, October 12. She joined the staff at United Church Homes in 2013 following six years as a member of the UCH board of directors. She was named the founding director of the Parker Center in 2017 and currently is VP of Engagement. Prior to her call with United Church Homes, she served as co-pastor with her spouse, Dave, for 25 years serving two United Church of Christ congregations in Ohio and Kentucky.

Beth also serves on the board of directors of the UCC Council for Health and Human Service Ministries and is a member of the American Society on Aging where she sits on the Ageism and Culture Advisory Council and co-chairs the Religion, Spirituality and Aging Collaborative. She is a trained facilitator through the National Center to Reframe Aging and is a member of the board of SourcePoint, a non-profit agency serving older adults in Delaware County. Beth is a musician, a quilter and enjoys travel with family.



Feeding the 5000

CAN ONE SMALL GIFT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE AT ALL?

All the Gospels tell the story of Jesus feeding 5000 people (John 6: 1-14) with only five loaves and two fish. But the Gospel of John focuses our attention on the role of a little boy. Faced with a crowd of hungry people, Jesus looked for help feeding them. The little boy stepped forward with a modest gift, improbably small when set against the size of the crowd.

Jesus blessed the small gift and distributed it to the crowd. As Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade observes, “Like the folk story of Stone Soup where travelers ask for a large kettle and a stone as a starter for the community stew, we might imagine Jesus calling for a basket to pass around the food. It may have looked comical to see such a tiny amount of food in such a large basket. But then something interesting happened. As he passed the basket to his disciples, suddenly more baskets appeared. Surprisingly, there was food in those baskets as well!”

We dream big in church. The Gospel moves us to imagine addressing poverty, stopping conflicts, reconciling enemies, and building the kin-dom of God. Our gifts may seem small next to the big dreams of our congregation. But like the Feeding of the 5000, God’s amazing work begins with our small gifts.

What might God do with what you have to offer?

**CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT
OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.**

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.
Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our
congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



Dreaming God's Dream
NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.