

WESLEY-KNOX UNITED CHURCH
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Find us on Facebook & Instagram:

www.facebook.com/wesleyknoxunitedchurch
www.instagram.com/wesleyknoxunitedchurch



Wesley-Knox Choirs:

www.facebook.com/CantareWK/
<https://www.instagram.com/cantarewk>

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Moving in the Spirit...

**A diverse, welcoming, caring,
and active faith community.**

**A place to learn, grow, build
a relationship with God and make a difference in the world.**



Affirm/S'affirmer
UNITED/ENSEMBLE

Worship isn't a business meeting, though some weeks we have important business to share with you. Worship isn't social hour, although we pass the peace and certainly do enjoy being in community together.

Worship is a threshold. It helps us bridge the gap between this world and the realm of God. It is a threshold to the past, in that worship should help us recall the mighty acts of God, and, in so doing, we gain strength for the spiritual struggles we face today. Worship is a threshold in the way it helps us see that the veil between this world and the next is particularly thin. The world we are in and the world that holds our loved ones are "only a breath away" from each other (to quote a Josh Groban song). Worship is a threshold into the community of God where we are (hopefully) nurtured, challenged, and equipped to live our faith in ways that make God's Kingdom a reality in the world.

Worship is ritual. Rituals are actions that convey meaning. But here's the key: rituals are only as important as their shared meaning. My rituals surrounding my family holidays, for example, have immense shared meaning for our kids, but probably wouldn't be that important to you all. And your rituals, while important to you, wouldn't likely carry the same meaning for me.

Ritual must have shared meaning, or it's just superstition. And rituals can speak in ways that replace spoken language. The white robe (alb) I wear reminds us of the white garments of Baptism. The candles, cross, and other chancel appointments remind us of Christ's presence and the theme of the season we are in. Reading the Gospel from the floor and not the pulpit reminds us of Christ, the incarnate one who came down to live among us. We come forward for communion to remind ourselves that we are choosing to follow Jesus. It is, in effect, our version of an altar call! We reverence the altar table (with a slight pause or bow) as a way of affirming that God alone deserves our allegiance.

All of these things we do are sacred drama; acts and rituals that remind us of the purpose of worship. We are not at a service club (as great as they are). We are not in a business meeting (as important as church business is); we are in Divine Worship, and in that space, we come expecting to meet the risen Lord. And in that meeting, we expect our lives to be changed.

See you Sunday!

Rev Rob +

**Moving in
the Spirit...**

July 12, 2026
7th Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 am

WESLEY-KNOX
UNITED CHURCH

July 12, 2026
7th Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 am

Worship Team: Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor; Vivienne Wardle

Music Team: Wenzel Steinbock, piano

VU = red hymnal Voices United | MV = spiral hymnal More Voices
Music Credits: One License #A-738765 | * = stand if able

~ We Gather Together ~

Prelude: Prelude no. 1, BWV 933 – Bach Wenzel

Life and Work of the Church Rev. Rob

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Rev. Rob

Lighting of the Christ Candle Rev. Rob

Preparing our Hearts for Worship Silent reflection

~ We Approach God ~

*Call to Worship

One: We gather today in the midst of busy lives and hectic schedules that mirror the chaotic pace of the world around us.
All: We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.
One: We gather as people inundated with constant information, fast-moving news cycles, and ever-present alerts vying for our attention.
All: We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.
One: We gather as people seeking to anchor ourselves in the faith as the world around us is blown to and fro by waves of fear, scarcity, and reactivity.
All: We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit. Beloved, come. Come to find rest, grounding, and guidance in the Spirit who dwells in you.
We come to set our minds on the Spirit who guides us and draws us together toward life, peace, and flourishing. Amen.

* Hymn: Breathe on Me, Breath of God VU 382

*Opening Prayer Rev. Rob

Loving God, you created life in us and all around us. Open us to receive your gifts of your world and your word that we may be not just hearers of the word, but doers also. Amen.

*Passing the Peace Congregation

~ We Listen for God’s Word ~

Hymn: Over My Head MV 88 V.1

Children assemble at the front while the hymn is sung

Learning with Children Rev. Rob

The Lord’s Prayer (Unison) VU page 921 and pew card

Hymn: Over My Head MV 88 V.2

Children return to their seats while the hymn is sung

Reading: Romans 8:1-11 Vivienne

Hymn: Take, O Take Me as I Am MV 85

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Rev. Rob

Sermon: Sow What?? Rev. Rob

~ We Respond to God ~

Presentations of Tithes and Offerings

For ease of giving etransfers can be made to donate@wesleyknox.com

Offertory Music: Prelude no. 2, BWV 934 – Bach Wenzel

*Offertory Response & Prayer (In unison): VU 506

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

*Dedication of the Gifts Rev. Rob

Prayers of the People Rev. Rob

~ We Go Out to Serve ~

*Hymn: Spirit God, Be Our Breath MV 150

*Commissioning & Benediction (unison) Rev. Rob

May the Spirit who dwells in you bless you with open minds to receive God’s wisdom, open hearts to follow God’s guidance, and open doors that we may together build God’s kingdom of life and peace on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

*Congregational Response (unison) VU 602

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of hearts and minds
is like to that above

Postlude: Postlude no. 6, BWV 999 – Bach Wenzel

~ Worship Ends - Service Begins ~

A warm welcome to all who are present today and to all watching online at this time of worship and fellowship. Your presence enriches our church family. May we all feel blessed today by the fellowship we have received.

Activity packs are available at the back of the sanctuary for folks with children please return them after worship. Thank you!

~ Minister’s Musings ~

Dear friends

Madonna released a new album recently, and while I am not big into an entire album of dance music, it is a good collection. There was one song, with lyrics that spoke to me:

*The dance floor is not just a place, it's a threshold;
A ritualistic space where movement replaces language*

Those words spoke to me, especially right now. A threshold. A ritualistic space where movement replaces language. I could have used that quote when I was teaching liturgics (worship theology) in the seminary! That's exactly what worship is...or should be. Worship isn't a business meeting, though some weeks we have important business to share with you. Worship isn't social hour,

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