

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
2101 East Washington St. Bloomington, IL 61701
309-663-7437 • stlukeunion.org • facebook.com/stlukeunionchurch

Sunday Worship Service

July 12, 2026 10:30 am

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING SONG #SPW 128

“The Trees of the Field”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

Your word is our heritage forever, the joy of our hearts.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Author of Life, Living Word, Holy Breath, we have stumbled through the week and groped our way back to this place. Illumine the steps before us and write your word on our hearts, for we carry the name of Jesus and would walk in the light of his love. **Amen.**

***HYMN #288**

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Scriptures are shot through with stories of people just like us: men who grieved, women who questioned, siblings who did not get along, parents who chose favorites. God’s word of grace is meant for people just like us. There is no need for pretense in this place. Let us go to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe.

Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting. **Amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of God dwells in you. If you hear nothing else today, hear these words: there is no condemnation. In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #579**

“Glory Be to the Father”

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. **Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9

HYMN #324

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13

SERMON

"What Goes Out, Returns"
Rev. Susan Baller-Shepard

***Spiritual Challenge #1:** Find a line of Scripture which speaks to your life. Maybe you have one that doesn't speak as loudly as it once did, or you are in need of inspiration? Your challenge this week is to find a line from Scripture which speaks to your spirit now.*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*HYMN #428 (Verse 1) "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN

"God of the Fertile Fields"
(Tune: Come, Thou Almighty King)

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*HYMN #593

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*POSTLUDE