



Spring Creek United Church of Christ

15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024

*We are an Open and Affirming, God-is still-speaking Congregation.
We embrace our diversity to make a divine difference together.
Wherever you are on life's journey, there is a place of welcome for you here.*

Welcome to Spring Creek United Church of Christ!

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 1, 2024

*(Please stand as you are comfortable, at the places marked *)*

Meditation: "I Trust In Thee" -J.C. Bach

Musician

Welcome

Pastor David

*Hymn NCH 44, *Beautiful Jesus*, all verses.

Call to Worship

Worship Leader/People

Come, let us gather and hear
The message of our God.

May that message touch our hearts
And awaken our souls.

May we be moved to offer
Our best selves in service to God and others.

Prelude: "For the Beauty of the Earth" -Pierpoint/Winter Musician

***Gathering Prayer**

Worship Leader/People

We gather together, eager to listen and discern your Word, ready to learn from the stories of our faith. Prepared to grow from the lessons learned. Humbly, we offer our hearts and hands to serve you with love. Amen

Confession

Worship Leader/People

**O God, we confess,
We sometimes become too comfortable
With our rituals of prayer and devotion.
Padded pews and soothing voices
Sometimes invite us to hold our faith in place,
Serving no one, but ourselves.**

**Forgive us, O God.
Help us to rise as we our able.
Let our voices be heard in praise.
May our hearts beat also
For those who are in need,
And may we pray with our feet.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Pastor David

The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

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 NCH 393, *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*, all verses..

Reading James 1:17-27

Worship Leader

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.^[a] ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Hearing and Doing the Word

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for human anger does not produce God's righteousness.^[b] ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and

rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves ^[c] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Sermon: "A Moving Prayer"

Pastor David

*Hymn NCH 448, *Take My Life, and Let It Be*, all verses.

Today's loose offering will be for Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Offering: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" -Smith

Musician

***Offertory Response**

(tune of Old Hundredth)

Congregation

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor David

Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see insert.

Announcements

Worship Leader

Handbell and Vocal Choirs will begin practicing next Thursday, Sept 5th (Bells @6pm, Singing @ 7pm).

Lighting Candles for Peace

Pastor David

Benediction

Pastor David

Postlude: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" -J.S. Bach

Musician

NCH – New Century Hymnal

Pastor: David Sheridan
Musician: Tom Stein
Worship Leader: Becky Grace
Hymn Leader: Deb Floor

Production: Pam Douglas & Josh Hill
Ushers: Pam Douglas & Lynn Stadtmueller
Greeter: Jerry Brickey

Prayer Requests

- We pray for **Judy**, a friend of **Ann Patel and Kathy Blosser**, who is in the hospital with cardiac issues.
- We pray for **Marion Lewis** who rescued and cared for a cat named "NC" for a year (a neighbor's cat), and is now having to euthanize this pet.
- We pray for **Jane Austin** who suffered a fall resulting in fracture of her left shoulder, and is recovering at home.
- We pray for **Phil Adkins**, who continues to suffer with cardiovascular problems, with episodes of severe pain. We ask that you be with him as he copes with the disappointment of learning that the hoped-for stent placement is not possible. May the heart/medical staff continue to explore ways to reduce his painful episodes.
- We pray for **Barb Mugavero's son David**, who had successful triple bypass surgery and is recovering at home.
- We pray for **Vicki and Jim Crone** as her health diagnosis and treatment continues. We give thanks that they have received long-awaited and welcome clarification about next steps over the next several months.
- We pray for **John Gerrond's sister, Susan**, who had successful open-heart surgery. We pray for her recovery.
- We pray for **Phil Floor**, who has completed treatment for cancer.
- We pray for **Terry White's brother, Ron**, who is being treated for cancer.
- We pray for **Mike Grace's** sister-in-law, **Nancy**, who had successful surgery for tongue cancer. Pray for her recovery and through additional treatments.
- We pray for **Rita Webster**, who suffered a fall and broke bones in her foot.
- We pray for **Kathy Lovins** who is recovering from a recent knee surgery, later suffered from a fall, and was again hospitalized but is now recovering at home.
- We pray for **Liz & Brent Schultz's friend & long-time neighbor with ALS, Shawn**, who entered hospice care, and for his wife and six kids and their families.
- We pray for **Liz Schultz's friend, Mary**, and her sister, **Kathy**, who has been battling cancer for years. An experimental program has shrunk the tumor, and will give Kathy more time. Thank you for prayers of hope and support for Kathy, her husband George, and their family.

- We pray for **Todd**, brother-in-law of Pastor David and Leslie, who continues cancer treatment.
- We pray for **Virginia**, Pastor David's sister, who has been suffering from complications of COPD and Covid.
- We pray for **Becky**, Pastor David's sister, who had successful surgery, and is recovering at home.



No Anniversaries

Birthdays: Vicki Crone – 9/1

Mike Carr – 9/3

Jerry Brickey – 9/6

Sara Ostgarden – 9/6

Pastor David's Office Hours -- Wednesdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

or call the office for an appointment.

Emergency: 815/299-8263

Church Office hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

815/877-2576

Attendance

8/11-40

8/18-42

8/25-43