



Spring Creek United Church of Christ

25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023

*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!

25th Sunday after Pentecost – November 19, 2023
*(Please stand as you are comfortable at the places marked *)*

Meditation: "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" -J.C. Bach Musician

Welcome Pastor David

Hymn NCH 422, *Come, O Thankful People, Come*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

*Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 123)

Come, let us lift up our eyes to the Lord
Enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of a servant
Look to the hand of the master,

As the eyes of the maid
Look to the hand of her mistress,

May we look to the Lord our God
Until the Lord has mercy upon us.

Prelude "We Praise You, O God" -Cory/Valerius

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, and prepared to grow from the lessons learned. Humbly, we offer our hearts and hands to serve you with love. Amen

Confession

**O God, we confess
We sometimes accept your gifts,
But the gifts become our purpose,
And we lose our way to serving you.
We find ways to bury your treasure,
hidden from our hearts, so as not to be moved.**

**Forgive us, O God.
Help us to know our greatest treasure
Is faith in your abiding love and grace.
Help us to find anew, unearth, and share
Your treasure of steadfast love.
May it shine through us.
Amen.**

***Prayers of the People**

Pastor David

Lord's Prayer

Pastor David/ People

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 419, *Now Thank We All Our God*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

Reading Matthew 25:14-30

Worship Leader

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once ¹⁶ the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more

talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sermon "Buried Treasure"

Pastor David

Hymn NCH 391, *In the Midst of New Dimensions*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

Offering: "A Festive Peal"-Leavitt

Bell Choir

***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
Announcements	Worship Leader
Lighting Candles for Peace	Pastor David
Benediction	Pastor David
<i>Postlude</i> : "Trumpet Tune in C" -McCabe	Musician

NCH – New Century Hymnal *The Pilgrim Press*

Pastor: David Sheridan

Musician: Tom Stein

Worship Leader: Liz Schultz

Song Leader: Jim Crone

Production Team: Bob Tissot & Josh Hill

Ushers: Phil Floor & Paul

Mollway

Greeter: Jerry Brickey

Prayer Requests

- We pray for **Liz and Brent Schultz's** long-time friends, **Jim, and his wife Felicia, and their children**. Jim has been battling cancer and has been placed in hospice care.
- We pray for **Dan Mugavero** who has been transferred from the hospital to St. Anne's rehabilitation.
- We pray for Maria Janitzky's piano teacher, **Deb Dew**, whose husband, **Terri**, was taken off life support and passed away.
- We pray for Jean Kagan's brother-in-law, **Steve**, who has been battling cancer which has spread.
- We pray for **Amanda Janitzky**, who injured her foot and will be scheduled for surgery.
- We pray for **Larry and Laurice Hartzell's** dear friend **Lynette**, who had successful brain surgery to remove a tumor.
- We pray for **Gail**, a friend of **Ann Patel and Kathy Blosser**. Gail is living with brain tumors.
- We pray for Ann Patel's family member, **Patty**, who is continuing chemo for breast cancer.

- Prayers for **Liz & Brent Schultz's friend** & long-time neighbor, **Shawn**, who has been diagnosed with ALS, and for his wife and six kids and their families.
- We pray for **Phil Adkins**, who continues to suffer with cardiovascular problems.
- We pray for **Leslie Carr** who has been diagnosed with soft tissue cancer and is continuing treatment.
- We pray for **Todd**, brother-in-law of Pastor David and Leslie, who continues cancer treatment.



No Birthdays

**Anniversary: Colleen McDonald
& Jerry Brickey – 11/21**

Attendance

10/29-41
11/05-41
11/12-48

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