



Spring Creek United Church of Christ

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 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!

16th Sunday after Pentecost – September 17, 2023

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

Meditation: "I Come to Thee"- Ritter

Musician

Welcome

Pastor David

Hymn NCH 4, *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

***Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 103:1-7, 8-13)

Worship Leader/People

Come, let us bless the Lord

Who forgives our iniquity,

Who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,

Who works for justice for all who are oppressed.

For the Lord is merciful and gracious.

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,

Who deals with us, not according to our sins,

Nor repays us according to our iniquities.

Let us bless the Lord.

With all our soul.

Prelude "Help Us Accept Each Other" - Wesley

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

Worship Leader/ People

O God, we confess

We sometimes quarrel over opinions.

We squabble over whether something is purple or plum,

Whether we should eat meat or only vegetables,

Whether one day is better than another.

We readily pass judgment on others,

Withholding forgiveness and grace.

Forgive us, O God.

Help us to know that our shades of opinion

Mean nothing under the light of our purpose to serve you.

Grant us the humility to acknowledge judgment is for you.

Grant us the courage to embrace our duty to forgive.

May our readiness to forgive others

Surpass our tendency to judge.

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 499, *In All Our Living*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

Readings Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

Worship Leader

Do Not Judge Another

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith^[a] but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord^[b] is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.^[c] ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to^[d] God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.^[e]

Forgiveness

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[a] times.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience

with me, and I will pay you.’³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.’³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Sermon “Purple and Plum” Pastor David

Hymn NCH 388, Help Us to Accept Each Other, verses 1, 2, and 3.

Offertory “For the Fruit of All Creation” -Green 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

Announcements Worship Leader

Lighting a Candle for Ukraine Pastor David

Benediction Pastor David

Postlude " Crown Him With Many Crowns" - Loren Musician

Pastor: David Sheridan
Musician: Tom Stein
Worship Leader: Liz Schultz
Song Leader: Jim Crone

Production Team: Bob Tissot & Jim Crone
Ushers: Paul Mollway & Phil Floor
Greeter: Sara & Sophia Ostgarden

Prayer Requests:

- We pray for Lynn Rehnberg's caregiver **Mary** and her husband **Manny's** five-year-old granddaughter, **Rebecca**, who has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.
- We pray for **Dan Mugavero**, who has been released from the hospital and transferred to St. Anne's Rehabilitation, Rockford.
- We pray for **Gail**, a friend of **Ann Patel and Kathy Blosser**. Gail is living with brain tumors.
- We pray for **Patty**, a family member of Ann Patel, who is starting chemo for breast cancer.
- We pray for **Liz & Brent Schultzes' 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.

Attendance

8/27-38

9/03-32

09/10-45



Birthdays: Amanda Janitzky -- 9/20
Bruce Szatek -- 9/21

Anniversaries: no anniversaries

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.

815/277-2570