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# Spring Creek United Church of Christ

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
July 14, 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.*

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*Welcome to Spring Creek United Church of Christ!*

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, July 14, 2024**

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

Meditation: "Poem in F#", Scriabin

Brenda Ray

Welcome

Pastor David

\*Hymn NCH 436, *God of Grace and God of Glory*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 24)

Come, let us lift up our heads  
**And glorify the Lord.**

For the earth is the Lord's  
**And all that is in it, and those who live in it.**

For the Lord has founded it on the seas,  
**And established it on the rivers.**

Let us lift up our heads  
**For the Lord of hosts is the king of glory.**

Prelude: "Mourning Dove" – Charles Shadle

Colleen McDonald

**\*Gathering Prayer**

**Worship Leader/People**

***We have gathered, Jesus dear, we have come to watch and listen.  
Fix our minds, our senses clear, to receive your heavenly lesson.  
Please improve our concentration: draw us into contemplation.***

(from NCH 74, *We Have Gathered, Jesus Dear*, verse 1)

**Confession**

**O God, we confess  
We too often dance for kings.  
We bow to their power and sing their tunes,  
Overlooking their frailties and imperfections.  
Our quest is only to please and appease,  
Seeking their favor for ourselves.**

**Forgive us, O God.  
Help us to dance, not for mortal kings,  
But for the joy we find in serving you.  
Help us to dance, not for ourselves,  
But for the joy we find in serving others.  
May we humbly embrace your perfect love.  
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 488, *Be Still, My Soul*, verses 1, 2 and 3

Reading Mark 6:14-29

Worship Leader

14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus's<sup>[a]</sup> name had become known. Some were<sup>[b]</sup> saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him." 15 But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod<sup>[c]</sup> had married her. 18 For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed,<sup>[d]</sup> and yet he liked to listen to him. 21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. 22 When his daughter Herodias<sup>[e]</sup> came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests, and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." 23 And he swore<sup>[f]</sup> to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." 24 She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." 25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26 The king was deeply grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's<sup>[g]</sup> head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Sermon "Dancing for Kings"

Pastor David

\*Hymn NCH 377, *Forward through the Ages*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

Today's loose offering will be credited to the pantry Sunday Fund.

Offering: "Sonatina No. 4 in A, Minuetto" – Thomas Hook"

Colleen McDonald

**\*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

Lighting Candles for Peace Pastor David

Benediction Pastor David

Postlude: "Sonata K128", -- D. Scarlatti Brenda Ray

NCH – New Century Hymnal

**Pastor: David Sheridan**  
**Guest Musicians: Brenda Ray**  
**& Colleen McDonald**  
**Worship Leader: Liz Schultz**  
**Hymn Leader: Deb Floor**

**Production: Bob Tissot & Josh Hill**  
**Ushers: Bonnie & Tim Homan**  
**Greeters: Bonnie & Tim Homan**

### **Prayer Requests**

- We pray for **Phil Floor**, who has begun treatment for cancer.
- We pray for **Mike Grace's** sister-in-law, **Nancy**, who is awaiting biopsy results.
- We pray for **Rita Webster**, who suffered a fall and broke bones in her foot.
- We are thankful **Shawn Ostgarden's** health has improved, with the help of medication for his heart issues.
- We pray for **Amanda Janitzky**, who had successful abdominal surgery, and who is now recovering at home.
- We pray for **Barb Mugavero's son, David**, who will be having bypass heart surgery.
- We pray for **Terry White's brother, Ron**, who is being treated for cancer.
- We pray for **Kathy Lovins** who is recovering from a recent knee surgery, and 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 **Shawn**, who has ALS, and has entered hospice care, and for his wife and six kids and their families.
- We pray for **Roger Pelkey** who had successful back surgery.
- We pray for **Vicki** and **Jim Crone** as her health treatment and care continues.
- 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 **Phil Adkins**, who continues to suffer with cardiovascular problems.
- 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.



**Anniversary: Sam & Janna Wyant – 7/15**  
**Birthdays: Phil Floor – 7/15**

**Attendance**

6/23-44  
 6/30-36  
 7/7-49

**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