



Spring Creek United Church of Christ

**4th Sunday of Easter
April 21, 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!

4th Sunday of Easter, April 21, 2024

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

Meditation: "Sing Out, Earth and Skies" -Haugen

Musician

Welcome

Pastor David

*Hymn NCH 42, *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing, all verses.*

*Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 23)

Worship Leader/People

Come, let us call out to the Lord, our Shepherd,
Who leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.

Who walks with us through the darkest valley,
Whose rod and staff, they comfort us.

Who prepares a table before us
In the presence of our enemies.

For surely goodness and mercy
Shall follow us all the days of our life.

We shall dwell in the house of the Lord
Our whole life long.

Prelude "Song Over Waters" -Haugen

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 lose sight of our shepherd.

We fail to follow Jesus' example.

We behave like a mere hired hand,

Focused on ourselves, offering nothing to you or our neighbors.

Forgive us, O God.

Help us devote each day to better serving you.

Help us to leave things better than we found them,

Offering love wherever love is needed,

Offering grace when it is least expected.

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 99, *Abide with Me*, verses 1, 3, and 5.

Reading: John 10:11-18

Worship Leader

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired

hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes^[a] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Sermon “Leave Things Better Than You Found Them” Pastor David

*Hymn NCH 252, *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

Today's loose offering will be credited to Church Operations.

- Offering "Here in this Place" -Haugen 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 Candles for Peace Pastor David

Benediction Pastor David

Postlude "In the Garden" -Miles Musician

NCH – New Century Hymnal *The Pilgrim Press*

**Pastor: David Sheridan
Musician: Tom Stein
Worship Leader: Jerry Brickey
Hymn Leader: Amanda
Janitzky**

**Production: Dmitri Janitzky &
Josh Hill
Ushers: Pam Douglas & Phil
Floor
Greeter: Pam Douglas**

Prayer Requests

- We give thanks for **Larry Hartzell's sister, Connie**, who had a successful kidney transplant.
- We pray for **Amanda Janitzky**, who is recovering from abdominal infections. We pray for the success of upcoming procedures.
- We pray for **Colleen McDonald and Jerry Brickey**. Colleen has recovered from Covid, and Jerry tested positive.
- We pray for **Loretta Reif**, long-time friend of Sue McPherson, who passed away on March 30.
- We give thanks for **Carol Gerrond** who had successful oral surgery.
- We pray for **Loretta Reif**, long-time friend of Sue McPherson, who passed away on March 30.
- We give thanks for **Harriet Roll's** successful surgery.
- We pray for **Grace Petit's son, John**, who is confined to a wheelchair.
- We give thanks for **Barb Mugavero**, who has recovered from hip replacement surgery.
- We give thanks that **Mephisto** and family have found new housing.
- We pray for **Vicki and Jim Crone** as her health treatment and care continues. Vicki's April 9 procedure has been postponed to enable better communication between the Cardiology and Neurology staff
- We pray for **Roberta**, a member of our Senior Exercise class, who continues to recover after a recent hospitalization.
- We pray for **Liz Schultz's** friend, **Mary**, and her sister, **Kathy**, who has been battling cancer for years, and now appears to have no more treatment options. We pray for Kathy's husband, **George, and their family**.
- We pray for **Larry and Laurice Hartzell's** dear friend **Lynette**, who had brain surgery to remove a tumor.
- 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 **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.



No Anniversaries

Birthday: Sophia Ostgarden – 4/21

Bob Tissot – 4/27

Brent Schultz – 4/27

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

3/31-60

4/7-41

4/14-51