



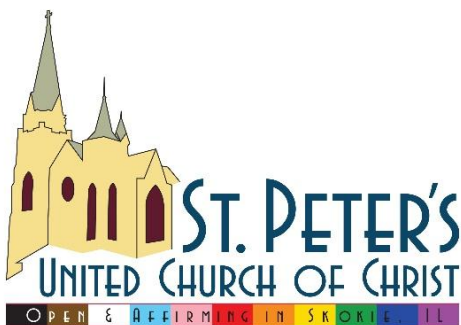
# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
October 12,  
2025  
10:00 AM**

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**Eighteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**



OPEN & AFFIRMING IN SKOKIE, IL



# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** All are welcome to join us

**Livestream on YouTube.** Live at 10am then available on our channel after



## Ways to Give

**Send a Check.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine!

**Use PayPal.** <https://www.paypal.me/stpeteruccskokie>

**Set up Vanco.** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCME/home>

Set up your account or log in to give



## Open Communion

**All Christians** and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



## About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



## Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

**Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson (Interim Pastor):** [pastor@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:pastor@stpeteruccskokie.org)

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** @stpeteruccskokie

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

*Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!*



**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, October 12, 2025 at 10:00am**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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*During our sacred music, listen. Be attentive. Feel God's Spirit connecting all of us gathered here, those with us online and in spirit, and those who cannot be present today.*

**PRELUDE**

Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *based Psalm 111*

One: Praise the Eternal One!

**All: Hallelujah! I will give thanks to God with my whole heart.**

One: Right here as this gathered community, let us voice our praise.

**All: God is gracious and merciful, full of loving compassion.**

One: The works of God are faithful and just.

**All: God liberates humanity — and all of creation!**

One: God promises peace and justice to last for all time.

**All: We trust in God's promises — God's covenant with us:**

One: May our minds be open and our hearts be teachable.

**All: Hallelujah! Praise God!**

# OPENING HYMN “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no shad-ow of  
Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and stars in their  
Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear pres-ence to

turn-ing with thee. Thou chang-est not; thy com-pas-sions they fail not.  
cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness,  
cheer and to guide, strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row:

As thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness!  
to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love,  
bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness Morn-ing by morn-ing, new mer-cies I see. All I have  
need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord un-to me!

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

One: The God of faithfulness knows us inside and out.  
There is no point in pretending. We come as we  
are. Let us pray:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: God of love, sometimes we forget to listen for  
your voice.  
Sometimes we forget to make ourselves quiet so  
that we can hear you.  
Please, God, do not stop speaking to us.  
Slow us down, lift up our eyes.  
Help us to learn to sit at your feet and listen.  
Amen.**

*Moment for quiet reflection*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Friends, let us say again the good news of the  
gospel:  
There is nothing we can do, and nothing that can  
be done to us, that will ever stop God from loving  
us.

**All: In Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven. We are  
loved. We are being made whole.**

One: Thanks be to God!

**All: Amen!**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**A: And also with you!**

*Share a sign of God's peace: a smile, a wave, an elbow bump, a handshake, a hug. Let us fill this space with love.*

**SUNG RESPONSE** "Halle, Halle, Halle"

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Today we celebrate the baptism of Amelia Nakhleh, daughter of Jennifer Nakhleh, sister of Emma and granddaughter of Nabil and Siham Nakhleh. Her godparents are Michael and OB Nakhleh.*

## WELCOME

One: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them,

**C: 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall never enter it.'**

**P:** And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying hands upon them.

## ADDRESS

**One:** This is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**All:** **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's Body.**

## QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

## QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

**One:** Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

**All:** **We promise our love, support, and care.**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**One:** Let us unite with the Church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you believe in God?

**All:** **I believe in God.**

**One:** Do you believe in Jesus our Christ?

**All:** **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

**P:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C:** **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

*You may be seated.*



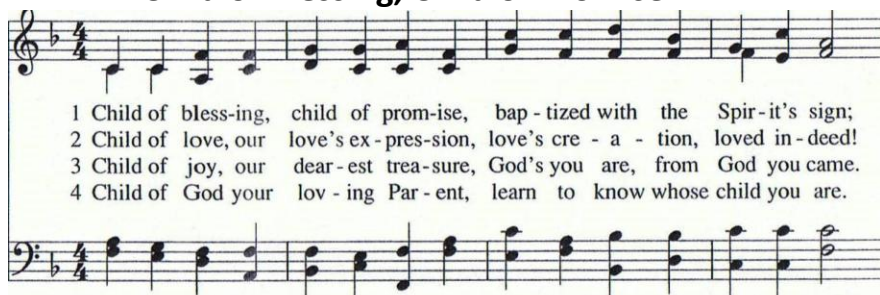
# PRAYER OF BAPTISM

## THE BAPTISM AND BLESSING

### INTRODUCTION TO THE CONGREGATION

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

#### HYMN: "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"



1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap - tized with the Spir-it's sign;  
2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in-deed!  
3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.  
4 Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.  
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.  
Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.  
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Mark Loach  
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

*You may wish to stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

**CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE**

Luke 17:11-19

*Please be seated.*

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**      Selected

**SERMON**      “The God Behind Our Boundaries”

**SPECIAL MUSIC**              Selected

**PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER****THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**A:** 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.

**CALL TO OFFERING****OFFERTORY and NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING**

*If you donate electronically, you may place an "Electronic Giving" card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.*

*You may stand in body or in spirit.*

## **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**


*Sing to the tune of "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"*

**A: For gifts of earth and hands that give,  
For hearts that learn and lives that live,  
We raise our song of thanks and praise,  
To God who loves in countless ways.**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**A: Receive these offerings as our praise, rising from  
lives made whole in your grace. May we never settle  
for being merely clean when you call us to wellness,  
to joy, to thanksgiving. Make us a generous people,  
healed and healing, blessing others as you have  
blessed us. Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God”



1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voice,  
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
 the Son, and Him who reigns with Them in highest heaven;



who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
 and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day,  
 and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

### Selected

*During the Postlude, we pause to reflect as we prepare to follow God out into the world.*

*Today's liturgy is adapted from:*

*Call to Worship — Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, UK; Confession, you know us — Cara Heafey, UK; from [worshipwords.co.uk](http://worshipwords.co.uk)*

*United Church of Christ Book of Worship;*

*and UMC Discipleship.org, Worship-Planning, 2025*

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### FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

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# Neighbors in Need

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

*- Galatians 6:2*

**Advocacy is essential to participating in  
God's mission in the world.**

**G**ifts to the **Neighbors in Need** offering support ministries of justice and compassion in the United Church of Christ, including the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C.



The UCC Washington D.C. Office was called into being by a resolution at General Synod 10 in 1975. The office was assigned to identify, analyze, and forecast social issues which called for the attention of the church. The work has always been guided by the discernment of the UCC through General Synod gatherings and resolutions that collectively witness to God's call.

Each week the Washington D.C. Office creates an action alert to help give church members the opportunity to contact legislators simply and easily. In 2025 these weekly alerts have encouraged church members to fight for disability housing accommodations, to stop the gun violence epidemic, and to support environmental justice for all.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

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# Neighbors in Need

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

*- Galatians 6:2*

## Prayer for Compassion

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God of compassion,

Give us the courage to breathe in care,  
and breathe out all that separates us.

The voices of your people can be lost in a cacophony of need.  
Help us to pay attention and see clearly our neighbors.

Encourage us to not only help, but listen,  
so all may have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

Strengthen us to confront evil  
and alleviate suffering.

Let us not turn away from the direct needs of ourselves and  
those around us

even as we seek to dismantle deeper injustice.

Turn us toward justice, peace and reconciliation.

We pray in your holy name,

Amen

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# Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



**24" Balsam Wreath  
with Velvet Ribbon**

Single Face Balsam Outdoor  
Wreath 24", 30", 40"  
Double Face Balsam 36"



**Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20"**  
Indoor/Outdoor



**4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece**

**Place your order by Thursday November 13th.**  
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

**Pickup will be on Saturday Nov 29th from 1 - 2 pm  
or at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Nov 30th.**

24" Single Face Balsam	\$18.00
Cemetery Stand	included
30" Single Face Balsam	\$32.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$55.00
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00
4' Noble Mix Mantlepice / Centerpiece	\$45.00
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	\$22.00
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$23.00
32" Evergreen Planter	\$33.00
42" Evergreen Planter	\$54.00
Fire Starter Basket	\$23.00
Balsam Door Swag	\$18.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$27.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$42.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00



**32" Evergreen Planter**  
42"+ Evergreen Planter



**12" Candle Ring Wreath**  
WITHOUT Candle



**24" Boxed  
Decorator Wreath**



**Holiday Yule Log 12"**



**25' Balsam Fir Garland**



**Firestarter Basket**



**Balsam Swag**

# CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for fresh pine Christmas wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to adorn your home or to be placed at a cemetery.

**The standard 24 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$18.00.**

Cemetery stands are included at no additional charge.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help to decorate the church for Christmas with the remainder going to the General Operating Fund.

We will place wreaths on graves at the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed by Thursday Nov 13th.**

**Pickup will be at the St. Peter's Laramie entrance on Saturday Nov 29th from 1 - 2 pm or after worship in the Lanford Fellowship Hall on Sunday Nov 30th.**

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment.**
- **fill in the form and mail it with payment** to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order form to [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)** and send payment separately via mail or use PayPal.

Please make checks payable to:  
St. Peter's UCC.

Name		
Address		
I will pick up my order up at church		
Please place on cemetery for:		
Item Description	Price	Quantity
24" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	\$18.00	
Cemetery Stands	included w/ cemetery placement	
30" Single Face Balsam	\$32.00	
36" Double Face Balsam	\$55.00	
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece/ Centerpiece	\$45.00	
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	\$22.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$23.00	
32" Evergreen Planter	\$33.00	
42" Evergreen Planter	\$54.00	
Fire Starter Basket	\$23.00	
Balsam Door Swag	\$18.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$27.00	
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$42.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00	
Total Amount (\$)		

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome! Today we give thanks to God for our pastors—those He has given us “according to His heart” (Jeremiah 3:15, KJV), to lead, teach and care for His people with faith and love. May this time of worship bless them, even as they continue to bless us.**

**We extend heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers; without their help, this and every service would not be possible – thank you.**

**Thank you to Sandy Kinsley filling in for Ben today!**

**Neighbors in Need Collection** – today is the second week of our special collection for the UCC's Neighbors in Need. Gifts to Neighbors in Need (NIN) support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. See insert for more details.

**Rummage cleanup/teardown** – thank you so much to everyone who worked so hard to get rid of all the leftover items! Most everything was removed and brought to a donation center. Details on the whole sale will be in the November Announcer.

**Wreath orders are being taken now!** It's not too early to think about holiday cheer. Orders must be placed by November 13<sup>th</sup>. See insert for all the details!

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**Holiday Craft Show St. Peter's Table needs to be headed -**

Every year we have a table for St. Peter's crafters to sell items that the proceeds go back to the church. Our past people cannot do it this year. We need someone to head this up and coordinate with any crafters from the church interested. If you can help, contact Wendy Svenson (847) 528-4545.

**Private signs** - You will notice certain rooms around the church have been designated as "private." If ICE should ever come to our building, they will not be allowed to enter any room marked "private."

**The Pet Blessing will be Sunday, October 26th from 3-4pm.**

Bring your 4-legged beloved friend for a blessing from Pastor Brenda! In addition to a blessing, we'll have treats for humans and pets, a pet raffle, and C.A.R.E. will be on hand with short leashes and information on adoptable animals. All are welcome, suggested donation of \$5

**Help stock our mini-Food Pantry** – Thank you to everyone who has been donating. Bring your items to the shelves by the office or leave them in the narthex. Thank you so much!

**Our Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale is Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 10AM-3PM.** All our slots have been filled, and we are so excited for this special shopping event happening! Mark your calendars and come shop!

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# Our People

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**Please keep St. Peter's extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Other folks that need your prayers include:**

- Chad & Peggy McCoy - his mother hasn't been doing well. Imaging has indicated metastatic cancer affecting her pancreas, liver, and lungs. Chad and Peggy are with her now.
  - Annie Noorts who had hip replacement surgery.
  - Richard Hook who is home after being hospitalized for a stroke.
  - Kathy Zipperer and her family.
  - Paul Abramchik and the Abramchik family.
  - Dorothy Panzke with a new health concern.
  - Sue Bailey has been diagnosed with Crohn's/Ulcerative Colitis and spinal lesions.
  - Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness. She and her family are fighting to find a remedy that will slow and maybe even reverse the progress of this illness.
  - Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting stage 4 cancer.
  - David, uncle of Chad McCoy, as he undergoes kidney dialysis treatments.
  - Prayers for healing for Ginger Kalensky.
  - Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
  - Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
  - Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
  - Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice battling cancer.
  - Paul Brzozowski has now completed all treatment and will have MRIs every 2 months.
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**This week we wish a Happy Anniversary to Megan & Steven Caras.**

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Rita McMahon, and Denise Hopp is on Nursery duty. Thank you so much for your service!

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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Barb Todd
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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*Regular Reminders!*

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**Let us know you were here!** Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

**We are always grateful for all offerings to the church.** So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the front cover for details on how to donate.

**Sign up for Coffee Hour!** Regular coffee hours are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. See our President Peggy if you are interested in signing up.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**Planting Life (October 12, 2025)**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Green**

**Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7**

If you knew the world would end tomorrow, what would you do today?

When Martin Luther, the 16th-century German scholar and theologian, was asked this question, he replied, “I would plant an apple tree.” Now it’s debatable whether Luther said this or not. He did adore nature, and he did give us the tradition of bringing an evergreen into our homes at Christmastime. But regardless of him planting an actual apple tree, what really matters is how we would answer such a question today.

What would we do to show hope in the future even when that future didn’t seem very promising? Would we dare to plant a tree?

Jeremiah would. The prophet even invites those he is writing to who are now living in exile in Babylon to join him. Lay down roots even in a strange land.

The children of God, though, don’t want any part of the Babylonian way of life. They want to return to Jerusalem. Their homesickness is

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spiraling into a deep, gloomy pit that is robbing them of the joy God still has for them.

Isn't it true for all of us that when life doesn't go our way, our disappointments often cloud our eyes from seeing the still-in-front-of-us God possibilities.

Jeremiah, though, isn't buying their pity party. He instructs them on how to carry on with hope and faith. Take wives. Have children. Multiply there in the land of your exile. Build homes. Plant gardens. Don't wait for when you return to Jerusalem. Live in the now and make beautiful plans for tomorrow — despite your current situation.

Lay down roots even in the very soil you wish your feet never stepped upon, for in that very soil a seed will still grow into something beautiful.

We are all being called to plant life this day — to bring forth hope amid despair, beauty amid ugliness, and calm amid chaos.

If you knew the world would end tomorrow, what would you do?

May today we take our shovels and begin planting Luther's fabled apple trees.

*God of promises, help us to accept where we are this day in our lives. Rather than focusing on what we don't have or what we long for, open our eyes to the beautiful gifts and the precious people who are right in front of us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)

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## Scripture for October 12, 2025

### Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. <sup>6</sup> Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup> But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

### Luke 19:11-19

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup> they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" <sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He prostrated himself at Jesus's<sup>[b]</sup> feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine?" <sup>18</sup> Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."