



February 16, 2025 9:30 a.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Joys and Concerns

Justin Quick, Elder

In order to respect privacy, joys and concerns will be discussed before the public livestream. If you need to add someone, please fill out a prayer request form and place in the offering tray as it is passed.

Welcome and Announcements

Phyllis McBrayer, Elder

If you are joining Sunday worship via Facebook Live, let us know you are tuning in by leaving a comment on the live stream video.

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Mary Coffman

Bringing the Light of Christ into the Sanctuary

*Call to worship (please rise as able)

Phyllis McBrayer & Congregation

L: Sisters and brothers,
we are called to follow Jesus.

P: Called to follow Jesus! What an opportunity!

L: We are called to take up our own cross
and follow Jesus to Jerusalem and Calvary.

P: Called to follow Jesus! What a challenge!

L: We are called to lay down our lives for the sake of God's kingdom,
so that we might take up eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**P: Called to follow Jesus! We step out in fear and trembling,
but also with great joy and anticipation.**

*Opening Hymn

"Blessed Assurance"

CH #543 (all)

*Invocation

Phyllis McBrayer & Congregation

O Lord Jesus, we see you with your face set toward Jerusalem, and we know the path you walk seems to come to a dead end at the cross. Yet you call us to follow; we do not wish to turn away, but there are so many reasons and excuses that compel us to different paths. We ask that through your presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, we would be made able to praise you this morning and follow you throughout the week, never looking back, whatever the cost. Amen.

Prayer Hymn

"Where He Leads Me"

CH #346 (all)

Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Justin Quick

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.

Musical Interlude

Mary Coffman

Responsive Reading

Phyllis McBrayer & Congregation

Psalm 5:1-4, 7-8, 11-12 (*United Methodist Hymnal*)

L: Give ear to my words, O LORD;
give heed to my groaning.

**P: Harken to the sound of my cry,
my Ruler and my God,
for to you I pray.**

L: O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you, and watch.

**P: For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.**

L: But, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
I will enter your house.

**P: Toward your holy temple
I will worship you in awe.**

L: Let all who take refuge in you rejoice,
let them ever sing for joy;
defend them, that those who love your Name
may exult in you.

**P: For you bless the righteous, O LORD;
you cover them with favor as with a shield.**

Special Music

"Are Ye Able?, Said the Master"

CH #621 (1, 2, 4)
Choir & Congregation

Scripture

Luke 9:51-62

John Daniel

Message

"Are You Sure You Want to Do This?"

Chuck Lewis
Carol Ann Winburn

Invitation to Discipleship

Justin Quick

*Invitation Hymn "I'm Gonna Live So He Can Use Me" CH #614 (1, 2, 4)

Musical Interlude Mary Coffman

Offering Meditation Diana Rich

Tithes & Offerings Diaconate
Offering trays will be passed in the pews.

*Doxology CH #47
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication Phyllis McBrayer

Call to Communion Justin Quick

Communion Hymn "I Am Thine, O Lord" CH #601 (1, 3, 4)

Words of Institution Justin Quick

Communion Prayer Phyllis McBrayer

Distribution of the Elements Diaconate
Everyone is welcome at Christ's Table. Those who are comfortable doing so, please come forward down the center aisle to partake at the table. Deacons will serve those who remain seated.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*Benediction Justin Quick
Taking the Light of Christ into the World

*Closing Hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" CH #344 (1, 4)

SERVING TODAY

Elders:
Phyllis McBrayer & Justin Quick
Deacons:
Jennifer Schmehl & Don Cole

Greeter: Don Malan
Scripture Reader: John Daniel
Choir Director: Carol Ann Winburn
Accompanist: Mary Coffman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **OUTREACH MISSION** - This month, we're focusing on collecting Soup and Crackers to support the Community Food Pantry. Please bring your donations to the church throughout the month. Your generosity is greatly appreciated—thank you for making a difference!
- **KETCH-UP CAMPAIGN**
Campaign Goal: \$20,000 Amount Raised: \$7,236
- **SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS**
February 23 - Sharla Hulsey; March 2 - Everett & Phyllis McBrayer
- **BOARD MEETING** - Today after worship
- **COMMUNITY CAFÉ** - Tuesday, February 18 @ 5:30 p m.
- **DISCIPLES WOMEN** - Tuesday, March 4 @ 6:30 p m.
- **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** - Wednesday, March 5 @ 6:30 p.m.
- **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**— Sunday, March 9

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, Feb. 16:	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Board Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 18:	5:30 p.m.	Community Café
Wednesday, Feb. 19:	6 p.m.	Youth Group
	7 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, Feb. 21:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, Feb. 23:	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Life Group
Wednesday, Feb. 26:	6 p.m.	Youth Group
	7 p.m.	Choir Practice
Friday, Feb. 28:	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Son Shine Ladies



HEARD AND SEEN: HOPE IN A NEW HOMETOWN

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Week of Compassion has continued to accompany individuals and families affected by the war. Three years into this conflict with no clear end in sight, accompanying Ukrainian refugees is less focused on temporary arrangements while waiting to return home, and has redirected to helping them more fully integrate into neighboring regions, in addition to supporting the communities that are actively welcoming them.

Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable when adjusting to new environments. To enable integration into the wider community, programs are established as survivor- and community-led responses (SCLR). Week of Compassion's partner, Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, has distributed micro-grants to refugee communities and in their host communities in both Hungary

and Ukraine. This SCLR program's goal is to embrace community-led initiatives that foster lasting integration, empowerment, social cohesion, and resilience building. What does this look like in real, everyday life?

In Budapest, the Ukrainian Space offers after-school programs for primary and secondary students, from arts and crafts to Hungarian language courses, from mathematics to cookie-decorating! As their young lives have been disrupted by war, these programs provide an important place for children to simply be together, for them to paint and play and talk about their home, their family, life in the place they left and in the place they live now. In fact, when some observant students noticed

Thank you to Reformed Church in Hungary for these story details following a recent Week of Compassion partner visit.

plants and trees in their new home that resembled those that grow around the homes they left behind, an art project was born. Creating a book with students' drawings of plants, trees, and flowers, with captions in Hungarian and Ukrainian, the students have both an art project and a bridge across cultural divides. These hours at the Ukrainian Space are something children can look forward to every week – a place to escape adult worries, where kids can be kids.

Knowing the importance of resilient and integrated communities at every age, elders can gather weekly with the Ukrainian Elder's Club, for learning activities at the Ministry Center or cultural programs in Budapest and surrounding towns. This gathering serves as a healing space where members share meals and support one another, especially as they deal with separation from their families. It allows them to preserve their memories and converse in their native language in a new environment. This community not only acknowledges their struggles but also celebrates moments of joy, providing a place to be seen and heard amidst the brokenness and laughter.

Week of Compassion continues to pursue the things that make for

hope and peace – things that are true, honorable, and just. We eagerly share stories of hope, telling of what we have HEARD AND SEEN: that gifts of compassion matter, to people in crisis, and as people of faith. Week of Compassion makes an impact around the world, ensuring that the stories, needs, and celebrations of vulnerable communities are heard and seen – and that we respond.

With long-standing partnerships around ecumenical tables, especially in times of conflict and division, Week of Compassion is committed to the long-term, long-lasting, steady and deliberate work of peace, justice, and hope. We invite people of faith to be part of hopeful outcomes, where giving is a heartfelt response as we follow a compassionate Christ.



SPECIAL OFFERING 2025 **February 16-23**

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.