

## NEWS AND NOTES

1. **Rev. Bob** will have his regular office hours this week on **Tuesday and Thursday**. He would also **like to visit with our members** when they are available in the office or at their home. If you are interested, contact the office or Rev. Bob directly.
2. **Our new Office Administrator, Chris Jaworski**, began her duties this week and new office hours have been established for each week, Tuesday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Chris is also a RI notary. Please call the office if you need something notarized.
3. The **“Get Crafty”** group meets on **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** Please bring your own crafts to work on as we enjoy fellowship with one another. A time of sharing where everyone is welcome!
4. The churches of Riverside are hosting a **Blood Drive on Monday, June 5**, from **3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** at **St. Brendan’s Church**, Riverside - An appointment is needed by calling the RI Blood Center 401-453-8383) or at: [customerservice@ribc.org](mailto:customerservice@ribc.org)
5. And don’t forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed!**



## *Hope Congregational Church United Church of Christ*

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**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

*Seventh Sunday after Easter - Ascension Sunday*

*“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,  
you are welcome here!”*

**May 21, 2023**

**10:30 a.m.**

PRELUDE

INTROIT “God of Hope”

Insert

\*CALL TO WORSHIP .

One: Praise God, who reigns over all.

**All: Praise the One who made heaven and earth, the whole universe.**

One: Praise God, whose reign is not of this world.

**All: Praise the One who commanded us to love one another and laid down his life for us.**

One: Praise the One who became last of all and servant of all.

**All: Praise the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**

\*HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

No. 71

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Architect of the Universe, You created the expanse beyond our wildest imagination. There are stars so massive and particles so small that we can never comprehend it. We struggle with day to day living when You have made so much that we will never know.

**All: May we recall in our moments of loneliness that You know the number of stars and the number of hairs on our heads. May we hold on to the knowledge in our most despairing times that You sent Your Only Son for us, to show us Your Way, Your Truth, and Your Life. All in all, if there is nothing we can truly know except one thing, may it be Your love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

\*Doxology “Alleluia No. 1”

(Refrain)

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name!*

*Spread the good news o’er all the earth.  
Jesus has died and has risen. (Refrain)*

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Gracious God, you have given us so many gifts. Bless all the lives who will receive these gifts, as we let them know our love. **Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN “For the Fruit of All Creation “ No. 723

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION—We invite you to sing with us:

“This Is the Day”

*This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad!*

PASTOR - Rev. Robert Nolan  
MINISTER OF MUSIC - Kim Kuda  
DEACON & LAY READER - Margaret McKiernan  
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dot Leone,  
Dale Magnuson, Kim Kuda

*\*If you are able to do so comfortably, please stand.*

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: God fashioned us all out of stardust, the same molecules that are the building blocks of the universe are in our bones and tissue. We were made out of love. You are made in God's image. When you look in a mirror, God is winking back at you. You are precious in God's sight. May we hold one another tenderly, forgiving each other as we are forgiven, working to repair what has been broken, and to live into the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. God loves you so.

**All: May we hold one another tenderly, forgiving each other as we are forgiven, working to repair what has been broken, and to live into the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. God loves us so. Amen**

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

## TIME FOR ALL AGES

## PASSING THE PEACE

One: God calls us to create a community which welcomes all:  
To care and love unconditionally,  
To free us and create a welcome for all.  
May the Peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Let's share that welcome with each other, that Love!



SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 24: 44-53

(NRSVUE)

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

SERMON

**"Reunited, and it feels so good"**

\*HYMN "Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life"

Insert

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral Prayer (including prayer concerns)

Time of Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

Prayer Response "Let the Church Say Amen"

*Let the church say amen, Let the church say amen,  
Altogether, let the church say amen.*

## DELIGHTING IN GIVING

(Plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory Music "God is Truly With Us"

Music Team

