

**Meetings / Gatherings week of October 22nd**

Monday, October 23rd - Deadline for November/December Newsletter Items  
Wednesday, October 25th - Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm  
Friday, October 27th - Hope Church Fellowship Mtg. 4 - 8:30pm  
(Fellowship Hall)

**Future Meetings / Gatherings / Dates to Remember**

Sunday, October 29th - Deadline for Cot Shelter Donation  
Friday, November 3rd - All Church Annual Conference 7:00pm (main level)  
(All church family / members should attend)  
Friday, November 17th - Church Fair 4 - 8pm  
Saturday, November 18th - Church Fair 9am - 2pm  
Sunday, November 19th - Thanksgiving Sunday  
Monday, November 20th - Cot Shelter Meal

Christ United Methodist Church, 271 Rocky Hill Rd. POB 701 Northampton, MA 01061  
email: christnorthampton@gmail.com / office phone (413) 584-5935  
Web: www.christumcnorthampton.org  
Rev. David F. Hurst(413)426-6031: feel free to call anytime for appointment  
Office Hours week of 10/22: Today - 9am - 5pm, Monday; 10/23 call for appointment Wednesday; 10/25  
10am - 6pm

**CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"**

**Sunday, October 22, 2017**

**Worship Service 10:00am**



**Rev. David F. Hurst, Pastor**

Music Director, Pam Kukucka

"Our mission is to become disciples of Christ and to fulfill God's will through spiritual growth, education, worship and fellowship. We express our faith through service to others. We welcome all to join us in this journey."

*Order of worship*  
October 22, 2017      10:00am

**MORNING MEDITATION**

“In friendship and in love, the two side by side raise hands together to find what one cannot reach along.” Khalil Gibran

**PRELUDE:**

**WORDS OF WELCOME** (see PRAYER on last page)

*Lambert*    **JOYS AND CONCERNS**  
*DeGrande*

*Dot*  
*Joe*

**\*\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Dot Lambert*

Leader: Here in this place, there are no foreigners.

**People: For all are welcome in God's House.**

Leader: Here in this worship, there is only acceptance.

**People: For love is the language of faith.**

Leader: Here in our lives, there are no divisions.

**People: For God dwells in each of us.**

Leader: Come, let us worship in unity and love.

**\*\*\*OPENING HYMN "When Morning Gilds the Skies"**

UMH # 185

**INVOCATION** [in unison]

*Dot Lambert*

**Eternal God, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, we have gathered in this time and at this place to worship You. In Your time, You created all things, and wove into their fabric a yearning for fulfillment in You. It is this yearning within us which has pulled us here this morning. Take these moments, O Lord, and complete them in us, through your Holy Spirit. May our labor bring forth a new creation in You. This is Your hour, Christ Jesus, help us to make the most of each precious moment. for in Your name we have gathered and we pray. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF CONFESSION** [in Unison]

*Joe DeGrande*

**Loving and merciful God, you know our hearts and you know our lives. We confess to you that which causes separation, that which causes pain, that which causes distress, and that which breaks down. We confess to You our part in those things and in humility and hope, we ask for Your help to do better, to reconcile, to heal, to soothe, to build up so we may love You and neighbor and follow our Christ, in whose name we pray.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Joe DeGrande*

Leader: Brothers and Sisters, let us proclaim the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**People: Amen.**

**\*\*\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

*Eduardo and Kids*

Psalter Reading: Psalm 99 (Hymn Book page 818 & 820)

Leader Prayers

The Lord's Prayer [Trespases]

*Dot Lambert*  
*Joe DeGrande*

**\*\*\*Response "Glory Be to the Father"**

UMH # 71

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen*

Scripture Reading/First Lesson

*Exodus 32:1-14 (pew Bible OT page 78)*

*Dot Lambert*

**\*\*\*HYMN OF PREPARATION "Wonderful Words of Life"**

UMH # 600

Scripture Reading/Second Lesson:

*Matthew 22:15-22 (pew Bible NT page 24 & 25)*

*Joe DeGrande*

**Sermon: "One Step Ahead"**

Guest Speaker

*Joe DeGrande*

Ministry of Giving

**\*\*\*Doxology**

UMH # 94

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts, Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts, Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
Prayer of Dedication

**\*\*\*CLOSING HYMN "Rejoice the Lord in King"**

UMH # 715

**\*\*\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: May the strength of God sustain us, may the power of God preserve us, may the hands of God protect us, may the way of God direct us, may the love of God go with us this day and forever. We pray this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit - Amen.

**POSTLUDE**

*\*\*\* indicates to stand if able*

Almighty God,

You created the heavens and the earth, day and night, dry land and the waters and every creature in the waters and on the earth and those who fly above the earth. The land and the waters were blessed by You to supply food for all the creatures. You said that it was all good.

And then You created human beings and blessed them and gave them dominion over all You created. Human beings were trusted to be stewards of everything on earth. You created a balanced world in which every creature was supplied with a source of food to sustain their bodies.

It would seem that You believed that the cycle of seasons and attentive stewardship by humans would support life for all of your creatures until the end of time.

Loving Creator, we ask You, how does your world look to You now? Many of your creatures have become extinct. The seasons are no longer definable. There is widespread hunger for both humans and animals in some parts of the world and in other parts, obesity is not uncommon. Disrespect for human life and unrestrained abuse and yes, murder is acceptable in some cultures. Dare I ask, do You still think it is good?

It feels like we, Your children, have misunderstood the meaning of “having dominion.” The sharing and caring and kindness and knowing the difference between “needing” and “wanting” have been pushed aside by GREED.

Your children are weak in our stewardship of Your earth. We pray with open hearts and minds that You can redirect our daily living to be more responsible stewards. Help us to take nothing for granted. Help us to learn the meaning of having enough, to say “yes” to sharing whenever the chance arises, and to be truly thankful for the beautiful world we have inherited.

Help us to live every day as the gift that it is. Teach us to use every day in the best possible way. Keep us in your loving embrace.

We humbly pray these things in the name of Jesus,

Amen