

Waitsfield United Church of Christ

September 3, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.



Living, serving and walking by faith for the benefit of the local and global community. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Welcome to Worship at the WUCC Village Meeting House

Please feel free to greet one another before the worship service begins.

Prelude

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Lani Smith

Words of Greeting and Announcements

Call to Worship and Invocation (responsively)

Psalm 113

One: Alleluia! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

Many: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and for evermore. From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

One: The Lord is high above all nations, and God's glory above the heavens.

Many: Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

One: Who raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with rulers, with the rulers of God's people.

Many: Who gives the childless couple a home, filled with the joy of many children.

All: Alleluia!

*Opening Hymn

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

No. 425

Storytime

"The Three Billy Goats Gruff"
by Barnett/Klassen

Prayers

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Anthem

"As the Deer"

Martin Nystrom

Duet by Deb Burbank and Dorothy Peck

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

We offer these gifts to you, O God, as a way to say thank you for your grace to us, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 7:36-50

Meditation

“What’s Coming To Us”

Rev. Mark Wilson

Eucharist, or, The Great Thanksgiving

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

One: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Rev. Mark says the Prayer of Thanksgiving, remembering God’s acts in history , which concludes with:

Holy, Holy, Holy, God of Love and Majesty

The whole universe speaks of your glory

O God Most High

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our Lord

Hosanna in the Highest!

Rev. Mark says the Words of Institution here, the words Jesus said at the Last Supper, concluding with what is called the Memorial Acclamation. Your cue is “Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith, saying:”

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Then Rev. Mark will say the prayer known as the Euclesis, or the Invocation of the Holy Spirit over the bread and cup. This concludes with The Great Amen. Then we sing:

Sung Response

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, now, for all is prepared.

*People: The gifts of God for the people of God.
The Gospel is among us.*

After we share the bread and cup, we pray together:

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

No. 575

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

***Benediction**

After the Benediction, please be seated for the postlude.

Postlude

"Celebration"

James Denton

****Please stand as you are able.**

Waitsfield United Church of Christ

Village Meeting House

P.O. Box 16; 4355 Main Street

Waitsfield, VT 05673

www.waitsfieldchurch.org/Telephone 496-3065

Church Staff

Minister, Rev. Mark D. Wilson

Director of Music, Dorothy Peck

Prayer list:

Joys

To be worshipping together, Warren United and Waitsfield at Couples Field

Concerns Ongoing

On going healing for Mary Nell, Cindy, Huguette, Wendall, Doug, Suzan, Barbara and Debbie, Nancy, Vince, Gordie, Morris, Mary Ann, Tammy, and Rose.

Rick, who has had a small stroke. For him and his family.

Laura, for continued healing.

Ann, still at CVMC (room 243, welcomes visitors)

Lillian, traveling across Canada to her college in British Columbia, and for the folks there who have lost so much.

For students, teachers, staff, and parents - for a good, safe year at school.

Chrissy prays for her mother and family upon the death of her uncle.

Angel prays for peace for herself after she lost her house and spent time in jail.

Freddie prays for her sister and brother-in-law. He had a medical event.

She also prays for John, with melanoma, and for Steve and Marian, Marian has Alzheimer's Disease and is nearing the end of her life under Steve's loving care.

For Rita, whose granddaughter is in the hospital (2 years old), and is facing serious health challenges.

Doug prays for Mike, with prostate cancer.

Huguette asks for continued prayers for her daughter Rose, who had three more surgeries this week and is in a not-very-good rehab.

Trish prays for our young adults as they struggle to find their way in life.

Announcements

Worship is over, our service now begins . . .

The Zoom link to our Sunday at 10 a.m. worship service is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4355187516?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4355187516?pwd=K016Y3BLczNrQlk2WENTQW1UcDBFZz09)

[pwd=K016Y3BLczNrQlk2WENTQW1UcDBFZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4355187516?pwd=K016Y3BLczNrQlk2WENTQW1UcDBFZz09) Meeting ID: 435 518 7516;

Passcode: VMH2021

Offering Plates are just inside the sanctuary doors. We do not take an offering during worship, so thanks for offering what you can, when you can.

We thank **Deb Burbank and Dorothy Peck** for sharing their musical gifts with us in worship today!

Our Summer Worship Series this year is "A Story, A Story." Many so-called children's books are a little too long, and maybe a little too adult, for Rev. Mark to read during Storytime before our young folks go down to Sunday School, but that doesn't mean they aren't worthy as inspiring, challenging, beautiful, (and often fun) works of art. **Our summer series concludes today** with "The Three Billy Goats Gruff". Next Sunday, September 10, begins our Narrative Lectionary, Year 2, with the story of The Garden of Eden.

Have you ever had a tune just humming in your head and wished that you could sing and share it with others? **So is God calling you to sing with the WUCC choir?** Our dedicated choir sings a variety of sacred music, all to the glory of God. Will you join us this fall? Rehearsals start this Thursday, September 7, at 7 p.m. Come, be a part of a fun group!! And now you have questions? Pick up the phone and dial Dorothy Peck at 496-4849 and chat. She would love to talk with you about singing in the choir.

Our new children's area at the back of the sanctuary is ready to welcome kids of all ages to lounge, read, draw and play right alongside us as we worship. Our hope is to welcome families by creating a sense that children are embraced here, as beloved members of the church — and with all the noises and wiggles and joy they bring. Please note that while childcare is not available, the downstairs playroom (or "cry room", depending on your needs) remains stocked with toys, books, and comfy couches for anyone needing a break. We ask that children be accompanied by a parent or caregiver in this space, which features a speaker so that you can tune into the service upstairs.

Next Sunday, September 10, is Homecoming Sunday. This will be the first Sunday with the Choir back in worship. We will have our Second Sunday Potluck meal after worship. And it will be the opening of "The Art Among Us" show.

Annual Evaluation of the Pastor and Congregation: The Annual Evaluation of the Pastor and Congregation is now underway. If you are a member or friend of the church, you should have received a paper copy of the evaluation in the mail. A few paper copies are available here at the church as well, or, you may complete the evaluation form here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TSWXLVF>

Evaluations are due to the church on or before next Sunday, September 10.

Thank you for taking the time to give the church and Mark the feedback they need to most effectively minister to this community. The Pastoral Relations Committee: Susan Graham, Paul Willard, and Laura Caffry.

The WUCC Arts Team has chosen to celebrate "The Art Among Us" for the 2023 Fall Art Show. This will be the tenth show we have put on at our church. Instead of bringing in artwork from someone outside of our community, we wish to celebrate the work of our own congregation.

Consider this description: "Revealing ourselves, sharing our innermost thoughts, letting others in. For many, the art we make for ourselves, is kept for ourselves. Sharing it, hanging it on a wall, letting others see what we have created can be a difficult step. But once done can be liberating, exciting, freeing."

Please share your creativity with the congregation and the community. All types of mediums will be considered including oil, watercolor, pastels, wood, sculpture, fiber, textiles, photography, poetry, pottery, glass, furniture. If you work in a medium which we haven't listed, just let us know! Artwork be juried by the Arts Team to determine appropriateness (i.e. no nudes or inappropriate subject matter).

In order to enter your work, please complete the form below and return it to **Karen Nevin**. We will collect the artwork at church between September 3-8. You may enter up to three works of art. We may not exhibit everything entered, or may choose to exhibit some pieces downstairs. An Opening Reception will be held on Sunday, September 10th.

Contact any member of the Arts Team for questions - Karen Nevin, Jane Cunningham, Holliday Rayfield, Diane Gallo, Nancy Smith, Anne Bull, Cheryl Kingsbury, Elizabeth Cadwell, Linda Sinnott, Suzan Doucette, and Helen Ann Scharges. Here's the link to "The Art Among Us" entry form: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DAF37F9K7J440hhSELKnEzscYi7-58n2/view>

Ever wanted to dip your toe into learning another language? A **Beginner's Spanish class** starts Wednesday, September 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Meeting House. All are welcome at any level, though the class is geared for beginners. There is no cost. The class will be led by Waitsfield UCC's own Trish McBride, who just started her 35th year teaching High School Spanish.

Get Your Bible Back! A **Bible Survey course**, led by Rev. Mark, and featuring Marcus Borg's "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time," will be held this fall on Mondays at 6 and Thursdays at Noon, starting Monday, September 18 and Thursday, September 21. It will be the same session each week, so if you can't make Thursday, come Monday night (or vice versa). We'll meet every week through mid-December, taking Thanksgiving week off. Please let him know if you'd like to join in. Thanks!

Loads of Love: Every Wednesday from 4 - 6, we support our neighbors at the Waitsfield Laundromat by providing quarters for their laundry. It's free for anyone who comes in and it gives us an opportunity to meet folks in our community. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Diane Thompson at red3@gmavt.net. Thank you!

Limited office hours this week. Tomorrow is Labor Day, and the office will be closed. Tuesday, Rev. Mark will be in Randolph all day for a meeting of the Vermont Conference UCC's Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee, which he Co-Chairs.

This morning we give thanks for:

Our In-House Deacon, Jess Fox

Our Digital Deacon, Beki Auclair

Our Fellowship Time Host, Pat Folsom

If you would like to give to the church electronically, you may do so by going here: <https://www.waitsfieldchurch.org/give>

Thanks to those folks who are volunteering to be Digital Deacons, In-house Deacons, Sunday school providers and helpers, and Fellowship Coffee Hour providers. To sign up for a particular Sunday, there's a place to do that: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e054aa8af2fa0fe3-waitsfield1>

Our Pastor, Mark Wilson works Sunday through Thursday. You may reach him by email revmarkdwilson@gmail.com or at the church (802-496-3065), or, if it is an emergency, on his cell phone (802-522-8922).