

**Millburn Congregational—United Church of Christ**  
**19073 W. OLD TOWN COURT. LAKE VILLA, IL 60046 847-356-5237**

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God  
as a spiritually alive church,  
welcoming all and reaching out with love as Christ's disciples.*

**Rev. Miranda Moeller**

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**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost      September 1, 2024      9:30 a.m.**

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Announcements

Greeting and Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn      All Creatures of Our God and King      No.22

1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing

Alleluia, Alleluia!

O burning sun with golden beam,

O silver moon with softer gleam:

Refrain

O praise God, O praise God,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

2 O rushing wind with voice so strong,  
you clouds that sail in heav'n along,

O praise God, Alleluia!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
you lights of evening find a voice:

3 O flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for your God to hear,

Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blazing fire who lights the night,  
providing warmth, enhancing sight,

4 And all forgiven tender hearts,  
 forgiving others, take your part,  
 sing praises, alleluia!  
 You who long pain and sorrow bear,  
 praise God, who knows your ev'ry care.

**\*Call to Worship**

*One: Come listen for all God seeks to teach.*

**Many: We feel joy in God's presence.**

*One: Every perfect gift comes from God.*

**Many: God's grace has been poured into our lives.**

*One: We are made in the image and likeness of God.*

**Many: Wisdom and understanding are offered to us.**

*One: God's Word helps those who hear it and heed it.*

**Many: We will treat others as we wish to be treated.**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**O God, we do not always follow faithfully in your footsteps, choosing instead to go our own way. We neglect our relationships for a fleeting sense of accomplishment that must be replenished again and again. More and more we have felt depleted, lost, and longing for a misplaced sense of joy. Turn us around so we can accept your forgiveness, receive your healing, and again love ourselves and one another as we are loved, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

God frees us from human bondage to live by commandments that build up rather than destroy. God offers us a sense of "good enough" that turns us from spinning our wheels and striving in vain. Our Creator draws us close, that our hearts may find their true home. Praise God for the grace that lifts us up to bear good fruit.

**Gloria Patri**  
**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.**

Passing of the Peace

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

*All Believers are welcome at this Table.*

*You may commune as you are served*

Invitation

**One:** The Spirit of Creation is with you!  
**Many:** **And the Spirit of Creation walks next to you.**  
**One:** Open wide your souls.  
**Many:** **We open them to the Creator's love.**  
**One:** Let us give thanks to the God of Earth and Rain.  
**Many:** **With joyous voices, hearts, and hands, we exclaim to God our praise.**

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup

Sharing Elements

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: In peace let us pray:

**All: Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us with the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You have given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Fill us with the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading (NRSV)

Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23

### **The Tradition of the Elders**

7 Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup> “You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” <sup>14</sup> Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” <sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

**We Respond to God’s Word**

\*Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

No. 61

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful:  
in love God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors,  
and made their tiny wings.

2 The purple-headed mountain,  
the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning  
that brightens up the sky.

3 The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them every one.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

*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

\*Doxology

Old One Hundredth

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW;  
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW;  
PRAISE GOD FOR ALL THAT LOVE HAS DONE;  
CREATOR, CHRIST, AND SPIRIT ONE.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Thank you, God, for loving us both in our doing and in our being. You bless our service, sharing your generous Spirit with the world. You bless our prayerful moments, bringing healing and joy to ourselves and others. Bless our offering to the building up of your peaceful kingdom. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Strong, Gentle Children

No. 511

1 Strong, gentle children,  
God made you beautiful,  
gave you the wisdom and power you need;  
speak in the stillness  
all you are looking for;  
live out your calling to love and to lead.

2 Strong, hurting children,  
angry and terrified,  
open the secrets your life has concealed;

though you are wounded,  
 know you are not to blame;  
 cry out your story till truth is revealed.

3 Strong, knowing children,  
 utter your cry aloud,  
 honor the wisdom God gave you at birth;  
 speak to your elders  
 till they have heard your voice;  
 sing out your vision of healing on earth.

**\*Commission and Blessing**

Go out into the world with clean hands and clean hearts to share the love of Christ with all whom you will meet and may God be forever close to your heart in your thinking and doing, in your praying and practice, living as the body of Christ, and making a difference the way Jesus did so long ago.

Go now in peace. Amen.

**\*Congregational Response**

No. 312

**AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.**

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**Today's Liturgy:** *Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B* by Lavon Bayler.

**Celebrating Birthdays This Week:** Lisa Batz 9/2, Deborah Newman 9/2, and Nanette Thorson 9/2.

**CIRCLE OF PRAYER:** We are holding prayer for the following persons (new in italics): All those dealing with mental health crisis; all those struggling with addiction; those impacted by mass shootings and gun violence, those experiencing loss from climate crisis disasters; our LGBTQIA+ youth and children, as they remember they are loved; all caregivers who need support and rest; Alicia Rayner during her continuing battle with cancer; Ruth Young's cousin David Poczalski dealing with serious health issues; Deb Grandos niece, Susie, as she battles

metastatic breast cancer; Doug, a friend of Toot's daughter-in-law, is in stage 4 cancer; prayers for strength and comfort for the Tschannen's, as well as those that will be helping them as they enter a new phase of their journey with Alzheimer'; Tim Chichester for his diabetes struggle; Lorel Chichester for her knee problems, Cindy and Nancy's son, Jacob, as he navigates a mental health crisis; Char's friend, Pam, who was diagnosed with cancer; Lisa Horist's Aunt Joy Ann, who is ill and in rehab; Georgene's friend, Belinda, as she seeks medical answers; Donna Geary's great nephew, Teddy, a one year-old recently diagnosed with cancer; Ruth Young's nephew, John Young, after receiving a heart pump; Ruth's daughter-in-law, Roberta Young, hospitalized with a serious bladder disease; joy for Steven, Nancy and Cindy's nephew, as he has entered a SMURF program for housing; Sue Heinlein, as she goes through chemotherapy; and Susan Lee, as she recovers from surgery to remove her cancer.

### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday: Closed (summer hours)

Tuesday: 8:30-2:00

Wednesday: 8:30-2:00

Thursday: 8:30-2:00

Friday: Closed

\*If you need something in the bulletin, please send the information to Susan by **Tuesday**. You can call the office or email Susan at [secretary@millburnchurch.org](mailto:secretary@millburnchurch.org). Thank you for your help.

### **Pastor Miranda's Office Hours:**

Pastor Miranda's ministry often takes her out of the office. While she maintains an office presence Mon, Tues, and Thursday, her hours vary. In order to best meet your needs, feel free to call or email at [pastor@millburnchurch.org](mailto:pastor@millburnchurch.org) to schedule a meeting. Do not hesitate to contact her at 860-751-4452, especially in the event of an emergency. She looks forward to supporting you and serving the community at Millburn and beyond.

**Rally Home Sunday** – September 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be a potluck lunch after the service.



## **Give Back Day Part 2** - Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the first give-back day! Since we are hosting a concert soon at the church, we would like it to look fabulous for all our guests.

Please consider joining us and bringing a dish for our pot-luck lunch after service on Rally Home Sunday. List of items that need work will be posted the week prior.

Please contact Diane @diaeti@yahoo.com if you see something that should be on the list for fixing/sprucing. See you then!

**An Evening with Christine Brewer** – Saturday, 9/28, 7:00 p.m. The evening will include appetizers, beverages, a silent auction, and a concert. Tickets will go on sale August 1<sup>st</sup> and will range in price from \$50-65. Sales will be online, and a link will go live and sent out via email on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Links to purchase tickets will also be available on Facebook, Instagram, Millburn Church website, and a Fox Valley UCC wide email. Contact Becky Fuller or Pastor Miranda with any questions.

There is a sign up sheet for volunteers who wish to help with the concert that night. Ushers, set up/clean up helpers, etc. If you are unable to help but would still like to contribute, please consider donating items for a Auction Basket or make a monetary gift to offset the expenses of the concert. This is a fundraiser that benefits the Operating Budget of our church, please consider where you can help support it

**The Discipleship Committee** is making it easier for you to send your thoughts and prayers to fellow church friends. Just stop at the table in Lauren Hall and sign greeting cards to mail to those of the congregation who need support, encouragement, or who we haven't seen in a while. The process is simple... if you see a card, sign it. If you don't see a card for someone, start one. To ensure delivery, cards will be limited to people listed in the church directory.

Remember, it is up to you to help start cards, so we are less likely to overlook someone. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Mathis.

**MILLBURN UCC NEWS SOURCE** – Visit the new Linktree for Millburn Church. Get all of your links in one place. To add something to the tree email Rolando Lopez at [aflashact@gmail.com](mailto:aflashact@gmail.com). To see the current links, visit: <https://www.linktr.ee/millburnchurch>

**Messenger** - Do you have a special anniversary or event in your life coming up? Do you want to say thank you to church friends for something they did? Say it in the Messenger! Email your announcements to Kris Franks, [psychokittie53@hotmail.com](mailto:psychokittie53@hotmail.com), and she will include in the next month's Messenger. Deadline for submissions is: 9/20, 10/18, 11/15 and 12/20. If you are still receiving the Messenger by "snail mail" and have an email address, we can send the Messenger to your email. Just send an email to the church office, [secretary@millburnchurch.org](mailto:secretary@millburnchurch.org), and request to be added to the list.

**Shirts and decals** are available for sale. The sign up for them is on the link tree site. T-shirts are \$20 and the window decals are \$10. Please make checks payable to Millburn UCC or cash at worship service. Shirts will be made as orders are received and please allow approximately two weeks for delivery depending on the availability of the supplier.

**Coffee Hour Sign-up** - We need your help. Please consider providing items for our Sunday Coffee Hours following the 10 a.m. worship service.

Pick a Sunday on the sign-up chart in Lauren Hall, then sign your name in the space for the item(s) you will bring.

Also indicate if you can help with serving and cleanup (a.k.a. host). Coffee, tea, cream, sugar, cups, plates, napkins, utensils are provided at the church. Host(s) will need to make the coffee and hot water for tea, put out items and clean up afterwards.

If you have any questions on how to make coffee, where coffee pot, hot water pot and other items are in the kitchen.

Please feel free to ask other church members. We will gladly show you.

**Help Wanted** – Seeking men and women ages 15 to 100 to fill several open positions. Contact Becky Fuller and Kris Franks of our Music Department. They are looking for people to join the choir, band, and handbell choir. Even if you think you can't read music, you can be a part of providing praise through music on Sunday mornings. We will show you how! All three groups meet on Wednesday nights: handbell choir at 6:15, choir at 7:15. and band at 8:00. Stop in to practice and check us out. Practice dates are listed on the church calendar. Come for one and stay for all three!!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:**

**Council Meeting** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

**Rally Home Sunday** – September 8<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be a potluck lunch after the service.

**Give Back Day – Part 2** - Sept 8<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am

**An Evening with Christine Brewer** – Saturday, 9/28, 7:00 p.m. The evening will include appetizers, beverages, a silent auction, and concert.

**Date TBD Millburn Mentor Program**- If you are a person who knows how to do certain things around the church – play the piano, the organ, run the lift, know where keys are, and more – please consider being a mentor. The mentors will teach our new members where and how things operate at church. If you are interested, please see Diane Etienne. Thank you in advance!