

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Compassion in Action: Heroes and Sidekicks

Call to Worship Holding Out for a Hero arr. by Paul Langford

Announcements
Greeting and Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn Every Time I Feel the Spirit No. 592

[Refrain:]

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart,
I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart,
I will pray.

1 Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke,
out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
All around me looks so fine,
ask my Lord if all was mine. [Refrain]

2 Jordan River chilly and cold,
chills the body, not the soul.
Ain't but one train on this track,
runs to heaven and right back. [Refrain]

3 I have heartache, I have woe,
 I have trouble here below.
 While God leads me I'll not fear,
 I am sheltered by God's care. [Refrain]

***Call to Worship**

One: We remember, O God...

Many: The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time.

One: We remember, O God...

Many: The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes, the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.

One: We remember, O God...

Many: The gentle strength of grandmothers, the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers, the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.

One: We remember, O God...

Many: The supreme love of Jesus, the blessing of his Spirit, the reminder of his words, the sharing of his suffering, the glory of his resurrection shown forth in the lives of his disciples, young and old, dead and living, articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.

One: We remember in every time and place the saints of God who have shown us the Lord.

Many: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us worship God with joy! AMEN.

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord of mercy, forgive us when we make excuses for our lack of faith. We let our selfishness and apathy get in the way of illumination and peace. We find ways to duck out of our opportunities for service and witness, claiming that we are too small or too ill-equipped to be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ. How foolish we can be! All of our lives God has been present to us, whether or not we knew it. God's love is always surrounding us. Yet we have not taken the time to recognize it. Help us, O Lord. Open our hearts with your forgiving spirit that we, having been healed and forgiven, may actually be effective witnesses to your love and compassion. For we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

***Words of Assurance**

You have always been loved by God. Know that you are healed and forgiven, that God has placed a special blessing in your life. Rejoice! For God is with you. Serve God in all that you say, think, and do. AMEN.

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

Anthem

Apple Tree

arr. by Katerina Gimon

**Performed by: Becky Fuller, Kelly Harper, Faye Lindsay, Alison Rohrbach,
 Anna Schmidt**

All of my life I've been hunting
 I've been a girl, I've been a boy
 Digging my feet into the ground
 Like an apple tree
 Wanting to live with a purpose
 Skin is a word, love is not a sin
 People are bad, people are good
 Just like the moon is a stone
 But it's a star when it's dark

And now she's hiding
If you've seen what a heart is
You've seen its colour
If I ever knew how we could guide it
I would take care of its children
Become their mother
If I ever knew how we could hide it
Hide it
Let her save the world
She is just a girl
Let him save them all
He is just a boy
Let her save the world
She is just a girl
Let him save them all
He is just a boy
Hunger is quiet, if you do it right
Hunter is loud and predictable
Scaring away every prey
So they are gone
Before the hunter arrives
Would you be kind, and put away your sword
You cannot cut away what we got
You cannot kill what we are
We are not here
In physical form
You've seen where the knife is

Its dark location
 If I ever knew how we could fight it
 (Fight it)
 I would cut into our anger
 Make pure emotion
 If I ever knew how we could hide it
 Hide it
 Can you carry the weight of mortality?
 The explosions around you are your symphony

Young People's Time *Blessing of the Backpacks*

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading (NRSV)

Mark 7:24-30

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.^[a] He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir,^[b] even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."³⁰ And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Sermon

"What If the Heroes Are....Us?"

Rev. Miranda Moeller

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn

You Have Called Me

No. 455

1 You have called me from my hiding place
and given me a name;
from this moment on my life
can never be the same.

I have seen the beckoning vision,
though I wanted to remain,
here I am, send me, here I am.

Who will go into the darkness
where my people live in fear?
Who will speak of truth and charity
so all of them can hear?
If you go where I am sending you,
I will always be near.
Here I am, go for me, here I am.

2 You have called me from my wilderness
and given me a way.
The many paths I've traveled
have but brought me to this day.
And the journey that is calling me
no longer will delay.
Here I am, send me, here I am.

Who will go into the darkness
where my people live in fear?
Who will speak of truth and charity
so all of them can hear?
If you go where I am sending you,
I will always be near.
Here I am, go for me, here I am.

3 You have called me from my silence
 and have given me a word.
 I was dying in my coldness
 till a fire within me stirred.
 Now I can keep still no longer,
 I must speak what I have heard.
 Here I am, send me, here I am.

Who will go into the darkness
 where my people live in fear?
 Who will speak of truth and charity
 so all of them can hear?
 If you go where I am sending you,
 I will always be near.
 Here I am, go for me, here I am.

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**

Sovereign God, receive our offerings for the nurture and expansion of your kindom. May they be magnified and the spirit of generosity among your people amplified so that all may do well. Amen.

Closing Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

No. 614

1 I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere.
I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere.

2 I'm gonna work so God can use me any time and anywhere.
I'm gonna work so God can use me any time and anywhere.

3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me any time and anywhere.
I'm gonna pray so God can use me any time and anywhere.

4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me any time and anywhere.
I'm gonna sing so God can use me any time and anywhere.

***Commission and Blessing**

Go into the world as agents of healing
Appreciating the wonder of creation
In all forms, expressions, and ways
Boldly embracing the fullness of humanity
Welcoming the stranger
And considering the other as friend.
Go in peace.

***Congregational Response**

No. 312

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Today's Liturgy: United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana;

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4362/worship-connection-october-30-2022>; and *Inclusion*: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Today's Lay Reader: Thank you Becky Fuller for serving as lay reader this morning.

Today's Ushers: Thank you Eric Walters and Kris Franks for serving as ushers this morning.

Celebrating Birthdays This Week: William Eiserman 9/9

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; 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's; 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 but may need another, and Ruth's daughter-in-law, Roberta, who is having surgery on Wednesday to remove a stomach tumor.*

Church Office Hours:

Monday: Closed

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. 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 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 8th, 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 1st 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 1st. 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 an 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. 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, 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, 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!!

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT MILLBURN CHURCH:

Council Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the month

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

Give Back Day – Part 2 - Sept 8th @ 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.