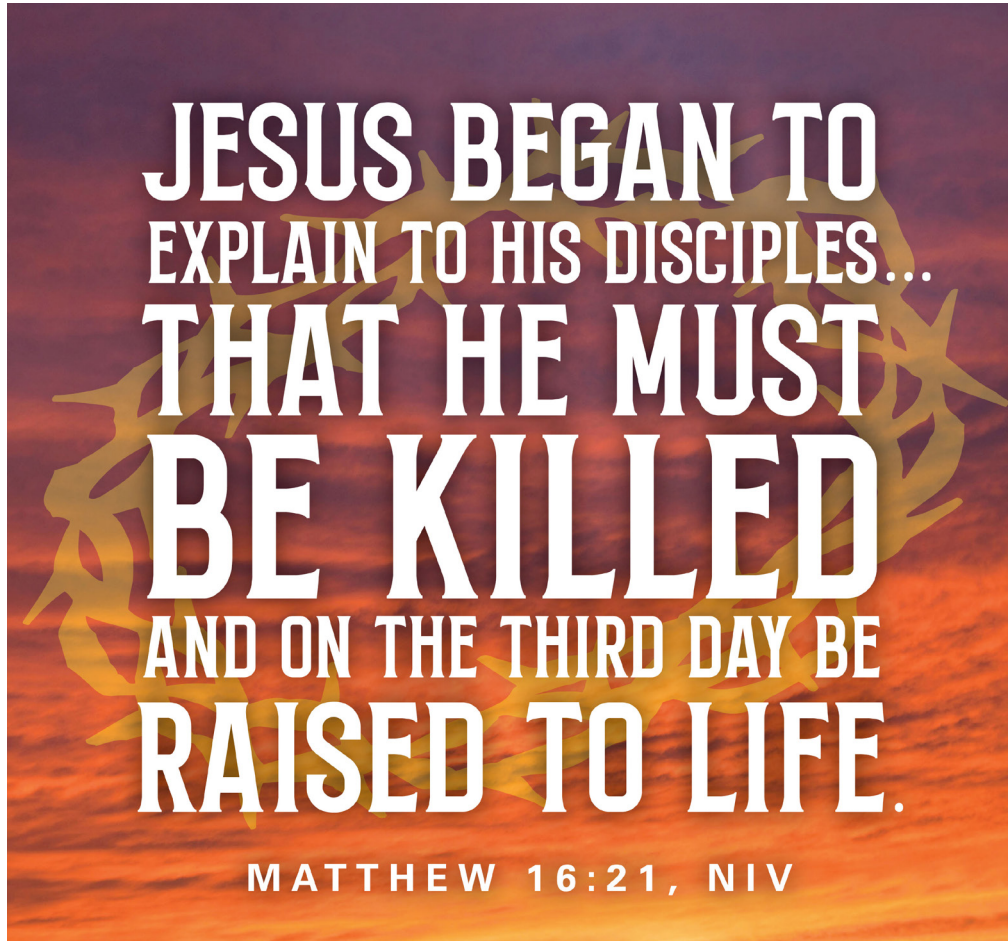


ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE



Welcome to Court Street United Methodist Church



We are a people called United Methodists.
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

The mission of Court Street United Methodist Church is to be a welcoming, nurturing, and serving community of Christ.

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 3, 2023

**Parents, please escort your children to the restrooms.
Please keep your personal belongings with you at all times.
Thank you.**

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

WE GATHER to be NURTURED

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude “As We Gather at Your Table” *Joshua Evanovich*

§ Call to Worship

Leader: We gather as God’s people:

***All:* To seek direction in the living of our lives.**

Leader: We gather as God’s people:

***All:* To be still and hear what God would have us do.**

Leader: We gather as God’s people:

***All:* To be renewed, restored, and recreated.**

Leader: We rejoice that we are God’s people:

***All:* To serve, to love, and to sing God’s praise.**

§ **Opening Hymn UMH #577** “God of Grace and God of Glory”

WE ARE NURTURED by GOD’S WORD

New Testament Reading *Romans 12:9-21*

Please refer to your Bible’s Table of Contents to locate this scripture.

Leader: This is the Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

***People:* Glory to you, O Lord.**

Children’s Message *James L. Crow*

Processional Hymn UMH # 585, vs. 1 “This Little Light of Mine”

The children are invited to come forward as we sing.

Concluding Hymn “Hallelujah (Praise Ye the Lord)” *Author Unknown*

Your contributions in the white baskets on the 1st Sunday of every month during communion will be greatly appreciated to further our local outreach. The Local Mission Committee will report what they do with your monthly contributions in our newsletter, *The Chimes*.

§ Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

Please refer to your Bible's Table of Contents to locate this scripture.

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***People:* Glory to you, O Lord.**

Message

“Finding Life!”

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

WE RESPOND to GOD'S WORD

*Please turn to page 12 in the front of The United Methodist Hymnal.
You may also follow along with the slides for today's communion liturgy.*

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory

“Lord, I Want To Be A Christian”

§ Doxology UMH #94

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

The SERVICE of WORD and TABLE

*We will use Musical Setting A on p. 17 for the sung responses.
The communion bread served is gluten-free so that all may partake of the Holy Sacrament.*

WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE

§ Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #534

“Be Still, My Soul”

§ Benediction

The call to live as Christ's disciples is made possible through the power of God's Holy Spirit working in and through us. There is no glory without the passion; no resurrection without the cross; no new life without death. Friends, go into the week and into the world to follow Christ by losing your life for the sake of gaining his. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Postlude

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Matt Limbaugh

*You are invited to finish worship by listening to the Postlude.
If you wish to leave, you may do so, leaving quietly so others may enjoy the Postlude.*

Facetime by the Big Bell

Court Street United Methodist Church

215 North Court Street, Rockford, IL 61103

Church Office: (815) 962-6061 | Church Fax: (815) 962-9754

www.courtstreetumc.org

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Ushers:	The DuWayne Stanis Team	Acolyte:	Ella Anderson
Sound Tech:	Tim Welk	Video Tech:	Steve Ripley
Van Driver:	Curly Thompson	Liturgist:	Keith Kretsinger

Livestream Tech: Krysta Tilges & Ella Anderson

Facetime Hosts: Volunteer(s) welcome.

Announcements

- **Mum orders can be picked up after today's service in the Sanctuary Narthex.**
- **The UWF are holding a special luncheon on Wednesday, September 6th at 12 p.m.** Their guest speaker is Pastor Violet Johnicker of Brooke Road UMC. She will give a presentation on "The Church Involved in the Community."
- **The church will be closed TOMORROW Monday, September 4th for Labor Day.**
- **Don't forget the SCRIP Committee has a wide selection of retail gift cards to help you with your last minute Labor Day purchases.** Consider: Walmart, Target, Valli Produce, Woodman's, Pinnon's, and more.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** On Sunday, October 1st we mark the beginning of Domestic Abuse Awareness Month with a special 10 a.m. worship service and an after service walk for awareness through the downtown area.
- **Rally Day is on its way!** Rally Day marks the start of the new church program year and is set for Sunday, September 10th.
 - If you are part of the Chancel Choir or would like to join the choir this year, please meet in the choir room at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays for weekly rehearsal.
 - The Jubellation Bell Choir will begin rehearsals at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5th. Jubellation will retain its Tuesdays at 6 p.m. rehearsal time until further notice. All adults are welcome to join this choir and learn how to play hand bells.
 - Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday the 10th, as will after-service youth activities.

Court Street United Methodist Church Staff

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