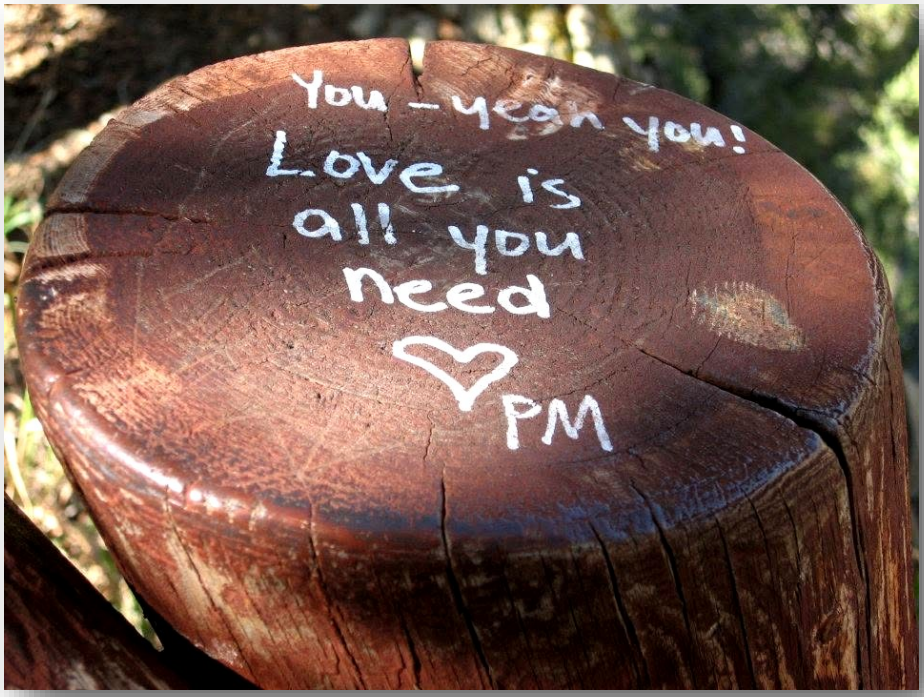
ST. ANDREW UCC
Welcome, Worship, Service

August 23, 2026

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship 10:30 am



Welcome to worship with St. Andrew United Church of Christ.

We treasure our diversity, believing each person enriches us. You are invited to share in our connection to God and to each other as we gather for worship of the One who is worthy of our love and devotion.

- We are an **Open and Affirming** church. We covenant to affirm and welcome visitors, members, and staff of all sexual orientations and gender identities, just as we extend the same loving affirmation and welcome to people of every age, faith, race, ethnicity, sex, nationality, marital status, and physical or mental ability.
- We are a **Just Peace** church. We promote peace with justice (a just peace) as an expression of God's love, and we support peaceful opposition to intolerance, injustice, discrimination, violence, and war.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRELUDE Lord, Be Glorified (Bob Kilpatrick, arr. Mark Hayes) Bonnie Wolfgram

WELCOME Rev. Bill Friederich

OPENING SCRIPTURE Isaiah 56:1-8 (MSG) Nancy Goethe

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come, all who labor and are heavy-laden.

Many: And God will give you rest.

One: Take God's yoke upon you,

Many: For the Lord is gentle and lowly in heart.

One: Come, and find peace in your souls,

All: For the yoke of the Lord is easy, and the burden is light.

HYMN They'll Know We Are Christians *Please stand in body or in spirit.*

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lover of the unlovable, we are captives of the world. Recapture our loyalties, not by defeating our will but by drawing it to yours. Seize our spirits, not by forcing us into your grasp, but by freeing our hearts to follow .

Adore us, love us, desire and seek us. our ears strain for the sound of you, our eyes for the sight of you; our hearts tremble in anticipation of your presence. Come into our midst, and make us your captives. AMEN

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON SCRIPTURE Mark 12:28-32 (MSG) Rev. Bill

ANTHEM Living God's Love (Mark Patterson) St. Andrew Choir

SERMON "Love Transforms Everything" Rev. Bill

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY MUSIC Meditation on "How Great Thou Art" (Stuart Hine, arr. John Carter)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please write your prayer concerns or celebrations on the blue prayer request forms located in the pew rack and place them in the offering plate.

*Today's service prayers are from Worship Ways, UCC

LORD'S PRAYER *(using these or whatever words are familiar to you)*
Our Father and Mother in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PASSING OF PEACE

Not everyone is comfortable with physical contact. Please refrain from hugging or touching anyone without consent.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me;

Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our parent, family all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my silent vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me!

BENEDICTION "May the presence of God go before us." (3X)

POSTLUDE God of Grace and God of Glory (John Hughes, arr. Lloyd Larson)

Mark 12:28-32 (MSG)

One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?"

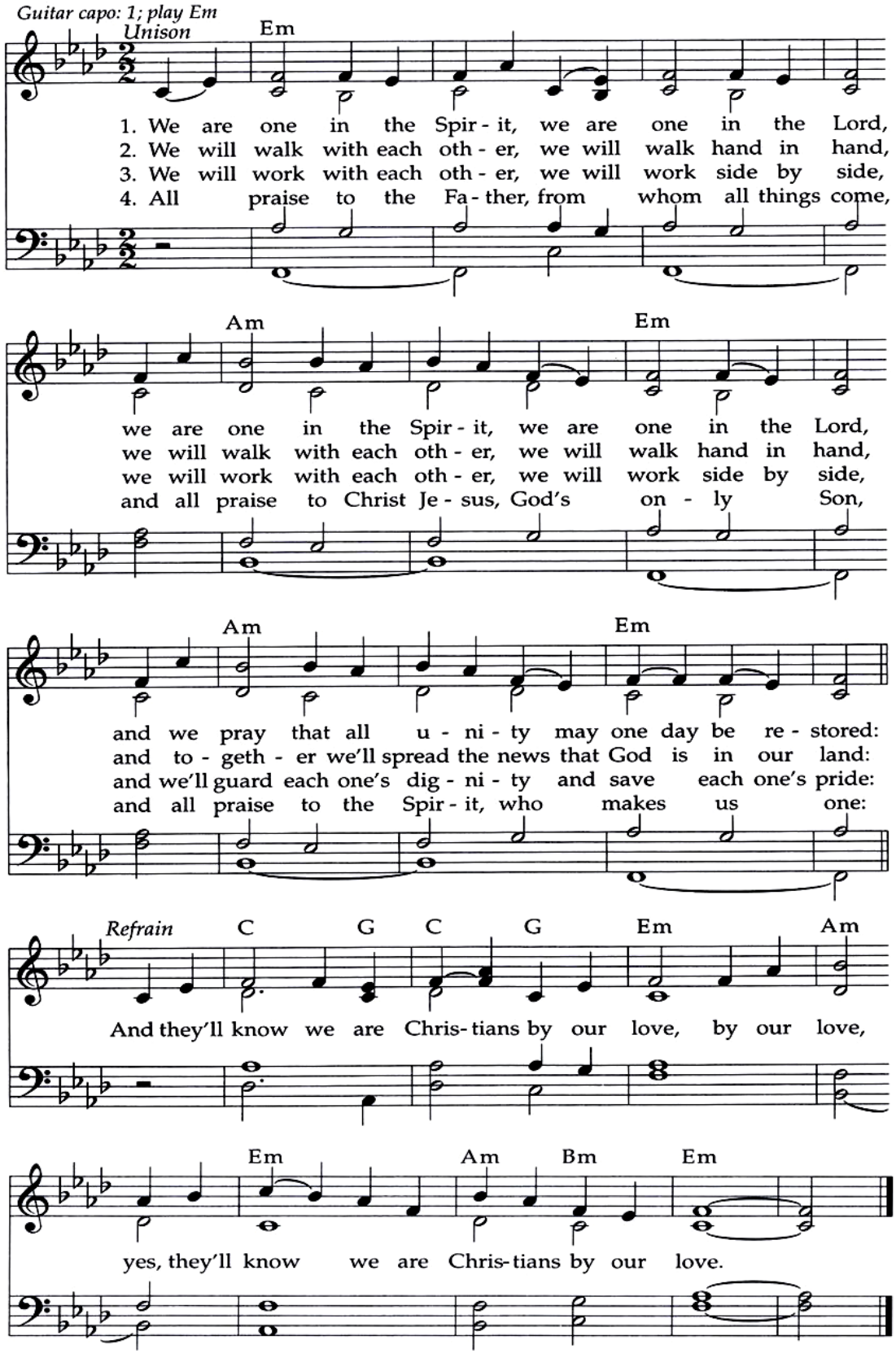
Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these."

The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher! So clear-cut and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that's better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!"

Please take note of the two (2) emergency exits, located on either side of the Sanctuary. There is also an exit to the left of the choir loft.

The entrance doors in the Gathering Area may be used as emergency exits, as well.

494 They'll Know We Are Christians



WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966

ST. BRENDAN'S
76.76.86 w. refrain

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Announcements

Visitors Welcome! We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. We already feel you are part of our family, and we invite you to continue to get to know St. Andrew by joining us at Fellowship Brunch after worship. Please take a moment to sign the Guest Book in the Gathering Area, and feel free to take one of the stuffed bears as a welcome gift.

St. Andrew Choir Rehearsal Sunday mornings before the service 9:30-10:15. All are welcome!

Fellowship Brunch Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall.

Book Study Group Each Thursday 10:00am Thursday Book Group
Beads and Bears Craft Each Thursday 11:00am Conference Room
Thursday Lunch Break Each Thursday 12:00pm Bring your lunch and join us!
Centering Prayer *Resumes September 3* 1:00pm In the Sanctuary

Church Council Meeting Tuesday, August 25 10:00am In Person and Zoom
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88331250025

St. Andrew 101 Begins August 30. Sign up with Pastor Bill.

Mission of the Month: Annie Fund If you wish to donate, you may do so in worship, in the office, or on our website. Scan this QR Code to reach our Giving Page, and then scroll down to the monthly mission.

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