



September 20, 2026

St. John's United Church of Christ

As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.

**Called by God
Sharing with the World**

September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

“It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing.”

Mother Teresa

Prelude *Morning Has Broken*, arranged by Larry Shackley

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Opening Hymn #638 *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come*

O Christ, the healer, we have come
To pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored
When reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures
Our bodies clamor to be freed;
Yet in our hearts we could confess
That wholeness is our deepest need.

In conflicts that destroy our health
We recognize the world's disease;
Our common life declares our ills.
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant we all, made one in faith,
In your community may find
The wholeness that, enriching us,
Shall reach the whole of human kind.

Lifting up our Joys

Passing of the Peace

✝Call to Worship (Congregation reads **bold** print)

We see light, hope, and joy;

We bring heart, soul, mind, and body;

We share blessings and fears;

We bring faith and doubt.

With all that we are and all that we have, let us worship God.

✝Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeff

✝Prayer of Confession

Dear God, oh how our hearts struggle to forgive wholly and fully. We thank you for demonstrating such forgiveness by graciously extending it to us. Help us forgive freely, let go of bitterness, and grant us the strength to trust that your way is best.

Silent pause for reflection Amen.

✝Assurance of Forgiveness

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness now and always. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Kay Jones

Bible Readings

Psalm 145:1–8; Philippians 1:21–27

Curtis Welsh

Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.
⁴ One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.
⁵ They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works I will meditate.
⁶ They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.
⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Philippians 1:21-27

- ²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.
²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.
²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Choir Anthem

Prayer of Gratitude

Pastor's Message

"A Four-Word Memoir"

Pastor Jeff

Litany for Health Care Workers

Today we recognize all who serve, or have served, in the world of health care—those working in hospitals, clinics, doctor’s offices, long-term care facilities, and those who care for family in their home.

The call to care for the sick, the injured, and the vulnerable is a high calling. Those who serve in any part of the healing process help sustain life, restore hope, and strengthen our communities.

We give thanks to a gracious God for nurses, doctors, aides, technicians, therapists, administrators, support staff, caregivers at home, and all who dedicate themselves to the well-being of others.

We celebrate your calling. We support you and all those in our communities who offer skill, compassion, and presence to those in need of care.

Prayer of Appreciation for Health Care Workers

Gracious God, We lift up to you all who serve in health care—here in our community, throughout our nation, and across the world. Guide us, Lord, that we may know how best to show our gratitude, support, and encouragement to those who care for others.

We pray for those who work in hospitals, clinics, offices, and homes. Grant them wisdom, strength, patience, and renewal as they make a positive difference in the lives of those they serve each day. Give courage to explore new ways of supporting all who offer healing and comfort. We pray in the name of Jesus, the great healer and source of compassion. Amen.

Time of Personal Prayer for Health Care Workers & Caregivers

Giving our Gifts to God

Offertory

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

✠Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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

✠Closing Hymn #634

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
Washing tired feet and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.

Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;
Make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

✠Sending Forth and Final Blessing

✠Three-fold Amen

✠Chimes and Meditation

Postlude

Heal Me, Hands of Jesus



***The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God,
in Memory of Donna Weiler & Randy Thuss.
Presented by the Marrongelle Families.***