

THE SANCTUARY

SEPTEMBER 2025

A NEW SEASON AT ECUCC

by Director of Ministry and Education Jill Sanderson

Over the past year, I've been taking continuing education classes through the UCC's Damascus Project, an initiative to equip lay people to lead and guide a changing church and navigate a changing world. This past spring I studied *Faith Foundations: The Theology of God*. That class inspired the themes I've chosen for our worship and formation this fall. By setting seasonal and monthly themes, my hope is to bring a sense of consistency and flow to our worship services and events even as different people step forward to lead. These themes are firmly rooted in United Church of Christ theology and I believe this structure also reflects our congregational tradition of shared leadership and mutual participation.

This fall, we will be **"Exploring the Expansiveness of God Beyond Limits – Creator, Companion, Mystery"** In September, we will be focusing on God the Creator: A God Who Makes All Things New".

I see this as a living process, not something I create alone but something we all shape together as a church family. Our church has always drawn strength from many voices and I want to invite you to bring your ideas, your passions and your hopes for what our church can become. Whether it's a practice you'd love to see included in worship, a project that would enrich our faith or a theme that speaks to you, I would love to hear it. I am truly excited about this fall and I look forward to weaving our faith and creativity brought to life by the Holy Spirit into all that we do together.

CALENDAR

*Sunday worship begins
weekly at 10 AM.
Childcare is available.*

7 - Communion
Sunday

Rally Day

8 - Church

Council: 7 PM

10 - Peanut

Processing Begins

14 - Confirmation
Class

28 - Guest Pastor
Shelby Jeidy

LITURGISTS

7 - Mary Lou Behring

14 - Jim McLouth

21 - Lynn Bates

28 - Krista Kim

NOTES FROM PASTOR TIFF

Jill Sanderson and I will be providing leadership for a Confirmation class this year. We are excited to have two young participants from our church family: Emma Davis and Violet Nelson. We began last spring and plan on meeting at least once a month after worship on Sunday mornings. The two girls are very interested in learning about the Bible, churchy history, and the root denominations that came together to be the United Church of Christ. We will be using Confirmation materials from the UCC and other sources. If you have a name of another potential confirmand, please let us know. Our first class this Fall will be on Sunday, September 14th starting at 11:15. Please keep Emma and Violet in your prayers as they participate in the class and learn about the church and their faith.

There is a new sign up sheet for after worship Fellowship treats. Please sign up to provide a simple treat for all to enjoy. Thank you.

EDUCATION

We are so excited to welcome the kids back to Sunday school this fall! As the season changes and we settle into new routines, we look forward to gathering with the children to share stories, create crafts, play games and even do some service projects together. Lynn Bates and I will be sharing teaching duties. We can't wait to greet the energy and curiosity the kids bring each week.

Each Sunday, Yeti will be in the nursery to care for our littlest ones, while children ages three and up will meet for Sunday school in the peach-colored room just off the fellowship hall. We hope this will be a space where our kids can feel safe, loved, and inspired as they learn and grow together. Thank you for supporting them, and us, as we begin another year of fun and faith-filled Sundays.

With joy and gratitude,
Jill

CONFIRMATION CLASS CALENDAR

Sept 14

Oct 12

Nov 9

Nov 23

Dec 21

God of peace,

We confess how easy it is to look away, to grow numb or to retreat into our own corners of safety.

Help us to see the pain around us. Give us the courage to turn toward suffering with eyes and hearts open.

Holy God, keep us awake to the brokenness.

Keep us alive to the possibility of love that is stronger than violence.

Amen.

PRAYERS

As a reminder, you may use a prayer request slip located in the sanctuary or contact Pastor Tiff if you'd like to request prayers for yourself a loved one.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who participated in our Music Celebration Sunday service and to Connie Tronnes who has filled in as our pianist/organist during worship over the summer!

BIRTHDAYS

6 - Erra Sanderson-Haque
9 - Austin Tronnes
11 - Cal Wiersma
14 - Andy Wiersma
16 - Emma Davis
16 - Ryan Morris
17 - Ethan Norland
23 - Jaxon Davis
26 - Elijah Diawara

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

- Please note that there are no July council minutes attached as council took July off from meeting.
- During the month of September, please find our member list on the back table in the sanctuary and confirm we have accurate information for your family.
- Setup for peanut processing will take place on September 8; processing will begin September 10.

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Krista Kim - rigertkim@gmail.com
Interim Pastor: Tiff Bates - revtiffbates@gmail.com
Ministry/Education: Jill Sanderson - jillesanderson@gmail.com
Vice-Moderator/Treasurer: Tracty Tronnes - tntronnes@nylumber.com
Worship Life: Mary Lou Behring - hairchair@yahoo.com
Trustees: Bruce Morris - brucem929@gmail.com

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