



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 4, 2026

Ministers / **All of Us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Becky Wedeking**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Song Leaders / **Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers**

Music for Gathering

Opening Breath

***Congregational Hymn**

“Enter, Rejoice and Come In”

Enter, rejoice and come in. Enter, rejoice and come in.
Today will be a joyful day! Enter, rejoice and come in!

Open your hearts, everyone. Open your hearts, everyone.
Today will be a joyful day! Enter, rejoice and come in!

Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.
Today will be a joyful day! Enter, rejoice and come in!

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

***Bold** indicates to speak or sing in unison.*

Call to Worship

The table of faith is set, inviting us to gather.

We come with hungry hearts and hungry souls.

The cup of hope waits for us to come and drink.

We come thirsting for love and justice in the world.

The bread of life sits waiting to be broken and shared.

**We come to worship together,
gathered at the family table with all of the family of faith.**

Prayer of Unburdening

We grieve that the church,
which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope,
and spans all time, place, race, and language,
has become a broken communion in a broken world.
When we struggle for the truth of the gospel
and for the justice God demands,
we pray for wisdom and courage.
When our pride or unwillingness to see
hinders the unity of God's household,
we seek forgiveness. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love

"We Are Forgiven"

G Am D7 Csus G C

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to

G Am7 Dsus D G Am

God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.

D7 Csus G C G Am7 D G

We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

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Passing the Peace

The Reading

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-10, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words, and said, “I am Yahweh who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

“Do not worship any gods except me!

“Do not make for yourselves any carved image or likeness of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth...

“Do not utter the name of Yahweh to misuse it, for Yahweh will not acquit anyone who utters God’s Name to misuse it!

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy! For six days you will labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is Sabbath for Yahweh...

“Honor your mother and your father, so that you may have a long life in the land that Yahweh has given to you!

“No murdering!

“No adultery!

“No stealing!

“No giving false testimony against your neighbor!

“No desiring your neighbor’s house! No desiring your neighbor’s spouse, or worker — female or male — or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor!”

When the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, and heard the sound like blaring trumpets, and saw the smoking mountain, they shook in fear. Keeping their distance, they said to Moses, “Speak to us and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, or it will surely be our death.”

But Moses said, “Don’t be afraid. God’s coming this way was simply a test for you, to give you a sense of awe and reverence, and to keep you from sinning.”

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Special Music

"Everything Is Beautiful"

Tim Sharp

Message

"Right and Wrong"

Rev. Gage Church

*Congregational Hymn

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
one joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Time of Silence & Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Please pray any version you wish. Here is one version:

Our Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your Kin-dom come, your 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 yours is the Kin-dom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering

God is good! **All the time!**

All the time! **God is good!**

Let us share the goodness of our God.

A note to visitors: Your presence here today is a gift to us.

We are "centralchurchtopeka" on Venmo.

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***Doxology**

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. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

We dedicate these gifts to the work of the church in its mission
to be a voice of justice and peace in all the world. Amen.

***Congregational Hymn**

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: Loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: Loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

Refrain

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God, Immanuel, everywhere!

Refrain

Communion Invitation

Loving and gracious God, who summons galaxies into being,
we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for our world.
The diversity of our planet amazes us, from the prairies and pampas of the Americas
to the dusty deserts of Africa and Asia, from the majestic mountains of Europe
to the vast outback of Australia. We give you thanks for the multiplicity of humanity
with our complexity of color and culture yet called into oneness-of-being through Christ.
With many tongues, yet with one voice, we honor you, saying:
**Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high.**

Words of Institution

Blessing of the Bread and Cup

God, may this bread connect us more closely with you
and with our neighbors near and far.

Bless this bread, we pray.

May this fruit of the vine remind us
of the interconnectedness of people around the world.

Bless this cup, we pray.

**May this simple meal bring us into union with you,
your people and your world, united in the One Body of Christ.**

Come, For All Things Are Ready

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal.
Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity.
Thank you for this day when we worship and serve you. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

*Benediction

Music for Sending

“Amen”

SAVE THE DATES

Adult Sunday School @ 9 a.m.

Meditation on Mondays @ 5 p.m.

Book Club on Thursdays @ 4 p.m. beginning October 1

Bell Choir Rehearsal on Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.

Murder Mystery Dinner / October 9 @ 6 p.m.

Pet Blessing with MCC / October 10 @ 4 p.m.

Topeka JUMP Community Problems Assembly / October 26 @ 6:30 p.m.

Trunk or Treat / October 31 @ 2-4 p.m.

All Saints Sunday Remembrance / November 1 in worship

Nature Therapy Session / November 1 @ 3 p.m.

Kansas-Oklahoma UCC Annual Meeting / November 6-7

Soup and Dessert Sale / November 7 @ tbd

Game Night / November 13 @ 6 p.m.

Heritage Sunday Potluck / November 22 after worship

Game Night / December 11 @ 6 p.m.

Holiday Bake Sale / December 12 @ tbd

Christmas Cookie Exchange / December 20 after worship



The banner features a dark blue background with a starry night sky. On the left, there are three stylized yellow stars of varying sizes. In the center, there is a white icon of an open book with a dove flying out of it, set within a rounded rectangular frame. To the right of the icon, the word "DOORSTEP" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with the tagline "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Below the icon and tagline, the words "Starlight Auction" are written in a large, yellow, cursive font with a black outline. Underneath that, "Fall 2026 Edition" is written in a smaller, yellow, cursive font with a black outline. At the bottom, the text "Begins: October 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m." and "Ends: October 24, 2026 at 10:00 p.m." is written in a yellow, cursive font with a black outline.

DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Starlight Auction
Fall 2026 Edition

Begins: October 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Ends: October 24, 2026 at 10:00 p.m.

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Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. When you give to Neighbors in Need, you help build a just world for all. Thank you!

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

In 2025, the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.

The Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) is the voice for American Indian people in the UCC. CAIM provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church. Justice issues that affect American Indian life are communicated to the whole UCC by CAIM.

Historically, the forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multiracial UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors. In addition, CAIM strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 people from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations and to strengthen their participation in the life of the church.

One-third of the Neighbors in Need offering supports the ministries of the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM).

Learn more about Neighbors in Need at www.ucc.org/nin

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