Central Congregational United Church of Christ

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Ministers / **All of Us**
Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**
Worship Leader / **Janice Ayers**
Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**
Music Guest / **Valerie Ball**
Song Leaders / **Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers**

Music for Gathering

Opening Breath

*Congregational Hymn

"O for a World"

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: Outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

Call to Worship

God is great!
We praise God with song!
God is great!
We praise God with noise!
God is great!
We praise God with love!

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.* ***Bold*** *indicates to speak or sing in unison.*

Prayer of Unburdening

God of Creation, we come to you knowing that too often
we squander your gifts and act as if they were given to us alone.
Too often, we do not love you with our whole heart.
Too often, we rebel against your love.
Too often, we do not love our neighbors
nor hear the cry of the oppressed.
Forgive us and free us for joyful following. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Passing the Peace

The Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

"Again, it's like a wealthy landowner who was going on a journey and called in three workers, entrusting some funds to them. The first was given five thousand dollars, the second two thousand, and third one thousand, according to each one's ability. Then the landowner went away. Immediately the worker who received the five thousand went and invested it and made another five. In the same way, the worker who received the two thousand doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one thousand instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money.

"After a long absence, the traveler returned home and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five, saying, 'You entrusted me with five thousand; here are five thousand more.'

"The landowner said, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you are dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!'

"The one who had received the two thousand then stepped forward with the additional two, saying, 'You entrusted me with two thousand; here are two thousand more.'

“The landowner said to this one, ‘Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!’

“Finally, the one who had received the one thousand stepped forward and said to the landowner, ‘Knowing that you’re ruthless — you who reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter — and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your thousand dollars in the ground. Here is your money back.’

“The landowner exclaimed, ‘You worthless, lazy lout! So you know that I reap where I don’t sow and gather where I don’t scatter, do you? All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have it back with interest! You, there! Take the thousand away from this bum and give it to the one with the ten thousand.

“‘Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have. Throw this worthless one outside into the darkness, where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.’

Special Music

Valerie Ball

Message

Rev. Gage Church

*Congregational Hymn

“When the Saints Go Marching In”

Oh when the saints go marching in, oh when the saints go marching in, oh, Lord, I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in.

Oh when the light begins to shine ...

Oh when Christ comes to guide us all ...

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Time of Silence & Pastoral Prayer

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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.

We are "centralchurchtopeka" on Venmo.

*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.

*Closing Hymn

"Peace I Leave With You, My Friends"

***Refrain:* Peace I leave with you, my friends,**
shalom, my peace, in all you do.
Peace I leave with you, my friends.
I give to you so you can give to others, too.

To share God's love is why I came,
to show God's kindness without end.
Go now, my friends, and do the same, until I come again.
Refrain

Continued on next page.

Take my hand and be at peace;
the spirit of our love I send.
And with this love you will be free, until I come again.
Refrain

*Benediction

*Music for Sending

"Amen"

SAVE THE DATES

Adult Sunday School @ 9 a.m. (except November 29)
Meditation on Mondays @ 5 p.m.
Bell Choir Rehearsal on Sundays after worship

Church Council Meeting / Today after worship
Transgender Day of Remembrance Service / November 20 @ tbd
Heritage Sunday Potluck / November 22 after worship
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service / November 22 @ 6:30 p.m.
JUMP Research Kickoff / December 1 @ 6 p.m.
Game Night / December 11 @ 6 p.m.
Holiday Bake Sale / December 12 @ 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Christmas Cookie Exchange / December 20 after worship
Longest-Night Service / December 21 @ tbd
Christmas Eve at Ward-Meade / December 24 @ 5 p.m.

Doorstep's Christmas Adoption ~ 2026
Donations Needed for this Christmas!



Help us collect items for our 2026 Christmas adoption of 285 households, with nearly 900 individuals!

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