



# Is Anything Too Wonderful for God?

**CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

247 South Market Street, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

*Founded 1743*



Christ Church  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**A Creation Justice Church  
An Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation**



# CHRIST CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 14, 2026

WORSHIP 10:30 AM

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## GATHERING

Gathering Music

Justin McLaughlin, musician

Welcome, Announcements

Call to Worship, Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

*“Hymns of Commitment”*

arr. Phillip Keveren

Justin McLaughlin, musician

## PRAISING *(Please rise whether in body or in spirit.)*

Opening Words<sup>1</sup> *(responsive)*

based on Genesis 18: 1-15

One: Strangers visit Abraham and Sarah, and they welcome them with a feast!

**Many: How wonderful!**

One: Strangers promise Sarah and Abraham a child in their old age!

**Many: Too wonderful?**

One: Strangers leave Abraham and Sarah to wait and ponder:

**Many: “Is anything too wonderful for God?”**

One: Let us worship our Wonder-full God!

Hymn

*“We Are Dancing Sarah’s Circle”* (vss. 1-4)

No. 501

Invocation<sup>1</sup> *(unison)*

**Holy One, who we so often don’t recognize, please come into our midst and make your presence known! Renew our strength, refresh our imaginations, retool our weary efforts to carry your peace into the world. Amaze us with your power to make all things new and let us face your world with curiosity and hope. In the name of the One who leads us on the Way, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

Response

*“We Are Dancing Sarah’s Circle”* (vs. 5)

No. 501

*(Please be seated.)*

## AFFIRMING

Children's Moment

Lisa Clark

Joys and Concerns

May the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (*unison, on screen*)

*Collective Spirit*

*"The River"*

Brooks and Shaw

## LISTENING

Hebrew scripture reading

Genesis 12: 1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Hebrew scripture reading

Genesis 21: 1-7

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup> Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom

Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup> And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup> Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” <sup>7</sup> And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Sermon

Lisa Clark, guest preacher

### “Surprises”

Moment of Reflection

## SHARING

Offering our Gifts, Tithes, and Other Offerings

Offertory

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

arr. Melody Bober

Justin McLaughlin, musician

*(Please rise whether in body or in spirit for the remainder of worship.)*

Response

“What Gift Can We Bring” (vss. 3 and 4)

No. 370

Prayer of Dedication

## RESPONDING

Hymn

“De Colores

No. 402

Commissioning

Psalm 100

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Blessing<sup>1</sup>

Lisa Clark

Go forth from this time together  
With hearts open to the surprising, inexhaustible love of God.  
Greet friends and strangers with the gifts of Christ:  
Mercy, and justice, and joy.

Postlude

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

arr. Greg Howlett

### End of Worship—Beginning of Service

<sup>1</sup> from Worship Ways, [Pentecost 2 - June 14 - United Church of Christ](https://www.pentecost2.com/), retrieved June 3, 2026.



## Our Church in Action

**WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH!** If this is your first time to Christ Church, please fill out a “Connection” card found at the entrances to the sanctuary or pew racks, and put it in the box at the entrances. Or visit <https://2hac.page.link/mdHS>. You can also scan the QR code in the pew racks to access our website: [www.etownucc.org](http://www.etownucc.org) for more information. Welcome!!

**WELCOME TO LISA CLARK!** Lisa is here as a candidate for the Associate Pastor position at Christ Church. Please peruse the booklet containing information about her. As she leads us in worship today, she asks that we consider how we expect the Spirit to meet us wherever we are, in struggle, in grief, and in peace. Please ponder this statement: “Is anything too wonderful for God?”

**A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held immediately after worship TODAY! We will discuss and discern whether to call Lisa Clark as our next Associate Pastor. Everyone is encouraged to be in person for a written ballot vote.

**ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC TODAY:** Fun for EVERYONE! After worship and our special Congregational meeting, we’ll go outside and share fun, fellowship, and great food! Paper products and drinks are provided. There will be live music and activities for all ages!

**SUMMMER MUSIC:** You are invited to participate with your gift of music during a summer worship service! Please sign up in the hallway and help enhance our worship ministry.

## **MEMBERS REQUESTING PRAYERS:**

- † **Kim Wolgemuth** and family upon the death of her dad, **M. Gordon Berrier**
- † **Jo Brandt's sister, Shannon**, battling breast cancer
- † **Jo Brandt's nephew, Seanan**, is recovering from several facial surgeries
- † **Denise Clissold** in the hospital, and going to rehab after a dizzy spell and a fall
- † **Phyllis Eckenrode** recovering from surgery after a serious fall
- † **Craig Miller** is recovering from surgery after dog bites and a bike accident
- † **Lauren Cenci**, Craig's girlfriend, facing a hip stress fracture and cannot run for now
- † **Marsha Reiber's cousin, Sherry Basilio**, faces chemo and surgery for breast cancer

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Jim and Cheryl Dively in honor of Sound Media Team who bring church services into the homes of "shut ins" via internet. Thank you and great service!

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** for our nursery during the summer worship services. Please sign up in the hallway or call the church office. Thank you!

## **JUNE'S MONTHLY FOCUS— STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH ALL-CHURCH OFFERING:**

The June Mission Focus is the UCC Strengthen the Church Offering. This offering furthers the work of the wider UCC, strengthening and renewing existing congregations, funding leadership development, and providing exciting new programs for youth and young adults. Our support is divided between the Keystone Conference and the national church. Please give generously using envelopes in the pews, online giving, or place an offering in the drop box located at the front entrance to the sanctuary. Our offerings make a difference!

**HERE WE GROW!** After the Children's Moment, the kids will go with our leaders for their outdoor activities. The Faith Formation program is based on Creation Justice of growing farm food and flowers. If you would like to help, please contact Amy Addams.

**LANCASTER FARM SANCTUARY:** The youth will be visiting the Lancaster Farm Sanctuary on June 21, 2026. We will be departing from church at 9:00 AM and returning by 11:00 AM. Permission slips are required and due by June 18. Please see the NET for details.

**2026 MISSION TRIP—SAVE THE DATE! July 26-28!** We'll be staying at Old First Reformed UCC in Philly. This trip is for **ages 5 and up** (children 5, 6, and 7 years old must be accompanied by a parent/chaperone). The last day to sign up is today on the board at the steps. Please come to the Planning Meeting on June 18, at 7 PM to find out more.

**FIRST REFORMED MEAL:** Christ Church is serving a meal at First Reformed on Tuesday, June 23rd. We need 7 volunteers to help serve. We also need 7 volunteers to bake brownies. Brownies need to be in zip lock baggies as a single serving. Servers should plan to be at the church no later than 3:00 PM to travel to First Reformed. If interested, please contact Dori Heisey at 717-653-5353 or email at [dsheisey@hotmail.com](mailto:dsheisey@hotmail.com).

**“THE GENESIS OF OUR FAITH”—SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES** ‘Genesis’ means beginning—the beginning of scripture, the Jewish faith, and our faith. On certain Sundays we’ll explore some courageous ancestors of our faith. The first of the series is on June 21.

**PRIDE SUNDAY—JUNE 21** In major cities and small hamlets celebrations occur, and here at Christ Church, we will observe Sunday, June 21 as PRIDE Sunday. Please feel free to wear Rainbow Colors that day!

**GRADUATES HONORED** in worship, June 21. If you are a graduate from high school, college, or higher education this year, please let the Church office know you will be here.

**NEW MEMBERS ARE JOINING** in worship on June 28. Please let Pastor Galen know if you’re interested in becoming a Participating Member of Christ Church!

#### **APPRECIATIONS FOR June 14**

- Lay Leader: Steve Stouffer
- Acolyte: Calli Heslop
- Ushers: Dave Wheeler, Cris & Ann Dinsmore
- Nursery: Bev Thomas
- Musician: *CollectiveSpirit*, Jan Stouffer, director, Justin McLaughlin, church musician
- Sound Media Team: Tom Downing, Chris Eurich, Dale Mease, Wes Runnels, Garrett Runnels
- June Cookie Time: Sponsored by the Chancel Choir
- Cover art: [love means letting go 3.jpg \(490x354\)](#), retrieved June 3, 2026.

#### **APPRECIATIONS FOR June 21**

- Lay Leader: Jereme Wells
- Acolyte: Clementine Ortiz
- Ushers: Brooke Bensinger, Bill & Deb Ansalvish
- Nursery: Volunteers needed
- Musician: Justin McLaughlin, church musician
- Sound Media Team: Tom Downing, Chris Eurich, Dale Mease, Wes Runnels, Garrett Runnels
- June Cookie Time: Sponsored by the Chancel Choir
- July Cookie Time: Creation Justice Team

## This Week at a Glance

### Sunday 6/14

Worship led by Lisa Clark 10:30 AM  
 Congregational Meeting 11:30 AM  
 All Church Picnic 12:00 PM

### Monday 6/15

Social Justice Meeting (on Zoom) 7:30 PM

### Tuesday 6/16

Common Sense 6:00 PM  
 Cont. Christian Conversation (on Zoom) 8:00 PM

### Wednesday 6/17

Farmer's Market 4 to 7:00 PM

### Thursday 6/18

Ministry Committee 6:30 PM  
 Philly Mission Trip planning meeting 7:00 PM

### Friday 6/19 (Juneteenth)

### Sunday 6/21 Pride Sunday, "Genesis" and Grads

Worship 9:30 AM  
 Grocery Card Sale (cookie room) 10:30 AM  
 Cookie Time 10:30 AM  
 Compost Buckets exchange

### Monday 6/22

Juneteenth observed (Office closed)

### MINISTERS: All the Participating Members of the Congregation

#### Our Church Staff

**Lead Pastor** ..... Rev. Dr. Galen E. Russell, III  
**Associate Pastor** .....  
**Director of Music** ..... Conner Ulrich  
**Organist** ..... Justin McLaughlin  
**Director of Carillon Choir** ..... Ruthann Ressler  
**Director of Youth Choirs** ..... Ali Spayd  
**Director of *CollectiveSpirit*** ..... Jan Stouffer  
**Office Administrator** .....  
**Treasurer** ..... Cris Dinsmore  
**Facility Manager** .....

**Church Phone:** 717-367-1208    **Office Hours:** Mon. - Thurs. (9 am - noon & 1-5 pm, call first)

**Website:** [www.etownucc.org](http://www.etownucc.org)

**Email:** [christchurch@etownucc.org](mailto:christchurch@etownucc.org)

**Christ Church Network:** Christ Church Office-guest PW: TrustInGod1208