

Congregational Church of Birmingham United Church of Christ



Our Vision: Sharing Christ's love; seeking justice and healing for all God's creation. And to this end, we join together to build a community marked by:

- Genuine Relationships
- Partnerships for Social Action
- Faith Sharing among People of All Ages
- Commitment to Environmental Justice

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022
10:00 AM

Welcome Visitors! Please take a moment to join us in signing and passing our Ritual of Friendship book. We heartily welcome you to this church family.

You May Contact Rev. Ralph Brown for any pastoral request or emergency at 586-872-1618 or brown.ralph.h@gmail.com

Prayer Requests? Text Rev. Brown (586-872-1618) by 9:30 AM Sunday for inclusion in the Sunday morning prayers, and/or by 11:00 AM Sunday to be included in the Weekly Prayers email.

Get in the Loop! Stay current on CCBUCC news. Contact the church office to receive our email communications.

View Sunday Worship Live Streams and all previously recorded services at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CongregationalChurchofBirminghamUCC>

OUR WORSHIP IS LIVE STREAMED so that those unable to be with us in person can worship online on our YouTube channel (see link below). We're happy to be accessible to everyone and are deeply grateful to Chris Hiner for creating the technological set up! Our Media & Communications Specialist, Daniel Jaros, runs the streaming technology during the service. We invite others to be trained to monitor the sound and live chat. Interested in how it works? Observe Daniel and learn the ropes.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CongregationalChurchofBirminghamUCC>

SUMMER PLAY TIME! The children will stay in worship with the adults until after the *Time with Children* during the service. They will then be guided across the driveway by several adults to spend time playing games in the "farm" area (or indoors if bad weather). Regular Sunday School classes will resume indoors after Labor Day weekend.

WORSHIP GUIDE

(**Bold** indicates in unison.)
[Live Streaming Begins Here]

PRELUDE

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Gordon,
arr. Chung

WELCOME

Pastor Ralph

SONG

"Great Is Your Faithfulness"

NCH #423

(verses 1 & 3)

**Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
all of your goodness forever will be.**

Refrain:

**Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.**

Refrain:

**Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

CCLI #741179

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Cynthia Martin and All

Gather before God, people of the covenant.
Listen for God's Word, O faithful ones.

God calls us to gather here.

We come trusting that God's Holy Spirit meets us here.

We have come to honor God's presence among us, to give thanks
and to learn how to follow in God's way of love.

**God calls us to work for justice and God will send us out
as advocates for the oppressed and those in need.**

Let us pray:

(continued)

**For the rich heritage we have received from your hand
and from our mothers and fathers in the faith,
we give you thanks, O God.**

**Lead us beyond the routines of worship to a genuine,
life-changing encounter with you.**

**Send us from this place
ready to serve you in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 NRSV Cynthia Martin

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

For the word of God in Scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us, **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

THE INVITATION, WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

All People

**Our Loving God beyond and within,
holy is your name.**

**Your community come,
your way be followed**

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, today, our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the way,
the power and the glory,
now and forever.**

Amen.

SHARING THE SACRAMENT (All elements are gluten free.) Pastor Ralph and All

"Let Us Break Bread Together" (verses 1 & 2) **CH #425**

Taking your chalice, please open the side where the bread is, and join me in singing:

**Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Take and eat.

Opening the side where the fruit of the vine is, please join me in singing:

**Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.**

(continued)

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Take and drink.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All People

**Bountiful God,
we give you thanks
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us
the presence of Christ among us.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world
in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE "Let Us Break Bread Together"

CH #425

(verse 3)

Please join me in singing:

**Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Dr. Carmel Tinnes

(Children may now go to Summer Play Time.)

OUR CONVERSATION

Rev. Ralph Brown

"If we cannot trust in a better day,
we will not work for a better day."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Ralph

We Continue to Pray for:

- Afghan and Ukrainian citizens and refugees, in dire circumstances seeking safety and peace
- All at risk in contracting COVID-19
- Barry McBride, continuing to face health challenges with such courage
- Ben Sharpe, seeking effective treatment for anxiety and depression
- Bob Rauth and family, grieving the death of wife, Marilyn
- The grieving family of Cathy Carey, including husband Roger, and grandchildren Jameson Peterson, Jayden, Illyana and Lydiana Carey
- Chris Mead, recovering at home from mild symptoms after a positive COVID test
- Cindy Kyle and family, grieving the death of mother, Annabelle
- David, brother of Paul von Oeyen, gratefully in remission from leukemia, and dealing with lingering complications from decreased immunity
- Elie Schulz, recovering from ACL repair surgery
- Greg Peterson and family, grieving the death of aunt, Judy Brooks
- Jeff Foust's mother, diagnosed with breast cancer
- Joe Bentley, recovering at home with COVID
- John Lindstrom and Cindy Kyle, as they continue to deal with John's health concerns
- Liz Kircos, in rehab following hip surgery after a fall
- Mary Ann Martin, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery
- Mary Peterson and family, grieving the death of mother, Edith Price
- Melissa & Brenda Crook and family, separated from Calliope
- Oxford and Uvalde families, students, teachers, school staff and all community members, grieving in the wake of gun violence
- Ruth Biersdorf, in treatment for cancer
- Sue Potter and family, mourning the death of brother, Robert
- Victims of war, violence, and natural disasters everywhere
- Youth and adults with mental health challenges
- The Zeller family, grieving the death of grandmother, Joanne

OUR GIFTS & SERVICE

Pastor Ralph

Your offering is welcomed in support of our ministry and may be made online at www.ccbucc.org; placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the worship area (before, during, or after worship); or mailed to us Attn: Treasurer.

SONG**"We Would Be Building"****NCH #607**

**We would be building; temples still undone
o'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift,
waiting till love can raise the broken stone,
and hearts creative bridge the human rift.
We would be building, Architect Divine,
reveal the shape of life in your design.**

**Teach us to build; upon the solid rock
we set the dream that hardens into deed,
ribbed with fine steel, both time and change to mock,
th'unfailing purpose of our noblest creed.
Teach us to build; O Maker, lend us sight
to see the towers gleaming in the light.**

**O keep us building, Savior; may our hands
ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
when to our ears there come divine commands
and all the pride of sinful will departs.
We build with you; O grant enduring worth
until your promised realm shall come on earth.** CCLI #741179

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

Pastor Ralph and All

**Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen.**POSTLUDE**

"Jesus Shall Reign"
(tune: Duke Street)

Hatton,
arr. Hayes

[Live Streaming Ends Here]

WE THANK our greeters, ushers, liturgist, communion helpers, Tech Team: Daniel Jaros & Chris Hiner, Worship Design Team: Leslie O'Day-Benyo, John Benyo & Margherita Fisher, and Music Team: Joe Bentley & Yalan Piao, for all their help with today's service.

JOYS, CONCERNS & MINISTRY UPDATES

Pastor Ralph

(Please sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pad.)

OUR MINISTRY UPDATES

"FOLLOWING THE WAY" (VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL) FAMILY

EVENT: On Sunday, August 21, 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM, children and their families will spend time TOGETHER with other families and experience life in 64 C.E., immersed in our roots in Hebrew traditions! Adults must attend WITH their children. RSVP REQUIRED BY TODAY, SUNDAY, AUGUST 7.

We'll enjoy story-tellers from 64 C.E., create traditional crafts (pottery, jewelry, woven baskets), have lunch with traditional foods (hummus, pita, veggies), sing traditional songs and learn dances, and dress up in traditional costumes. Costumes will be provided to all children. Costume suggestions will be made for adults.

This event is for children and their families. No drop-offs allowed. RSVP TODAY, SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, with the number of adults and the number of children attending. RSVP link here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4CAAAD23A5FA7-following>

MEMBERSHIP CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR RALPH: Are you thinking about becoming a member of Congregational Church of Birmingham UCC? Please meet with Pastor Ralph next Sunday, August 14 at 11:30 AM in the Arlund Room for an informal conversation about the why, what, how and when of membership at CCB.

KEEP OUR FAMILIES IN THE SHADE! We still need 6 more pop-up canopies/screen tents/shelters, and a small, plastic, non-inflatable child's wading pool to use for our Sunday, August 21, "Following the Way" VBS Family Event. Please let Carmel know (carmelf711@yahoo.com) as soon as possible if you have anything we can borrow for that day!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR "FOLLOWING THE WAY" VBS FAMILY EVENT – We're seeking adults and/or youth helpers on:

- Saturday, August 20, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, for inside set-up and prep; AND
- Sunday, August 21, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, to run craft stations, lead games, and set-up lunch and snacks.

If you are available to assist, please email Carmel (carmelf711@yahoo.com) as soon as possible. Thanks!

WORSHIP IN THE GARDEN! Join us for worship under the trees NOW through Labor Day weekend – weather permitting of course!

GARDEN WORSHIP SET-UP HELP NEEDED: If you can help setting up chairs under the trees at 9:15 AM any Sunday through Labor Day weekend, please contact Galen Fisher [248-705-2183], Pastor Ralph, or use the Ministry Teams Google sign-up document.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS are in effect NOW through Labor Day weekend. The church office is OPEN Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM and is CLOSED on Fridays.

VEGGIE GARDEN UPDATE!

- Forgotten Harvest picked up our first little harvest: beets, sugar snap peas, yellow squash, and green beans!
- Crops are really filling in - fortunately crowding out some weeds.
- Starting to think about the gravity feed watering system. That's probably a project for a couple weekends in August.
- Link to recent photos and current weather data: bit.ly/CCBUCCgarden

MINISTRY TEAMS SIGN-UP: Link to the Google sheets sign-up documents for all CCBUCC Ministry Teams throughout the year: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-SdAgQsKF_zVLNdWYhS-UYS8cuhK1U48_GWqE3PH-Bs/edit#gid=0. Check for continuing and new opportunities to participate. Access the document as many times as you wish. Change/update your choices as needed. Questions? Email Cathy Rupert cathyrupert@hotmail.com

What's Happening @ CCBUCC This Week

Bold indicates CCB and/or UCC related event. Regular font indicates outside usage.

<u>Sunday</u> <u>8/7/22</u>	10:00 AM	Worship with Communion (outside, or S and/or YouTube)
	10:15 AM	Summer Play Time (veggie garden area or AR)
	11:00 AM	Social Hour (outside or FH)
<u>Monday</u> <u>8/8/22</u>	7:00 AM	Sober Morning AA (AR)
	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR)
	7:00 PM	Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
<u>Tuesday</u> <u>8/9/22</u>	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR)
	3:00 PM	Madeleine's French Patisserie (K & P)
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>8/10/22</u>	7:00 AM	Sober Morning AA (AR)
	10:00 AM	New Beginnings Al-Anon (AR)
	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR & FH)
<u>Thursday</u> <u>8/11/22</u>	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR & FH)
	3:00 PM	Madeleine's French Patisserie (K & P)
	7:15 PM	Vision Circle Meeting (Zoom)
	7:30 PM	Nan's Group Women's AA (AR & L)
<u>Friday</u> <u>8/12/22</u>	Church Office Closed – Summer Hours	
	7:00 AM	Sober Morning AA (AR)
	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR & FH)
	2:00 PM	Family Farms Cooperative (AR)
<u>Saturday - 8/13/22</u>	Nothing Today	
<u>Sunday</u> <u>8/14/22</u>	10:00 AM	Worship (outside, or S and/or YouTube)
	10:15 AM	Summer Play Time (veggie garden area or AR)
	11:00 AM	Social Hour (outside or FH)
	11:30 AM	Membership Conversation (AR)
<u>Monday</u> <u>8/15/22</u>	7:00 AM	Sober Morning AA (AR)
	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR)

The complete church calendar is on our website: www.ccbucc.org

A Just World for All

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost.....August 7, 2022

Welcome to CCBUCC an "Open and Affirming" Church

We warmly welcome everyone to worship and into the full life and leadership of the church. Whatever your background - your race, your nationality, your physical or mental condition, your gender, your sexual orientation - whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you in love as Jesus Christ welcomes all. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, may the comfort and challenge of God's presence renew and inspire us all throughout the coming week. Again, welcome!



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Contact a Stephen Minister Leader:
Dr. Paul von Oeyen 248-646-0837

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM

1000 CRANBROOK ROAD (@ WOODWARD AVE)
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48304-2725



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

PHONE: 248-646-4511

EMAIL: ccbinfo@ccbucc.org

CCB WEBSITE: www.ccbucc.org

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE WEBSITE: www.michucc.org

DENOMINATIONAL WEBSITE: www.ucc.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Rev. Ralph Brown, Bridge Pastor

Dr. Joe Bentley, Choral Director

Daniel Jaros, Media & Communications Specialist

Summer Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00AM-3:30PM, Closed Friday (thru Labor Day)

Ministers - The Congregation

Dr. Carmel Tinnes, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Yalan Piao, Accompanist

Beth Prevost, Church Administrator