

Congregational Church of Birmingham United Church of Christ



Church, Frederic Edwin, 1826-1900. **Twilight in the Wilderness**, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Connection and Courage

November 19, 2023

10:00 AM

Welcome Visitors! Please take a moment to join us in signing and passing the Ritual of Friendship books in the pews. Welcome to our church family.

Our Nursery is available during worship. An usher can direct you.

You May Contact Rev. Shane Montoya for any pastoral request or emergency by text or phone call to 248-633-8526 or email to: *pastorshane@cbbucc.org*

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

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

OUR SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED on our YouTube channel (see link above). We're happy to be widely accessible and grateful to those who mastered the technology that made the stream possible. You're invited to learn how it works and help out. See Dan Jaros up in the Choir Loft.

THE NURSERY IS OPEN! Elie Schulz will care for our littlest ones during worship. On your child's first stay, an adult will fill out a registration form. For safety, children must be signed in and out only by an authorized adult. Invite visitors to meet Elie and register their little ones.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: All children (pre-K - 6th grade) are welcome. They will go to their lessons at the instructed time during worship each Sunday. Please pick them up from their classrooms at 11:15 AM after the service.

PLEASE COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORMS for ALL children & youth in our Christian Education programming. Find the form at the back of the Sanctuary, on our website (www.cbbucc.org), or linked in the Weekly E-Update MailChimp email. Return completed forms to Carmel's mailbox, or email BOTH SIDES to her at: *cedirector@cbbucc.org*

WORSHIP GUIDE

(**Bold** indicates in unison.)

[Live Streaming Begins Here]

THRESHOLD MOMENT

"Beeches"
by David St. John

Ted Grossutti

The forest is its own thanksgiving
Walking a mile or so from the road
Past the lake & ancient post office
I skim the long bodies of the beech trees
The elegant ascension of their slender trunks
A kind of gorgeous illusory play
Of white bars against the dark ochre matting
Of the earth below

Peace is where you find it
As here the last secret of the dawn air mixes
With a nostalgia so perfumed by misery
Only the rhythm of the walk itself

Carries me beyond the past
To say I miss you is to say almost nothing
To say the forest is the sanctuary of ghosts
Is only the first step of my own giving way—
Not the giving up—just the old giving thanks

PRELUDE

"At Calvary"

Towner, arr. Alex-Zsolt

OPENING LITANY AND PRAYER

Ted Grossutti and All

One: The sun rises and it is light; night falls and it is dark.

All: Bless the One who gives life.

One: Sow the seed and cut the corn; bear the child and build the house.

All: Bless the One who gives life.

One: Lay the stone and light the fire; cast the net and water the earth.

All: Bless the One who gives life.

One: Serve the guest and pay the price; cut the wood and pick the flowers.

All: Bless the One who gives life.

One: Make the wine and bake the bread;
pour the wine and break the bread.

All: Bless the One who gives the life.

One: Let us pray:

All: Creator of the world, you crown the year with your goodness. May we who have been blessed give thanks always, sharing from God's abundance. In all the earth, may we recognize your gifts and treat them with reverence. So be it! Amen.

SONG "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" CH #718

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, does provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the blessings of the field,
all the stores the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply,
ripened 'neath the summer sky,
all that spring with bounteous hand
scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours
from its rich o'erflowing stores,**

**These to thee, our God, we owe,
source whence all our blessings flow;
and for these my souls shall raise
grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

THE WORD IN SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 8:7-18 (NRSVUE) Amber Grossutti
For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing
streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills,
a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and (continued)

pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

“Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them and when your herds and flocks have multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock. He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (NRSVUE)

Amber Grossutti

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

“He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and

pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

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 WORD IN MUSIC "Big Bright Beautiful World Moran, CMP Video

TIME WITH CHILDREN Dr. Carmel Tinnes,
Director of Christian Education

THE PRAYER OF JESUS **All People**

**Abba God, your name is holy.
May your community come and your way be followed
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us, today, our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
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.**

(Pre-K through 6th grade children may now go to their lessons.)

OUR CONVERSATION "In Thanksgiving" Rev. Shane Montoya

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION Pastor Shane
What has been a bounty in your life?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Shane
[Please email your Continuing Prayer requests to the Church Office or Pastor Shane
to have them included on this list and in the Weekly Prayers email.]

We Continue to Pray for:

- Bill Crook, Brenda Crook's brother-in-law, undergoing radiation and chemotherapy treatments for cancer
- Dotty Hess, Joe Bentley's sister, on chemotherapy fighting pancreatic cancer
- All those imprisoned, and all those who are mistreated and tortured (cont.)

- All victims, survivors, families and communities, grieving in the wake of gun violence
- All victims of war, violence and natural disasters
- Youth and adults with mental health challenges

OUR GIFTS & SERVICE

Pastor Shane

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

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

CH #714

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;
for good gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;
for the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Pastor Shane and All

One: May God, who clothes the lilies of the fields,

All: and feeds the birds of the sky,

One: who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,

**All: who multiplied loaves and fishes and
changed water into wine,**

One: lead us, feed us, and change us

All: to reflect the glory of our Creator,

One: to whom we offer praise and thanksgiving,

All: now and through all eternity. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Beethoven,
arr. Ham

[Live Streaming Ends Here]

WE THANK our greeters, ushers, readers, Tech Team: Dan Jaros & Sam Srauy, Worship Design Team: Leslie O’Day-Benyo & John Benyo, and Music Team: Joe Bentley & Yalan Piao, for helping with today’s service.

JOYS, CONCERNS & MINISTRY UPDATES

Pastor Shane

(Please sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pad in the pews. Thank you.)

MINISTRY UPDATES

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who contributed to our very successful Lighthouse Thanksgiving Food Drive. Together we raised **\$1480** in addition to **30 bags** of groceries. That’s a lot of turkey dinners. It is always amazing and gratifying to see what we can accomplish together!

2024 GIVING COMMITMENTS - Many thanks to all of you who have made your Giving Commitments for 2024. We appreciate your continued generous support of our CCB ministry. If you plan to submit a commitment, please do so as soon as possible. We are in the process of planning our 2024 funding. Thank you so much! Pat Parker, Funding for Ministry Team

ALL HANDS ON DECK TO “DECK THE HALLS!” Please plan to stay after worship TODAY, to help decorate CCB for the fast approaching Advent Season. There is something for all ages – from setting up and decorating the big tree and putting up garlands in the Sanctuary, to decorating smaller trees elsewhere, including in the Narthex. Light sandwiches and snacks will be provided. Thank you in advance for your help!

(continued)

FAMILY ADVENT EVENT! All families with children are invited to join together in the Arlund Room TODAY after Decking the Halls. Pastor Shane will share the story of the Grinch. All will have the opportunity to make a special candle to light during Advent! Carmel also has a new resource to give to our families this year.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS next Sunday, November 26, while Pastor Shane is on vacation.

TOY BOX COLLECTION FOR TRINITY-ST. MARK'S UCC: We'll continue our annual tradition of providing toys to children in Southwest Detroit. Trinity-St. Mark's UCC (TSM) is partnering with Bennett Elementary School to identify families in need. As in recent years, the pandemic prevents us from collecting and distributing actual toys. Instead, \$50 gift cards will be provided to the families TSM identifies. They are hoping to provide gift cards for at least 50 families. CCBUCC's collection is being held NOW through Sunday, December 10. To contribute please write a check to CCB with "Toy Box" in the memo line, or go online to our website and use myEoffering to choose the Toy Box Collection option. Contact Greg Panzica with questions at (313) 215-5767.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TEMPORARY PAUSE: The regular Monday and Wednesday classes are on hold for the remainder of November. Classes using "The Indispensable Guide to the Old Testament" by Angela Bauer-Levesque, will return on Monday, December 4. At that time Pastor Shane will again run sessions on Mondays at 6:30 PM (Zoom only) and Wednesdays at 10:30 AM (in person or Zoom) continuing through Wednesday, December 13.

PLEASE SEND ALL BULLETIN & E-UPDATE CONTENT to the church office (ccbinfo@ccbucc.org) by 9 AM Tuesday for the Sunday Bulletins, and by 12 PM Thursday for the Friday Weekly E-Update MailChimp emails.

MINISTRY TEAMS SIGN-UP: Link (<https://tinyurl.com/ccbminsignup>) to the Google sheets sign-up documents for all CCBUCC Ministry Teams throughout the year. Check for continuing and new opportunities to participate. Access the document as often as you wish and update your choices as needed. Questions? Email Justin Zeller: jzeller12@gmail.com

What's Happening @ CCBUCC This Week

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

<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/19/23</u>	9:45 AM Nursery 10:00 AM Worship (S and/or YouTube) 10:15 AM Sunday School (classrooms) 11:30 AM Deck the Halls (S & FH) 12:15 PM Family Advent Event (AR & K) 7:00 PM Manresa 2.0 AA (AR)
<u>Monday</u> <u>11/20/23</u>	7:00 AM Sober Morning AA (AR) 12:00 PM New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR) 7:00 PM CA Group (AR)
<u>Tuesday</u> <u>11/21/23</u>	12:00 PM New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR) 3:00 PM Madeleine's French Patisserie (K & P) 8:00 PM SA Northwest (AR)
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>11/22/23</u>	7:00 AM Sober Morning AA (AR) 10:00 AM New Beginnings Al-Anon (AR) 12:00 PM Office Closes for Thanksgiving 12:00 PM New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR) 7:00 PM CA Group (AR)
<u>Thursday</u> <u>11/23/23</u>	Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed 12:00 PM New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR) 3:00 PM Madeleine's French Patisserie (K & P) 6:00 PM Manresa Men's AA (AR) 7:30 PM Nan's Group Women's AA (AR)
<u>Friday</u> <u>11/24/23</u>	Holiday – Church Office Closed 7:00 AM Sober Morning AA (AR) 12:00 PM Mao Student Thanksgiving Party (FH to 8 PM) 12:00 PM New Beginnings of Bloomfield Hills AA (AR)
<u>Saturday</u> <u>11/25/23</u>	11:00 AM Roaring Wastes Wassail (FH, K & L to 10 PM)

See the complete church calendar on our website at: www.ccbucc.org

A Just World for All

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023

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, nationality, physical or mental condition, gender, 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!

Rev. Shane Montoya

pastorshane@ccbucc.org

248-633-8526

To schedule a meeting go to:

<https://calendly.com/ccbpastor/meet> or scan this QR Code:



Contact a Stephen Minister (Lay Pastoral Care) Leader:

Dr. Paul von Oeyen 248-646-0837

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM

1000 CRANBROOK ROAD (@ WOODWARD AVE)

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48304-2725

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY, 9:30AM - 3:30 PM



PHONE: 248-646-4511

EMAIL: ccbinfo@ccbucc.org

CCBUCC WEBSITE: www.ccbucc.org

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE WEBSITE: www.michucc.org

DENOMINATIONAL WEBSITE: www.ucc.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Ministers - The Congregation

Dr. Carmel Tinnes, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Yalan Piao, Accompanist

Elie Schulz, Nursery Care Provider

Rev. Shane Montoya, Pastor

Dr. Joe Bentley, Music Director

Dan Jaros, Media & Communications Specialist

Beth Prevost, Church Administrator