

Announcements

Birthdays

Mary Longsdorf 10/1, Georgie Maendler 10/4,
Bob Scofield 11/27, Mira Hirsch 12/15

Christ UMC Website!

Check us out at christmaplewood.org. Find worship information, upcoming events, church news, and more.

Drinking Water

Please use the bottled water in the fellowship area or the water dispenser near the accessible bathroom by the front doors.

School Tools

Help students at Highwood Hills Elementary by donating tissues, ziplocks, backpacks, and other school supplies. Find donation table near the church entrance or give by check with memo "School Tools".

Christ UMC has been approached by **Destiny Family Worship Center**, who is exploring the possibility of renting part of our building for their worship services on Sundays, and two other days during the week. As part of this conversation, one initial idea under consideration is that **Christ UMC would adjust our Sunday worship time to begin one hour earlier** to accommodate shared space.

This is an important opportunity for ministry, stewardship, and community partnership. We ask the congregation to **pray intentionally** as we discern whether this arrangement would support our mission and strengthen our witness.

Please share any thoughts, questions, or concerns with **Pastor Sharon** (sfields@christmaplewood.org) or **Melissa Adams** (madams06@comcast.net) by **October 11th**. Your feedback is essential as we move forward in a spirit of openness and wisdom.

Please keep the following folks in your prayers this week:

GeorgeAnn Maendler; Laurie Avoles; and Jean Link, sister-in-law of Dorothy Richardson and Anna Quinn.

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email CUMC@Christmaplewood.org by Wednesdays at 4:30pm.

Contact: Pastor Sharon Fields sfields@christmaplewood.org 651.323.1576

Join us in person and online on our Facebook page: **@christumcmplewood WIFI**
(CHRISTUNITED Password 2500CUMC1!

Legacy Giving

As United Methodists, we are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. By remembering Christ United Methodist in your estate plans, you can help ensure that this mission continues for generations to come. A legacy gift through your will, trust, retirement account, or beneficiary designation can make a lasting impact. To learn more, please contact the church office.



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, October 11, 2026 - 10:30am Worship

Thank you for joining us at Christ United Methodist Church
We are a Reconciling Congregation - ALL are welcome here!
*Please stand in body or spirit. **Bold print indicates all participate.**

Prelude

Amy Gustafson

Welcome

Pastor Sharon Fields

***Call to Worship**

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

We remember the mighty acts of the Lord— the God who saved, who heard, who redeemed.

We remember, and we return to the God who is faithful.

Psalm 106 reminds us how often God's people forget, how easily we turn aside from God's ways.

Yet God's mercy meets us again and again.

In Matthew 22, Jesus tells of a king who prepares a banquet and sends out the invitation.

God calls us to the feast of grace, inviting us to enter the joy of His kingdom.

Some refused the invitation, choosing their own paths instead.

We choose to come when God calls, to turn toward the One who welcomes us.

The king gathered guests from the highways and byways, filling the banquet hall with all who would receive his invitation.

We come as we are— yet ready for the transforming grace of Christ.

God remembers us, redeems us, and invites us.

We respond with gratitude, humility, and hope.

Let us worship the Lord whose love endures forever, whose invitation is for all, and whose kingdom is open to those who come in faith.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Hymn**

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" (v.1,3,4)

UMH #348

Prayer Joys & Concerns of the People

Congregation: (Celebrations) **We thank you God for your gift.**

Congregation: (Prayer Concern) **Gracious God, we lift this prayer to you.**

Opening Prayer

Holy and gracious God, You prepare the banquet of grace and invite all Your children to come. **Your steadfast love endures forever.**
You call us not because we are worthy, but because You are generous and overflowing with mercy. Clothe us in the garments of Christ— compassion, humility, justice, and joy. **Make us ready, Lord.**
Where we have ignored Your invitation, forgive us. Where we have resisted Your grace, soften us. Where we have forgotten Your mercy, remind us. **Renew us, Lord.**
For Your Church throughout the world, that we may respond to Your call with courage and joy, bearing witness to Your kingdom in all we do— **Lord, hear our prayer.**
For the world You so love— for nations and leaders, for places torn by conflict or fear, for communities longing for justice and peace— **Lord, hear our prayer.**
For all who feel unworthy of Your invitation, for the lonely, the grieving, the sick, and the struggling, and for those whose needs we lift before You now... **Lord, hear our prayer.**
For our own hearts, that we may receive Your grace with gratitude, live Your mercy with boldness, and follow wherever You send us— **Shape us, Lord.**
...And now, gathered at Your table of grace, as invited guests of Your kingdom, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying...

The Lord’s Prayer

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.
Receiving the Bread and Cup

Passing of the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Scripture Reading Matthew 22:1-14 (NIV)

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.

The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.
“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there ca man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”
Words inspired by God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Message Pastor Sharon Fields

*Hymn “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” UHM #420

Offertory

Announcements

*Sending Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”(v.1,3,4) UHM #384

*Benediction

Let us join together saying... **The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.**

Postlude Amy Gustafson

Community Drop-In

Third Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm, Now–May, Christ UMC Wesley Library

Looking for a little community and conversation? Come drop in on the third Thursday of each month! A group will be playing 500, but everyone is welcome to bring a game, work on a project, or simply visit and socialize. Come for a little while or stay awhile!

Calling All Crafters!

Do you knit, crochet, or sew? We’re looking for handmade mittens, hats, and scarves to add to our Mitten Tree for Highwood Hills Elementary. If you’d like to help keep a child warm this winter, email us your interest at cumc@christmaplewood.org