

LOVE

Be

*St. Martin United Church of Christ
Sunday, September 2, 2018 Kelly Krener, Pianist
Rev. Terry Minchow-Proffitt, Interim Pastor*

**If able please stand.*

Centering Words

As you enter the sanctuary, you are invited to center your heart on this prayer: Beloved Savior, my heart overflows with your goodness. The night has passed. The morning has come. Your voice calls me to arise and come with you into this new day. Let your love strengthen me to answer your call and follow you, caring for those in need of your love. Amen.

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

God has lavished us with every perfect gift from above and called us to living intimacy through the beloved one,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Hymn of Adoration** “O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #96

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to our loving God who calls us close through our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving, righteous God, you have called us to yourself, but we have tended to go away. Forgetting your living Word, we cling to dead traditions. Deceiving ourselves, we abandon your commandments. We have occasionally honored you with our lips while our hearts are far from you. Cleanse our hearts that we may live with you in love for others. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Our generous God gives us the perfect gift of forgiveness, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has liberated us from dead tradition and made us new by the living Word, filling our hearts with God’s love. We are forgiven in Christ. **Amen.**

Greeting and Announcements

*Sharing of the Peace

Children's Time "Jesus Loves Me"

As the children come forward, they are invited to place their offering in the small church at the front of the sanctuary.

Prayer Hymn "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" #80

Prayers and Praises of the People

Pastor: Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer ("Debtors" Version)

Worshiping the Lord with Tithes and Offerings

*** Offering Response** "Doxology"

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Christ, you hear our prayers and answer them. Accept these offerings and use them to your glory, that we might pursue a fuller and more loving life for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Written Word:

Mark 7:1-8

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles. So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' He said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines." You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Spoken Word

“The Folly of a Distant Heart”

Silent Reflection

As you feast on Christ's Presence made known through the bread and the cup, how might you draw closer to God this week?

Celebration of Communion (see insert)

*The two center rings are grape juice. The outer ring is wine.
We partake together.*

***Departing Hymn** “Praise Him! Praise Him!”

#95

***Blessing**

May God bless us as we go forth. Rise up and live within the embrace of God's love. **Amen.**

***Benediction** “Threefold Amen”

Postlude

In our Thoughts and Prayers: Homebound: Virginia Ahlvers, Hazel Rose, Joan Roth; Health issues: Mary Ann Potthoff, Judy Cope, Ruth Hart, Dee St. Clair, Michael Patrick, Keith York, Stan Dix, Avery, and Gene Hollenbeck.

LEADERS TODAY

Ushers:	Dale Rose	Fred Dishner
		Kathy Dishner

Reader: Fred Dishner	Greeter: Sandy Neralich
Nursery:	Children's Church:

Attendance for August 26: 66

THIS WEEK: September 2 -September 8

Today	9:30 AM	Worship with Communion Women's Fellowship
Thursday	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hour
Sunday	8:30 AM	Worship & Children Church
	9:30 AM	

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: In honor of Lee & Linda Peterson's anniversary.

BULLETINS: Sponsored by Clare Grupe.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: September 9, 150th Anniversary Service
September 23, Chicken Dinner

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 at 2 p.m. at Westport Playhouse Theater will present the church basement ladies returning in "Away in the Basement" Christmas show. It is a musical comedy. The cost is \$27.50 if we get 10 or more. Sign up on the bulletin board.

IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT: Pastor Terry: 314-304-6818; email: thechickentrain@gmail.com.

NURSERY: Nursery is now available for children to go to immediately following children's time.

DONATION: You can donate to the church on our website <http://stmartinucc-hr.com>. Click on "Members" to find the donation page and other resources.

SCHNUCK'S SCRIPTS cards are available on the table in the narthex. St. Martin receives 1-3% profit from this fundraising effort.

SHOP N' SAVE scripts are available from Ginger. St. Martin receives 5% profit from this fundraising effort.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Edna Hoefer (9/5),

ANNIVERSARIES: Lee & Linda Peterson (9/4)

Connect with St. Martin's Website at <http://www.stmartinucc-hr.com>. Churchline and Bulletins are available for viewing. If you have a question or suggestion for Council, please leave a note in the suggestion box located in the narthex.

Be Love

This letter, written by James, who was probably Jesus' brother, probably the first Bishop in Jerusalem, is a diatribe against anyone who thinks that following Jesus Christ doesn't mean "doing." James is sardonic and clear and crusty as he imagines somebody looking in a mirror and turning away and instantly forgetting what they look like. If you love Jesus, he might say, how can you forget what that means or what that looks like? When you follow Jesus that's who you are and how you are. Be that love. Show the world what it looks like...don't just tell them about it...be the church! DO something!

The borough of Hatboro in Pennsylvania has roots that reach back into William Penn's land and the history of that state. It's a tiny place with only about 8,000 residents but it is also the home of Love in Action UCC. This small church sitting in this suburb of Philadelphia is big in its expansive love and welcome for all of God's people. It is a church born in the idea that faith is more than a set of beliefs. Faith is shown in actions. That's what their statement of belief says. One of their many ministries is an open and affirming stance to all people – especially those in the LGBTQIA community.

When Jennifer Angelina Petro was transitioning to female she says she found a home and the emotional and faithful support she needed at Love in Action UCC. Then, when Vox Media, along with Divided States of Women were planning their documentary telling the stories of marginalized women approached Jennifer, she was clear that her story and the story of her church were intertwined. The producers were amazed to hear that there was a church supporting and affirming Trans people. And in the film, she tells her story of coming out as Transgendered in a world that doesn't always embrace the trans experience. Her church, a UCC church, was a huge part of her journey.

This is love in action. This is what James was talking about. This is how you be the church, opening your arms and creating a safe space for all those who feel unwelcome and "different" and unacceptable. You do that as Love in Action UCC did for Jennifer. They embraced her gifts for music, her ability to teach and wanted to know her as she was, just as God knows deeply who she is. As James the Apostle writes, a religion that is pure looks after those who are weakest in the world. For James, that was widows and orphans. In our world, it includes many more who seem to have no place. But they do in Hatboro, PA where Love in Action UCC is Being the Church and Loving their Neighbor.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking.

8½" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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