

today

Flowers: The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Heather and Bill Kaliden in celebration of their 16th wedding anniversary this week.

Lay Reader: Rachel Wellman

Acolytes: Megan Benner

Ushers: Bob Beckius, Robin & Chris Stine, and Omer Yalincak

Greeters: Side: Barbara Holmes
Tower: Patricia Dudley

09/16/2018 Worship Attendance:

8:00 – 21; 9:00 – 77; 10:30 – 111; Total = 209

Church School Attendance: 51

Total Attendance: 260

Our Pastor – Gene Ott

Music Director – Bridget Scarlato

Organist – Kari Miller

Contemporary Music Director – Dorothy Cowles

A Stephen Ministry Church

(See back of announcements for a full staff listing)

Simsbury United Methodist Church

*“Draw the
Circle Wide”*



“Standing as a witness in all things means being kind in all things, being the first to say hello, being the first to smile, being the first to make the stranger feel a part of things, being helpful, thinking of others' feelings, being inclusive.

~ Margaret D. Nadauld

**10:30 a.m.
Sept 23, 2018**



09.23.18 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost/Ordinary Time

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome

Prelude | “A Cuban Folk Song” arr. Kevin Norris

◇Call to Worship

Leader: Today, in this moment, in every moment, we are offered life.

People: Now it is before us – God’s call to a new world, to God’s way of knowing the world, to God’s world of knowing.

Leader: Let us, now, once more, take our first steps together with God as our guide. Welcome to the adventure.

◇Opening Hymn | *Together We Serve* #2175

◇Opening Prayer | (unison)

God, your world of mercy, of hope and of peace is present right now, as we gather. Remind us, encourage us, teach us and be with us as we imagine, explore, and celebrate what it means to be your people in your world. Amen.

Commissioning of Uganda Volunteers in Mission

Pastor: All people are called into ministries of love and service by the example of God who looked at creation and called it good. As these members of our community begin their work among the people of Uganda, we pray the blessings of God and this community upon their endeavors.

Congregation: We recognize you as ambassadors of this congregation in ministry with the people of Uganda and dedicate you to service. Through our prayers we will be united with you in your work. May God richly bless your labors.

Pastor: Let us affirm our belief in the responsibilities of Christian service.

Team and Congregation: We believe in God, creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God’s gifts. We commit ourselves to the rights and dignities of all persons and to the improvement of the quality of life. We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world and to the rule of justice and law among all nations. We believe in the present and final triumph of God’s Word in human affairs, and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world.

Special Music | “Mirembe, Salaam, v’Shalom” by Noam Katz | CAYA Worship Team
Uganda VIM Team ~ the congregation is invited to join!
(see insert for words)

A Time for Children

Special Music | “Olam Chesed Yibaneh” by Rabbi Menachem | Michelle Ebert ~ soloist
(see insert for words)

First Lesson | Proverbs 31: 10–31

Second Lesson | Mark 9: 30–37

Message | “Draw the Circle Wide” Pastor Gene Ott

◇Hymn of Response | *Draw the Circle Wide* #3154 (see insert)

Pastoral Prayer

God, today we pray for the vulnerable of the earth, for children. We know that sometimes to be vulnerable is a great gift and a great opportunity for learning. But too often, in too many places, people have no choice and are made vulnerable to pain, disease, violence, and death. Today we pray for the vulnerable of the earth. For the victims of tyranny, famine, and war we pray. For refugees and asylum seekers. For children who live in families and homes that are not safe places. For children without access to books and to learning. For children everywhere. God, we know that you know each of us by name and are with each of us in every moment of our lives. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer | Blue hymnal #895

Offertory Music | “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” by Kathleen Thomerson,
arr. Cathy Moglebust | Chancel Ringers | Jim Crane ~ soloist, flute

◇Presentation of Gifts/Doxology #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

◇Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, hold us close when we fear or do not understand the way before us. Open us to the ones who await your welcome through us. May our own frailty make us more gracious with our gifts, our time, our talents and our witness; and may we rejoice that in caring for others, we welcome you. Amen.

◇Closing Hymn | *Let All Things Now Living* #2008

◇Benediction

Go into your day with the energy and enthusiasm of youth, the wisdom and empathy of age, and the love and the grace of God. Amen.

◇Benediction Response | *Go in Peace*

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always. Celebrate and share the joy, celebrate new life. Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Postlude | “In dir ist Freude” (*In Thee Is Gladness*) by Johann Sebastian Bach
*you’re invited to remain seated for the postlude

◇ *please stand as you are able*