

The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Nineteenth Sunday
after
Pentecost

19 October 2025 • 10AM



PRELUDE

Bryn Calfaria

Ralph Vaughn Williams

WELCOME

✘ **HYMN #12** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
(✘ *The congregation may rise, in body or in spirit.*)

ST. DENIO

ANNOUNCEMENTS | JOYS AND CONCERNS | SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We have gathered in God’s holy presence,
who etches grace on our hearts.

**ALL: This is the company with whom
God will transform us into disciples.**

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,
not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

**This is the moment when
God will write compassion on our souls.**

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace.

**This is the morning when
God again breathes the Word of Life into our lives. Praise be to God!**

RESPONSE IN SONG “God, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Ken Medema



God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. God, send your Spir-it in this place.

God, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Seeking to follow Jesus, we often wander down the wrong roads. Impatient with God’s schedule, we rush off to do things our way. Let us confess our foolishness, that we might receive God’s hope for our lives.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You give your words, Author of Life, so we might be reformed,
yet we have turned our intent to changing others.**

**You offer your words so we might be transformed,
and yet we have conformed to our culture.**

**Your speak your words to lead us into new life,
yet we treasure our old ways and hold them tight.**

**Forgive us, God of Wonder. Do not remember our sins, but continue
to touch us with your steadfast mercy. Show us how to be vigorous in
living our faith, even as you were so bold in offering us your grace and
joy in Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.**

(Silence is kept)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus reminds us that we have all we need to be resolute in faithfulness and service. God renews us, and steadfastly fills us with love and grace: Alleluia!

**We are forgiven people. May we live as sisters and brothers in Christ,
God’s children in word and deed, in hope and joy. Alleluia! Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE “God, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Ken Medema

RESPONSIVE PSALTER: Psalm 119:97-104

ONE: Oh, how I love Your teaching!

ALL: It is my meditation all day long.

Your instruction makes me wiser than my enemies;

It always stands by me.

I have gained more insight than all my teachers,

For Your declarations are my study.

I understand more than my elders,

For I am attuned to Your principles.

I hold back my feet from every corrupt path, in order to keep Your word.

I do not turn away from Your direction, for You have taught me.

How sweet are Your words to my taste,

Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

I ponder Your purposes,

I turn away from every false way.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts/debtors*)

Hymnal, p. 35

✠ **HYMN #175**

“Seek Ye First”

LAFFERTY

All attending Sunday School may leave as we sing the hymn.

OFFERTORY

THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

Offerings not specifically designated for the Church (including any checks with “Light of Service” or “LOS” in the memo line) will be given to an organization doing compassionate work that complements our church’s mission. This week, we share our gifts with the church’s Benevolence Fund, which supports urgent needs of individuals.

ONE: God has poured gifts into our lives; we now return our tithes and offerings.

**ALL: Let us gather our gifts with grateful praise,
and offer them to God’s purposes.**

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

Our church welcomes every size gift, and thanks you for your generosity.

ANTHEM: *You Hear Our Weary Praying*

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

God, you hear our weary praying, and you know that we lose heart.

All around we see the suffering of a world that's torn apart.

We see leaders of the nations filled with arrogance and greed.

We see friends and family hurting, facing overwhelming need.

God, we cannot help but wonder: Do our prayers do any good?

Do they change the nations' leaders? Do they change our neighborhood?

Why do loved ones keep on suffering when they're in our constant prayer?

Do you hear the cries we're offering? Are you listening? Are you there?

Then you teach us of this woman: She was widowed; she was poor.

"Grant me justice!" she kept calling at an unjust judge's door.

Though that judge respected no one, he was no match for her cries.

He responded to her pleading, granting justice, changing lives.

How much more is your compassion! God, you're just and good and fair.

May we lift to you our sorrows and the burdens that we bear.

May we pray, for you reign o'er us! May we ask — for you are kind!

May we trust that you will help us in your goodness, in your time.

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✠ **DOXOLOGY**

OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit ever more;
One God of grace, whom we adore! Amen.**

✠ **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Like your words, O God, the tangible gifts with which you have blessed us are not to be hoarded or hidden away for rainy days. Rather, we offer them so they might bring healing, hope, grace, and peace to all around us. May it be so! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Luke 18:1-8

Old Testament, p. 875

New Testament, p. 99

SERMON

“I Don't Think That Means What You Think It Means”

Pastor John A. Nelson

PASTORAL PRAYER

✕ HYMN #450

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

BENEDICTION and SUNG AMEN

POSTLUDE

Storybook Love

Willy DeVille



Welcome to Church!

Gathered in 1744, the Congregational Church of Salisbury is an Open and Affirming member of the United Church of Christ, in a “net zero” building powered by clean energy. Our church is also a welcoming home to people from a great variety of church backgrounds and life experiences. Your presence is a gift to us! We hope you will feel God’s Spirit here today through our worship and fellowship.

We seek to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds and love our neighbors as ourselves.

*This Church is **Open** to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment regardless of race, ancestry, class, gender identity, physical and mental ability or sexual orientation. We **Affirm** each individual as a child of God, celebrating the total identity of each person.*

*As an **Open and Affirming** Congregation, we commit to work toward ending ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice, and discrimination against any person.*

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here!*

If you are visiting us, Welcome! Please sign our guest book and introduce yourself to our Pastor or to one of the Deacons. Fill out a welcome card in the pew to join our email list.

Kindly set phones to silent (unless you’re expecting a call from Jesus).

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Deborah Moore & Sharon Tingley • *Reader:* Peggy Hayes
Deacon: Dean Haubrich • *Fellowship hosts:* Hospitality Committee

Today's liturgy is adapted and reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies* by the Rev. Thom Shuman © 2025
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Psalm adapted from *The Psalms in Worship*, Mary Susan Gast, © 2002; used by permission.

Our Ministry Team

Ministers: All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

Music Director: David Baranowski

Bell Choir Director: Mary Davidson

Sunday School Coordinator: Holly Tierney

Church Administrator: Catherine Chatham

Sexton: Richard Tietjen

Sunday School Assistant: Stephanie Tierney

Youth Group Leader: Dan Baker

Youth Group Assistant: Sarah Lesch

Church Officers: Charlie Noyes, *moderator*;
Janet Offensend, *treasurer*; Liz Wing, *clerk*

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

**Kids Night In
Parents Night Out**
Hosted by the
Congregational Church of Salisbury

OCTOBER 25
5:00 - 7:00

JOIN US FOR FUN-FILLED
EVENING OF PIZZA, CRAFTS,
DANCING & A MOVIE!

All are welcome!

You do not need to be a member of the church to attend.
Children under the age of 4 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Costumes are encouraged!

PLEASE RSVP TO HOLLY TIERNEY
HOLLY@SALISBURYUCC.ORG
BY OCTOBER 22ND

In Our Prayers:

We gladly list joys and concerns, and typically print them for four weeks after they are offered in worship. (Prayer requests may be renewed at any time.)

New concerns:

Weekly prayer from UCC Global Ministries,
for the people of the Democratic Republic of
Congo and for our mission partners: Church of
Christ in Congo • Congo Protestant University –
Kinshasa • Community of Disciples of Christ
in Congo

Continuing concerns:

Charlie Youngblood • Andrea Bargabos • Jim Bell
Margaret Haubrich
Beloveds in treatment for cancer

Immigrants and asylum seekers in our country

Friends and family now serving in the armed forces
All those serving or living in conflict zones.

Family & Friends

who have passed away

Sara Jane Elliot • Eliot Brown • Bill Kronholm

We thank God for the gift of life, and pray for the
Spirit's strong presence with family and friends
who grieve.

Thanksgiving for church leaders:

Ushers Committee: Allison Gray, Janet Kaufman,
Deborah Moore, Sarah Morrison, Joanne Taber,
Sharon Tingley, Anne Williams, Kip Williams,
Ptolemy Williams

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT, please call the church office (860-435-2442) or email Pastor John (jnelson@salisburyucc.org). Sometimes we don't find out about an injury or illness or other need until long after — so please call!

The 281st Annual Meeting, Part I, of the Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ, will be held following the 10am worship service on Sunday, 26 October 2025, for the purpose of:

1. Discussion and vote on the 2026 budget;
2. Discussion and vote on the Nominating Committee;
3. Any other business that needs to come before the congregation.

All Covenant Partners of the Church are requested to attend, participate, and vote. All friends of the church are encouraged to attend and participate.

You may read the Annual Report here: <http://tiny.cc/281st>

This Week at Salisbury UCC

SUNDAY, 19 OCTOBER

- 10AM Worship and Sunday School
*followed by fellowship & refreshments
in the Parish Hall*
- 11:30AM Board of Trustees meeting

MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club

WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER

- 9:15AM Centering Prayer (via Zoom)
- 11AM Chapel service at Noble Horizons
- 12:15PM Staff Meeting
- 4PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, 23 OCTOBER

- 11:30AM Duplicate Bridge Club
- 5:30PM Project SAGE Board Meeting
- 5:30PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, 24 OCTOBER

- 8:45AM Men's Bible Study

SATURDAY, 25 OCTOBER

- 5-7PM Kids' Night In / Parents' Night Out

SUNDAY, 26 OCTOBER

- 10AM Worship and Sunday School
- 11:30AM ANNUAL MEETING



Please Recycle this Bulletin!



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

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email: welcome@salisburyucc.org • *web:* salisburyucc.org

Office Hours: 8:30am – 1:30pm • Monday, Tuesday, Friday