



Open and Affirming to All

Sunday Worship Celebration 10:00 am
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 22, 2020
Thanksgiving Sunday

This Sunday is Thanksgiving Sunday and Pledge Dedication Sunday. Join us for Worship in our **Sanctuary** either in-person or online at 10:00 am as we give thanks for all of God's blessings. If you have not yet returned your **2021 Pledge Card**, please bring it on Sunday or mail it today. We thank all of you who have returned your Pledge Cards! Your commitment to our common ministry means a lot!

There is **Faith Formation** outside for the children this Sunday at 10:00 am.

We **regret to inform** everyone that we will be **suspending in-person Worship after Thanksgiving** due to the increase in COVID cases in our area. We will worship in-person this Sunday, 22 November and then worship online via the Live-Stream after that until further notice. We regret to have to make this decision, but the Church Council has discussed the situation and decided that suspending in-person Worship is appropriate at this time. We all need to do our part to keep one another safe and to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. As we make this change, please know that CCML's leadership and staff are committed to continue to find creative ways

of keeping us all connected and supported. Reach out and let us know what you need and watch for news next week of our plans for Advent and Christmas!

Worship will continue to be **live-streamed**. You can join Live-streamed Worship via [this link](#) or search for the Community Church of Mountain Lakes YouTube channel. We are glad that whether gathered or scattered we are together in worship!

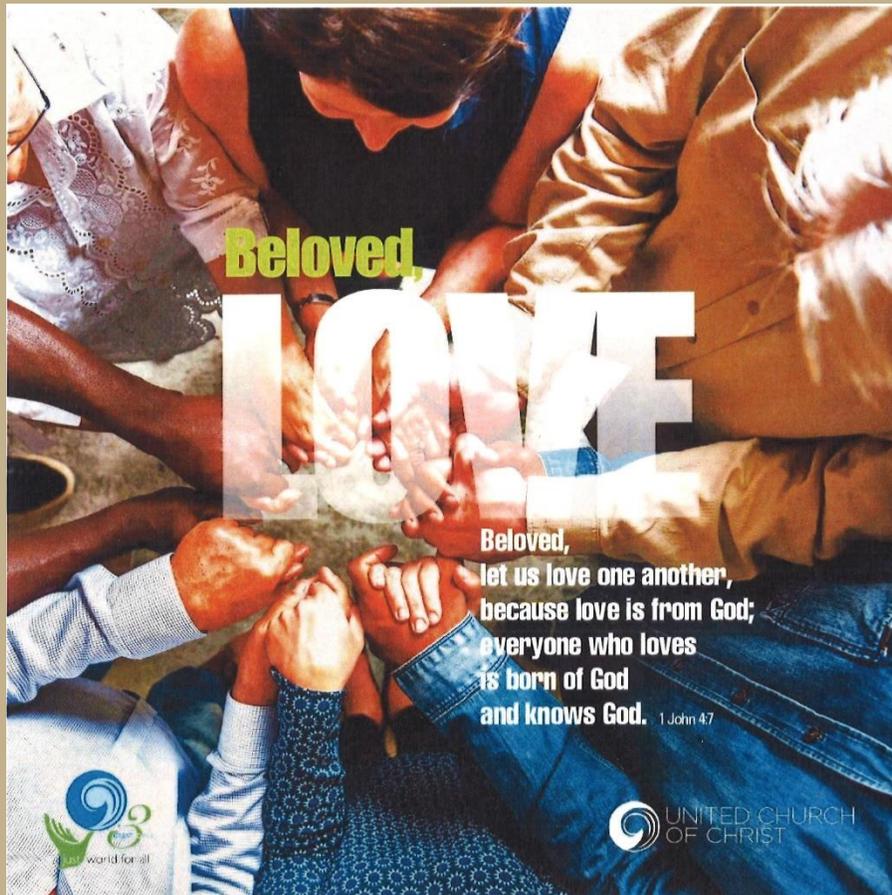
We remind everyone that if you have **any symptoms** (e.g. fever or chills, dry cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue, body aches, nausea or vomiting, headache or diarrhea), have reason to believe you have **been exposed** to Covid-19 or have been requested to quarantine for any other reason, such as travel to a state on the **travel advisory**, you **should not come** to Worship or other church activities. Out of love and respect for everyone else, please stay home. We all want to **stay healthy**.

Come home to church this fall!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

FOR CHURCH RECORDS	Envelope # _____ <small>(for office use)</small>	FOR YOUR RECORDS	Date: _____
Name _____		With others in my congregation, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.	
Address _____		I plan to give \$ _____ beginning _____ <small>(date and year)</small>	
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____		Each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month	
I plan to give \$ _____ each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month beginning _____ for an annual total of \$ _____ <small>(date and year)</small>		Annual Total \$ _____	
I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.			
Signed: _____ Date _____			
		Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <small>1 John 4:7</small>	

**If you've misplaced your pledge card, feel free to print this one and use it.
Thank you for pledging your commitment to our common ministries!**



2021 Stewardship Initiative

For a relatively small church, we do a great deal of outreach through volunteer activities and financial support. We do this out of love for our neighbors, and a desire to collectively address the need for compassion, which is a major reason why many come to our church.

The need to share love is most important during this unstable period. Our Stewardship theme this year is about the 3 Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Nature. Please read the Stewardship brochure mailed to you a few days ago, and consider how the church can better support you in demonstrating the 3 Great Loves.

Please consider an increase in your pledge for 2020-1, and mail back your pledge card, or drop in the offering box at Worship. Thank you.

~ Mike Lyon, Stewardship Chair



Beloved, Love in Action

“Do your little bit of good where you are. It’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Love is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God’s love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, “Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” We take seemingly small actions to live out God’s love. Here’s the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.

In 2019, Magnolia United Church of Christ in Seattle, WA, held its inaugural Community in Action Sunday. Determining that ‘church in action’ was a key to their vitality, instead of holding church worship as on a typical Sunday, they were love in action. Participating in five diverse service projects, the congregants restored habitat at a local park, made blankets for children, helped at their local animal shelter, tended an elder garden at the Native American cultural center, and cleaned up and cleared brush at a homeless encampment.

While average worship attendance runs about 50, that Sunday, over 150 people took part.



After participating in their service projects, the congregants gathered. The Reverend Marci Scott-Weis, Magnolia UCC minister, commented on her service: “It was messy, chaotic, oozing in vitality and a whole lot of fun to be the church that morning.” She continued, “one girl said to me, ‘That was so much fun, can we do church every week like this?’”

With such positive responses, Magnolia UCC held its second annual Community in 2020. “It was such an amazing morning seeing folks from our congregation and from our community join together to help our neighbors,” Scott-Weis said. “It was fun, crazy busy, church at its best.”

How can you put your love into action? Who would want to join you in that work? How can you have fun doing it? Love is a verb indeed. Our church can be God’s love through our serving and giving. Can you pledge to take part and live God’s love?

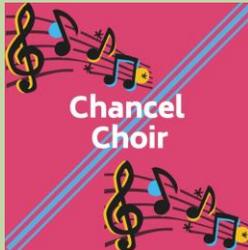
WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361



This Week



The **Chancel Choir** is gathering to **sing together** in a socially distanced way this **Thursday, November 19th** at **12:30 pm** in the **parking lot** behind the Education Building. Whether you've been in Chancel Choir before or not, **if you like to sing, come** join them.



Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group will meet this **Sunday, November 22nd** from **11:15 am-12:30 pm** (note new time and date). Join us for a bonfire, s'mores and games.



The **Bell Choir** is meeting this Sunday morning at 9 am in the Church House. We observe social distancing to ensure everyone's safety. Bell Choir is **open to high school age youth and adults of all ages**. Email Ms. Hazel at musicatccml@optimum.net for more information or to sign up. No matter who you are, or your level of musical ability, you can **ring** with the **Community Church Bell Choir!**

In this unusual time, we invite you to think of those who may experience food insecurity. We just



dropped off a whole bunch of food to the Food Pantry in Boonton and it was most thankfully received. Drop off some shelf stable food this week. There's a **tub on the porch by the glass office doors** to receive what you can share.



In this time when we cannot all be together, **we depend on your continued support** of the church and its ministries. If you haven't already,



please look into setting yourself up with Tithely either on the Tithely app or by using [this link](#) on your computer or phone. You might also

set up automatic giving payments through your bank's Bill Pay option. You can also mail a weekly check to the Church Office. It's important that we keep our programs running to support our community in this difficult time and to do that, we need your support. **Be part of caring for our community. Send your offering today!**

Personal Reflection - Throughout this season, we've heard stories of how God desires for us to live - closer to God and closer to one another. The choice is ours. **Continue** to add to a list of examples of compassion that you see around you.



From Your Board of Outreach

Want to give back this Thanksgiving by doing **something important**? Join our **Habitat for Humanity** build day this **Saturday, 21 November**. All skill levels welcome. It feels great to know you are helping to create a home for a homeless family! **Call the Church Office** today to **reserve a spot** on our team! Leave your name and contact information with Denise, **(973) 334-6500**.



Items for the Thanksgiving baskets are due by this Sunday, November 22nd at 11:00 am. All items can be left in the food donation bin outside the church office doors. If you are donating a fresh

item, please bring your donation during

Church Office hours or on Sunday and notify the church staff so your item(s) can be refrigerated.



Interfaith Food Pantry
and Resource Center

Please help us to bring a message of community and support to our neighbors with mental illness this season...

*Holiday
Dinner
of
Sharing*

TO GO!!

We are sending:

- Cooked ham, macaroni and cheese, corn, rolls, salad and brownies for dessert!
- Goodie bags with snacks and notes from you.

How you can help:

- Make & bring food sliced, hot & ready to go
- Package food to go that day
- Donate candy
- Write a message



Food Drop off: Saturday 12/12/20 10-11 am at the front doors of the Church House.

For more info: contact Amanda Thompson at amandacrops@yahoo.com or call/text 862-209-0785.

To contribute food or help serve, [click here](#).



This **Friday, November 20th** is **Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)** -- a national day of mourning for the transgender persons who have lost their lives, through murder or suicide, in the past year. TDOR is also a day when we renew our commitment to stand with the transgender community whenever their rights and dignity as human beings are under attack.

This Day of Remembrance comes at an urgent time for the transgender Americans. Two days after Christmas in 2014, a trans teenager named Leelah Alcorn committed suicide near Cincinnati, Ohio. Hers was one of many deaths, but her heartbreaking final words - ending with her challenge to 'fix society'- disturbed our consciences. Since then, at least 22 transgender Americans have been murdered throughout the country. Most of them were trans women of color.

For people of faith, this day is an opportunity to proclaim again the good news of each person's truest identity as a child of God, and that God calls each of us to live out our lives in the truest, most authentic way. We are likewise reminded of the ways in which we fall short of God's call, allowing prejudice, lack of understanding and fear to get the best of us, resulting in injustice and oppression, bigotry and hatred which can result in violence, even death.

Future Dates

29 November - **First Sunday of Advent**, 10:00 am, resume Live-Stream only

6 December - **Trim-A-Tree Workshop** for our **children & youth**, 10:00 am, outside

Second Sunday of Advent, Communion, 10:00 am,
Live-Streamed

Trim-A-Tree Event for all ages, outside at **11:30 am**

12 December - **Holiday Dinner of Sharing Drop-off**, 10:00 - 11:00 am,
in front of the Church House

13 December - **Third Sunday of Advent**, 10:00 am, Live-Streamed

20 December - **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, 10:00 am, Live-Streamed

24 December - **Christmas Eve**, Outdoor Worship at Noon & 2:00 pm
Live-Streamed Worship at 4:00 & 6:00 pm

3 January - **Epiphany Sunday**, 10:00 am, Live-Streamed

31 January - **Annual Congregational Meeting**, immediately following
Worship

17 February - **Ash Wednesday, Lent begins**

28 March - **Palm Sunday**

1 April - **Maundy Thursday**

2 April - **Good Friday**

4 April - **Easter Sunday**

23 May - **Pentecost Sunday**

6 June - **End of Year Picnic**



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