Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026
Cover: Elpseth Williams

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OF HUMMELSTOWN

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

-John 15:12

Recognizing there are those who have known the pain of discrimination in the church and society, we invite everyone to experience God's love here. The United Church of Christ of Hummelstown affirms all persons are created in the image of God and so welcome the full inclusion of all people in the communion, life, and ministries of this community of faith seekers. We celebrate and embrace diversity of faith journey, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, age, relationship status, physical or mental ability, and political affiliation. We proclaim this statement of inclusion – no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Welcome

If you are new, we hope you feel connected to the community created here. Each pew holds an information sheet about our congregation, and details on service elements. If you need assistance for any reason, please ask an usher.

Worship online: YouTube.com/@hummelstownucc

Worship in person: Settle in and engage the spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from an usher if you prefer. **Bold Type** indicates you are invited to read, in unison aloud.

Hymns are included at the end of the bulletin, and in the hymnals in the pews.

Offerings & Gifts are always welcome, for your use a plate is placed at either entrance to the sanctuary. A QR code is included if you prefer to give online.

Prayer requests and communication cards are available on the clipboards in the pews. Please place in the offering plates. If you would like your prayer spoken in service, please give to the pastor before worship begins.

Children & Youth Jesus loved kids and loves yours, so we invite kids to be kids, whether they are wiggly, giggly or quiet. A rocking chair and changing table, activity kits, crayons and paper are always available at the back of the sanctuary. Move, groove and be part of the spirit!

Communion is ALWAYS open to all. (Typically offered on the 2nd Sunday monthly) Bread is gluten and main allergen free, and cups are grape juice. If you have allergy concerns please speak with the pastor or ushers. Personal sealed packages are available.

Spirit Stick Our congregation participates in Relay for Life and won the spirit contest so will have the **Big PURPLE stick** you see up front until June 2027. We honor with prayer and thanksgiving those affected by cancer, researchers, medical professionals and caregivers everywhere.

WHO WE ARE & WHO WE ARE STRIVING TO BE:

We are a vibrant and progressive Christian community embracing inclusivity and diversity with all who seek to enrich their spiritual journey. Using the teachings of Jesus Christ & the Still Speaking God, we seek to engage the world through worship, education, ministry, mission and love.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Season of Creation: River

September 6, 2026

Building Community…

WELCOME

OPENING MEDITATION Lily Graham

"Living on the water took away the boundaries created by land and custom and introversion. Without fences and driveways, the water provided a constant thread of connection and dependency."

PRELUDE "As I Went Down to the River to Pray" Spiritual Folk Song

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We invite the rivers to worship with us: the Susquehanna, the Mississippi, the Nile, and all the rivers that flow to the sea.

Many: We invite the country creeks to sing: perch, sunfish, and flashing bass, trout streams and gurgling springs.

One: We invite the fauna to praise God with us: loon, heron, and mallard duck, dragonflies and sleepy tortoises.

Many: We join with the waters in praising God: waterfalls singing upstream and ripples dancing at the river mouth. We celebrate the song of the river! Sing, river, sing!

HYMN "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer" #18

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

One: O God, we thank you for the splendors of creation and the gift of rivers. We remember and confess how we have poisoned and polluted the rivers in our garden planet. We regret that we have forgotten Earth and treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed and as a place to be ruled.

Many: Christ, the hope of all creation, we lament our failings. God, our Creator, whose glory fills our planet, help us to discern your vibrant presence among us, especially in the riches of our rivers. Help us to stand in solidarity with your river creatures who are suffering. Lift our spirits to rejoice with the vibrant world of the rivers. We ask this in the name of Christ, who reconciles and renews all things in creation. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all things. This we believe. Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with all creatures. God became incarnate, a part of Earth, who lived and breathed and spoke among us, suffered and died for all creation. The risen Jesus is at the center of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation, and filling the cosmos. The Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation and waits with us for the rebirth of all creation. This we believe.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greet those around you with a hi, hello, wave, hug or greeting as we pass the peace around the church!

HYMN The Bond Of Love v.1 Insert

We are one in the bond of love;
We are one in the bond of love.
We have joined our spirits with the Spirit of God.
We are one in the bond of love.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

All families, kids or those young at heart are welcome to come forward for a moment of connection at the altar

HYMN The Bond Of Love v. 2 Insert

Let us sing now, everyone;
Let us feel God's love begun.
Let us join our hands that the world will know
We are one in the bond of love.

Opening to the Spirit's call…

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rise, Creator Spirit, rise, From this land across the skies. Rise from deep in mystery, Rise, create this land anew, Make your Dreaming song come true. Fill this land with life again, Rise to set your people free. Hear the land cry out, Hear her people call your name. Let your rainbow span this Earth Giving hope and giving birth.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We seek health and healing with…Scott S.-Tyler's dad, starting cancer treatment;

We grieve with… family and friends of Karen Penman

LORD'S PRAYER

MANY: Our Creator/Mother/Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCING OUR MISSIONS & MINISTRY

CENTERING ON OUR GENEROSITY

One: God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Rise, Creator Spirit, rise! Enter our hearts so that we might see your presence in, with and under all things as you renew all creation. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION "I've Got a River of Life"

I've got a river of life flowing down on me
Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see
Opens prison doors sets the captive free
I've got a river of life flowing down on me
Spring up oh well, within my soul
Spring up oh well, and make me whole
Spring up oh well, and give to me that life abundantly

SUNG RESPONSE (Tune #780)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

All gifts are welcome.

For online gifts:

Hummelstownucc.org/give

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Many: We give thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars, and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth. Remind us of your spirit restoring the broken and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation. Your presence is the living impulse in all things, filling Earth—land, sea and air—filling every element and place. With ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea, your spirit flows among us. Amen

HYMN "I've Got Peace Like a River" #478

Discerning through Story…

HEBREW SCRIPTURE 2 Kings 5:1-4, 6, 8-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease." So Naaman went…, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his skin disease."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

GOSPEL Mark 1:4-11

so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

PSALM Psalm 104:1-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent; you set the beams of your chambers on the waters; you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind; you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight. They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys, to the place that you appointed for them. You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst. By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

SERMON Flowing Pastor Beth Rogers

Going Forth with God's Love!

CLOSING CHORUS *A cappella in unison and then in canon*

Love, love, love, love Love your sister and your brother

The Gospel in a word is love Love, love, love

BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace, serving God and loving creation. Reach deep into your heart, your mind and your body to heal wounds and bring healing to creation by tending the Earth and flowing with the rivers of peace in our bodies and spirits. Amen!

POSTLUDE "Bless God, O My Soul"

Today in worship - Liturgist: Hannah Landvater **Tech:** Jess Fredlund

Ushers: Linda Sellers, Jo Sweigart

The altar flowers are in memory of George & Gladys Sturgen.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF HUMMELSTOWN

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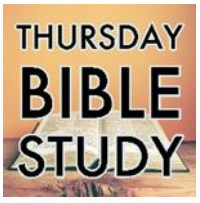
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Monday September 7th
Wunder Institute
Classrooms

7 pm Community Singers
Sanctuary

7 pm Scouting America
Troops 66 & 6619
Keller Hall & Fellowship Hall

Wednesday September 9th
5 pm Meals & Music Rehearsal Night
Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, Music Room



Thursday September 10th
2 pm Zoom Bible Study
On Zoom

Friday September 11th
6 pm Campfire at the Scout Cabin
743 Bull Frog Valley Rd

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday September 13th
Gathering of the Waters for baptism. Bring your stories or collected water from your travels!

Tuesday September 15th
12 pm Church Lunch
Applebees Hummelstown

Saturday September 19th
Art Fest Hamburger Booth
Hanover Street

Media Sale
Set up starting September 14th