Central Park United Methodist Church

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TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, Year A

November 15, 2026

10:30 am Church Service

Everyone is invited to pray at the altar before the service.

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently."

-- Maya Angelou

Pastor: Rev. Raquel Alston
Guest Officiant: Rev. Tom LeBeau
Minister of Music: Mr. Matthew Caputy
Reader: Ms. Tiffany Brant
Videographer: Mr. Frank Murphy

We are a Christ-centered community of faith and love, reaching out to all.

The flowers at the altar today are given by Dru Hites, in memory of Daniel Hettrich & Dolly, her parents.

GATHERING

PRELUDE "I Love the Lord" Whitney Houston

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Deborah, a prophet, was judging Israel under the palm tree!
MANY: And the people came up to her for judgment!

ONE: She sent for Barak and said, The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, Go!

MANY: I will draw out Sisera and give him into your hand!

ONE: A man going on a journey entrusted his property to his servants!

MANY: Well done, good and trustworthy servant; enter into the joy of your master!

ALL: Let us worship the God who trusts us with more than we think we can carry!

DECLARATION & PRAISE

Songs: Based on Matthew 25:14-30

"You have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things."

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN "Be Thou My Vision" Hymnal #451

WELCOME ONE ANOTHER

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Judges 4:1-7
Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*
People: *Thanks be to God.*

NEW TESTAMENT READING: (Please stand if you are able) Matthew 25:14-30

Reader: *This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
People: *Thanks be to God.*

CHOIR ANTHEM Lloyd Larson

"In The Circle of The Music"

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Jim Grande

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.

THE PROCLAMED WORD

Scripture: Judges 4:1-7 Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon Rev. Tom LeBeau

"God doesn't need your money?!"

HYMN "Abide With Me" Hymnal #700

THANKSGIVING AND HOLY COMMUNION

A *Service Of Word* And Table II

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Christ invites us to his table. Come tired. Come unsure. Come carrying whatever you walked in with. Jesus will meet us here. That is the gift of this table: we come with empty hands, and by grace, we leave reminded that we are still loved.

THE LORD'S PRAYER / OMBI LA BWANA YESU *(Swahili)*

English	Swahili + Pronunciation
Our Father, who art in heaven	Baba yetu uliye mbinguni (BAH-bah YEH-too oo-LEE-yeh mm-bee-NGOO-nee)
Hallowed be thy name.	Jina lako litukuzwe. (JEE-nah LAH-koh lee-too-KOOZ-weh)
Thy kingdom come.	Ufalme wako uje. (oo-FAHL-meh WAH-koh OO-jeh)
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	Mapenzi yako yatimizwe, duniani kama mbinguni. (mah-PEN-zee YAH-koh yah-tee-MEEZ-weh, doo-nee-AH-nee KAH-mah mm-bee-NGOO-nee)
Give us this day our daily bread.	Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku. (oo-TOO-peh LEH-oh mm-KAH-teh WEH-too wah KEE-lah SEE-koo)

English	Swahili + Pronunciation
And forgive us our trespasses,	Na utusamehe makosa yetu. (nah oo-too-sah-MEH-heh mah-KOH-sah YEH-too)
As we forgive those who trespass against us.	Kama nasi tunavyowasamehe wakosaji wetu. (KAH-mah NAH-see too-nah-vee-yoh-wah-sah-MEH-heh wah-koh-SAH-jee WEH-too)
And lead us not into temptation,	Wala usitutie katika majaribu. (WAH-lah oo-see-too-TEE-eh kah-TEE-kah mah-jah-REE-boo)
But deliver us from evil.	Lakini utuokoe na yule mwovu. (lah-KEE-nee oo-too-oh-KOH-eh nah YOO-leh mm-WOH-voo)
Amen.	Amina. (ah-MEE-nah)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: God is here with us.
ALL: Our hearts are open to him.

ONE: Let's give thanks together.
ALL: That's exactly why we're here.

ONE: You made the world and called it good. When we walked away, you came after us. You put on flesh and showed up — not with power and force, but with love that took everything and gave it all back.
ALL: You brought light out of our darkness. Life out of our brokenness. We're still amazed.

ONE: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: *This is my body — broken for you. Do this and remember me.*
ALL: We're here to remember. And to be changed.

ONE: Then he took the cup and said: *This is my blood — poured out so you can be forgiven, free, and whole. Drink this and remember me.*
ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

ONE: Holy Spirit, come. Make these simple gifts — bread and cup — the real presence of Jesus among us. And as Jesus taught us, we pray together:

ALL: Our 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The congregation is invited to receive.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ALL: Thank you, God. We came hungry and you fed us. We came broken and you held us. Now send us out — to love like you love, to give like you give, to be your people in the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY

"God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CHURCH LIFE & MINISTRY

SENDING HYMN Hymnal **#377**

"It Is Well with My Soul"

BENEDICTION

Deborah did not wait for permission, and the servant who buried his gift was not lazy so much as scared. Ask the person next to you, "What has God put in your hands?" and go spend it on somebody this week, trusting the same grace that gave it to you, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Reminder: Shop at any Dash's Market and turn your receipt(s) into CASH for our church! Dash's Markets give us $100 for every $5,000 worth of receipts. The box is on table in the front of the church.

Food Pantry items – Please continue to bring your food offerings each Sunday. Commonly needed items are canned tuna or meats, rice, beans, cereal, spaghetti sauce & pasta, peanut butter, canned vegetables and soups. The bins are in the back of the church for the Kenmore UMC Food Pantry.

Adult Sunday School Class: "WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE: 50 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UMC." We will gather in the Adams Fellowship Room from 9:40 to 10:25 Sunday mornings on November 8, 15, and 22. This'll be a good opportunity for anyone new to our church to learn more about us and for those who've been with us for a while to learn more. Can't make all three classes? No problem! We can schedule additional classes as needed. Everyone is welcome!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK!

No birthdays this week!

November 21 @ 10 a.m. – Explore Buffalo church tour given by Joe Steinmetz. **To register**, go to: Sacred Spaces at https://explorebuffalo.org/.