

Pastoral Prayer

July 20, 2025

We give thanks, O God, for the joy of gathering our keiki for Vacation Bible School this weekend. We are grateful for their kindness and enthusiasm, if not necessarily their attention span, but most of all for their lives. May they always be filled with the assurance of your love in their hearts, and may we echo your love as we care for them well.

We thank you for the completion of last week's 35th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, for bringing so many people together to worship, to consider, to learn, and to decide. Bless the resolutions and the elected officers of the Church, O God, with ongoing guidance. Bless the people from so many places who love and serve you in their congregations and communities. What a joy it is to know that we are never alone.

We ask your aid as we seek to help those who suffer in this world. Help us comfort the sick and stand with the mentally ill. Help us support the grieving and feed the hungry. Help us clothe the naked and house the homeless. Help us bring peace to those subject to violence. Help us find the courage within ourselves to challenge the oppressors.

God of grace, be with us as we seek to grow a community of compassion and care.

In Jesus' name, Amen.