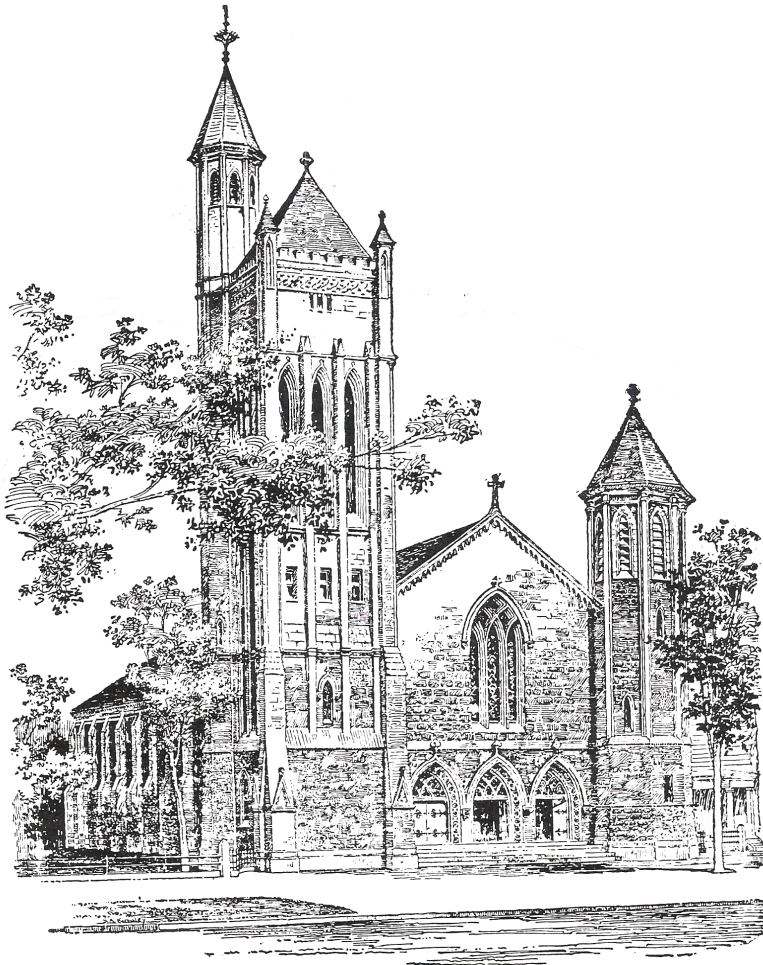


State Street Church
United Church of Christ
A Progressive Christian Church

April 26, 2026
The Sacrament of Baptism
Welcoming of New Members



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State Street Church, United Church of Christ

April 26, 2026

Welcome to State Street Church! During the greeting the Pastor will ask if any visitors would like to be introduced. There is no pressure to be introduced, if you would like to remain quiet and be present to the service, please feel free to do so. There is a card in your pew to fill out if you'd like contact from the church. Children are welcome, but not required, to come forward during the "Time for Children," - and may either return to their seats or join us for Kids' Church.

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|         |                                                 |                    |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Prelude | "Pastoral" (from Sonata #1)                     | Alexandre Guilmant |
|         | "Meditation on <i>The Lord is My Shepherd</i> " | Darwin Wolford     |
|         | "Trumpet Tune on <i>KINGSFOLD</i> "             | Alfred Fedak       |

Greetings, Introductions, and Announcements

\*Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

(Take a moment to share the peace of Christ with your neighbors.)

A Moment of Centering Silence

\*Opening Hymn #351 "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" BORNING CRY

\*Call to Worship Zareen Mirza

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

**Many: The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.**

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

**Many: Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.**

One: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

**Many: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days of my life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!**

\*Invocation (in unison)

**God who is Shepherd, Gate, and Way, we join together as a community in your presence and in your protection. Shield us from apathy and isolation. Fortify us against resignation and despair. Nudge us toward justice and righteousness in your name. As we gather to worship you, may we be transformed by your love, strengthened in grace, and rooted in faith for your glory and your kingdom come. Amen.**

\*Please rise in body or spirit

## A Time for Children

### The Sacrament of Baptism Prologue

Bryan: We are a people of the water!

**People: We worship God whose love flows through water.**

Bryan: Love, like a rain shower, awakens the seeds of our souls and lures them into blossom.

**People: We worship God whose love flows through water.**

Bryan: Love, like a wading pool, inspires the delight of children, splashing, and spraying each other in joyful play.

**People: We worship God whose love flows through water.**

Bryan: Love, like a cleansing shower, refreshes and renews us.

**People: We worship God whose love flows through water.**

Bryan: And today, love, like a fine mist, moistens fingertips and forehead in a sacred act of blessing.

Baptismal Hymn #325 "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" st. 1 & 2 STUTTGART

Welcome & Address

Promises of Covenant

A Baptismal Prayer

The Act of Baptism

Welcome of the Congregation (Unison)

**We receive this child of God as newly baptized in Christ and welcome them into the family of faith. We enfold them in our love, seeking together to grow in unity of spirit and abundance of life in Christ. We join together with joy to proclaim the gospel of grace, so that, through our words and deeds, God's love might be made known in all corners of the world.**

Prayer for the Baptized

Baptismal Hymn #325 "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" st. 3 & 4 STUTTGART

Reception of New Members

Presentation

Eric Breault

David May

Carolyn May

Kat O'Heir

Introduction

Address

Question about Participation

Welcome and Reception

Pastor: Let the members of the State Street Church, United Church of Christ express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be active in bringing the vision and call of Jesus to the world**

Greeting in love and fellowship

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 23

(pew Bible pg. 553)

Christian Scripture: 1 Peter 2:19-25

(pew Bible pg. 251)

This Morning's Sermon

Rev. Bryan Breault

A Time of Prayer

A Moment of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**Our Father, Mother, Parent, 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.**

Choral Response

Offering

*We are aware that some give online, or by other means, and some are unable to give. When the usher comes to your pew, you should feel comfortable looking to the usher smiling and nodding so the usher knows to move to the next person.*

Invitation

Offertory

"The Lord is My Shepherd"

Thomas Matthews

\*Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,**

**Praise God, all creatures, here below,**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God above, you heav'nly host,**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Closing Hymn #248

"Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows" DOMINUS REGIT ME  
(stanzas 1-2, 5-6)

\*Benediction

Benediction Response

*Everyone is welcome to coffee hour in Chapel Hall (through the door at the front left of the sanctuary) following the start of the Postlude. Those who wish to listen to the Postlude are welcome to sit in the front pews if they prefer.*

Postlude

"Interpretation on Psalm 117"

Emma Lou Diemer

# **Living Gratitude: An Eastertide Devotional Journey**

*From Easter to Pentecost*

*(For all 7 weeks check out State Street Church's website under the Gratitude button.)*

## **Blessing for 50 days of gratitude, Easter - Pentecost**

*May you walk these 50 days with open eyes and a grateful heart.*

*May resurrection rise within you.*

*May the Spirit lead you forward—  
awake, alive, and full of thanks.*

## **How it works:**

- Each day, spend 5–10 minutes in reflection
- Write 3 things you're grateful for on each day's themes
- Follow the weekly themes
- Optional: close with a simple prayer:  
*"Thank you, God, for the gift of this day.  
Open my eyes to your goodness."*

If you have any questions or comments,  
email: [carolkerr@me.com](mailto:carolkerr@me.com)

## **Week 4 (Days 22-28)**

# **Gratitude for Growth & Grace**

**Scripture:** “*My grace is sufficient for you.*” — 2 Corinthians 12:9

### **Reflection:**

Growth often comes through difficulty. What once felt like a burden may now be seen as a teacher. Gratitude doesn't ignore pain—it transforms it. This week, reflect on how grace has met you in your struggles.

### **Practice:**

Give thanks for something that once felt hard but helped you grow.

*Gratitude for transformation*

- Day 22: A mistake that taught you something
- Day 23: Personal growth you've experienced
- Day 24: Forgiveness (given or received)
- Day 25: A difficult season you made it through
- Day 26: Your strengths
- Day 27: God's patience with you
- Day 28: A moment of courage

### **Prayer:**

*God of grace,*

*thank you for walking with me through every season.*

*Help me to trust that even in struggle, you are at work.*

*Transform my challenges into wisdom and gratitude. Amen.*

## **SSC Cultivating Gratitude Group**

The Cultivating Gratitude Group meets on the first Sunday of every month in the Fireside Room after church service

**The next meeting is on May 3rd**

**Please join us in the Chapel Hall for a time of fellowship and refreshment.**  
Enter through the door to the front left of the sanctuary.

State Street Church is a progressive, diverse congregation. We provide a spiritual home for people from all walks of life. We work toward the vision of social justice preached in the gospel but are not exclusive in our faith. We find meaning in connecting with one another to help those in need and to nurture and deepen our spiritual awareness. We don't feel a need to agree on every matter but we try to listen and learn from one another. We are wide open to, and deeply affirming of, LGBTQ+ individuals. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. We encourage you to continue your spiritual journey with us! We'd love to get to know you.

### Happening at State Street Church

Sun. Apr 26 10:00am Worship Service  
\* Baptism  
\* Welcoming New Members

Sun. Apr 26 11:30am Book Group  
Sun. May 3 Cultivating Gratitude Grp  
(after the worship service)  
Wed. May 6 12:30pm Clothes Closet  
Sun. May 10 11:30am Deacons Meeting  
Wed. May 13 12:30pm Clothes Closet  
Wed. May 13 5:30pm Trustees Meeting  
Sat. May 16 9-Noon **Spring Clean-Up**

### PARKING

1. **Street Parking** is free on Sunday
2. **Reiche School** (5 minute walk)
3. **Cumberland Club**  
(near the corner of Park St and Spring St)

Restrooms are to the left and right of the hall at the back of the sanctuary.

Meaningful worship requires many people working together. We are grateful to everyone who worked to make this morning's service heartfelt and sincere.

|                          |                              |                       |                 |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Deacons:</b>          | Denny Barrantes and Nor Dale | <b>Greeter:</b>       | Mort Soule      |
| <b>Liturgist:</b>        | Zareen Mirza                 | <b>Live Streamer:</b> | Denny Barrantes |
| <b>Ushers:</b>           | Mimi Gough                   |                       |                 |
| <b>Fellowship Hosts:</b> | Mary Buteyn an Barry Hosmer  |                       |                 |

**An easy way to support State Street Church: scan the QR code with your phone!**



### State Street Church, United Church of Christ

Reverend Bryan S. Breault, Pastor  
Kyle Bertulli, Music Director and Organist  
Kaylan Zipp, Christian Education Director  
Maryam Darjazi, Childcare Provider



Today's service is being livestreamed and will be posted on YouTube.com