July 19, 2026
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Meditation

"The loudest voices are not always the wisest. Look instead for hearts made heavy with truth, grace, and compassion."

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ **July 19, 2026**
Mt Hope 8:30am **Greenfield 9:50am** **Grace 11:00am**
8th Sunday after Pentecost | You Shall Spread

Community News
Prayer List and Prayers of the People
Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship* *inspired by Genesis 28, Psalms 139*

The Holy One is in this place! Do we know it?
The Holy One has searched and known us, our path, and all our ways.
The Holy One is in this place! Such knowledge is too wonderful!
Wherever we go, Spirit goes with us! We cannot flee for God is there!
The Holy One is in this place! Spirit bears witness with our spirit, and we gather and wait in hope.
The Holy One is with us. Praise God!

* *Invocation*

Holy Love, God of Sarah and Rebekah, we come before you knowing you go before us and you keep us in safety. We come to this place in space and time across distance and difference as your offspring to receive an inheritance of your promise and to renew our lives in your covenant. Let our spirits receive your word and our hearts ignite with your compassion, mercy, and righteousness. Let your kingdom spread in us and through us as we worship and follow you. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* ***"Lord, Speak to Me"***

Mt Hope VH #215 *Greenfield* CH #667 *Grace* VH #215

Prayer for Transformation of New Life

Righteous God, test us and stretch us, strengthen us in your truth and justice, fortify us with resolve and power so that we might be the people you have called us to be. Holy One, even beyond forgiveness, we seek transformation. Renew our minds, open our hearts, and release our hands to repair, reconcile, and restore in your name. Keep us from being the cause of suffering. Equip us to be agents of healing. Make us attentive to your presence. Attune us to your will. Lead us on the path you have paved before us so that the grace we receive will sow seeds of redemption and healing in the world. Amen.

Words of Grace

Offspring of the Divine, live in your power and purpose as beneficiaries of the new covenant and conspirators of God's liberating work and impact in the world. Receive God's forgiveness and move beyond shame and judgment to new life and right relationships with the Holy One and neighbor.

Old Testament Reading **Genesis 28:10-19 NRSV**

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11** He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. **12** And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, **14** and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. **15** Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." **16** Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did

not know it!" [17] And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

[18] So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. [19] He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

* *The Gospel Reading* **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 NRSV**

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.) **TH #497**

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

[24] He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, [25] but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. [26] So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. [27] And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' [28] He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' [29] But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. [30] Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

[36] Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." [37] He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; [38] the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, [39] and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. [40] Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. [41] The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, [42] and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [43] Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* **"*Open My Eyes, That I May See*"**

Mt Hope VH #156 *Greenfield* CH #563 *Grace* VH #156

Today's Message

* *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* *The Lord's Prayer*

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 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.

* *Sung Response* *"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"* TH # 501

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement
Offertory (MH)
* Doxology TH # 551
* Offertory Prayer

Holy One, may these gifts reflect our trust in you and your provision. Magnify them for your purpose and grant us discernment to be caretakers of the resources entrusted to us. Amen.

* Closing Hymn *"Take My Life, and Let It Be"*

Mt Hope VH #314 *Greenfield* CH #597 *Grace* VH #314

* Benediction

In God, promises are not contained. They overflow.
Therefore, as you go from this time of communal worship
Return as participants in the communal witness
To spread the overwhelming love of God
To spread the overarching peace of God
And to spread the overcoming hope of God
Like good seeds, sowing and planting a future
That will shine like the sun in the kingdom of God

* Three-Fold Amen **TH # 558**

* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle

***You Shall Spread**: Service Prayers for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*