August 2, 2026
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org
greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com
Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor
Wendy Farber
(c) 814-937-0465

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Pianist
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Sunday Morning Meditation

"We encounter Christ not only at the table of worship, but also at the table where the hungry are fed."

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ **August 2, 2026**
Joint Service **Mt Hope 10:00am**
10th Sunday after Pentecost | Wrestling

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

* *Call to Worship* *inspired by Psalm 17*

The Holy One wondrously demonstrates steadfast love. Seek refuge at God's right hand.

Let God's love meet us and flow through us.

The Holy One attentively hears the just cause. Seek justice and righteousness for God's name sake.

Let us be steady and vigilant for the kingdom of God.

The Holy One faithfully vindicates our lives. Seek the path God paves for us.

Let us worship, honor and praise the God who delivers, redeems, and restores. Praise the Holy One!

* *Invocation*

Faithful and persistent God, we turn to you with who we are, with what we have, and with all we hope. We call upon you because you care and are attentive to our cries of concern and shouts of joy. We come to pray, sing, and wrestle with you, O God. We also come to receive clarity and discernment, to receive and give testimony of your persistent love, and to receive and affirm the beauty of your path. Hold us securely by your Spirit and never let us go. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* ***"Under His Wings"*** VH #241

Prayer for Transformation of New Life

Holy One, we strive to be your people and reflect your goodness in the world. Yet, the way of wickedness is not far from us, and we have not passed every test. Fortify us in your word and drench us with your compassion so that we may find the courage to repent and repair. Help us acknowledge the harm we have allowed and the pain we have caused. Empower us to make things right with our neighbors and with ourselves. Let your grace and mercy liberate us to be agents of reconciliation and restoration in our families, communities, and world. Amen.

Words of Grace

Blessed of God, receive God's transformative and liberating grace. Be made new in Christ, and make a new way in mending broken relationships and forging new ones. Let the love of God be your guide and assurance that the One who is gracious and merciful, is good to all, and abundant in compassion has planted those seeds in you, upholds all who fall and remains near to you.

Old Testament Reading **Genesis 32:22-31 NRSV**

Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids,
and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took
them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that
he had. 24 Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until
daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob,
he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint
as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is
breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless
me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said,
"Jacob." 28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob,
but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have
prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name."
But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed
him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen
God face to face, yet my life is preserved." 31 The sun rose upon him
as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Epistle Reading — **Romans 9:1-5 NRSV**

God's Election of Israel

9 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience
confirms it by the Holy Spirit— **2** I have great sorrow and
unceasing anguish in my heart. **3** For I could wish that I myself
were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own
brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. **4** They are Israelites,
and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the
giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; **5** to them belong
the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the
Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

* The Gospel Reading — **Matthew 14:13-21 NRSV**

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

Feeding the Five Thousand

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to
a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they
followed him on foot from the towns. **14** When he went ashore, he
saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their
sick. **15** When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said,
"This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds
away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for
themselves." **16** Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you
give them something to eat." **17** They replied, "We have nothing
here but five loaves and two fish." **18** And he said, "Bring them
here to me." **19** Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the
grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to
heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the
disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. **20** And all ate
and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken
pieces, twelve baskets full. **21** And those who ate were about five
thousand men, besides women and children.

* Gloria Patri

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* **"*Break Thou the Bread of Life*"** VH #166

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

Creator, thank you for the opportunity to share in your abundant and renewing work. Use these gifts for the kingdom. Sow wisdom and discernment as we support the ministry of this church in your name. Amen.

* Closing Hymn *"Showers of Blessings"* VH #284

* Benediction

Hold fast to the persistent, abiding, and enduring love of God
May it surround and fill you
With hope, courage, compassion, and strength
To bless the world with the blessings you receive
As a tangible testimony and demonstration
That Love prevails

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

* Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle

Wrestling: *Service Prayers for the Tenth 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.*