WELCOME STATEMENT

We, the members of Ellington Congregational Church, proclaim our belief that every person is created in God's image and deserving of God's love and grace. We covenant with God and each other to affirm the dignity and worth of every individual. Alike and yet different, each person brings unique gifts and talents to our community of faith.

Jesus taught us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."
(Luke 10:27)

In this spirit, we seek to offer a safe, non-judgmental space for every person who wishes to know God, acknowledging that we have not always lived up to this calling, and that some come to us carrying those wounds. We welcome every individual into the full life and ministry of this congregation, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, culture, faith background, education, economic circumstance, family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or differing physical, cognitive, and emotional abilities.

As an Open and Affirming church, we recognize that becoming truly inclusive is a continuous journey that calls us to reflect, learn, and grow together. With the strength of God's guidance, we will embody this covenant with open minds and compassionate hearts, as we each strive to build a just and loving world.

*All who are able, please stand.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 15, 2026 **10:00 A.M.**

Welcome to Worship *at the Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We are happy to have you with us this morning. If you are visiting and would like to receive more information about our church, please fill out an* **"I Wish"** *card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate during the Offertory time.*

Our Church Mission Statement
To be a dynamic and nurturing community
called by God's grace
to know Christ and make Him known
through worship, love, and service.
Adopted September 15, 2019

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION

As the prelude begins, let the music help you enter into the spirit of worship and prayer.

PRELUDE Julie LaRocca

WELCOME

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Let us praise the God of Truth!

All: Hallelujah! We seek God's truth.

One: Let us praise the God of Peace!

All: Hallelujah! We seek God's peace.

One: Let us praise the God of Love!

All: Hallelujah! In Christ we know God's love and so we offer our praise!

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN** Chalice Hymnal #461

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Trusting God,
you placed your mission in our hands
and gave us gifts to accomplish amazing things in Jesus' name.
We confess sometimes we've taken credit for what your love has done.
Sometimes we've called our own desires your will.
Sometimes we've stepped back and let others carry responsibilities.
Forgive us when we've failed to honour your trust in us. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. So trust God's promise.

*All who are able, please stand.

***GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #35

Glory Be to the Father
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PEACE AND LOVE OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST JESUS**

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Senior Choir

O Jesus, I have Promised

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lee Carman

Children may leave for Church School

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p. #28

Matthew 25:14-30

MESSAGE Pastor Craig

"Take a Chance on God"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

*All who are able, please stand.

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONSE

OFFERING
Sentence
Offertory — Julie LaRocca

Presentation of Offerings
The Shopping Cart is used during the offering to collect your gifts of food for Ellington and Tri-Town residents in need. The food is distributed by the Ellington Food Bank, Crystal Lake Community Food Pantry, the HVCC Food Pantry and The Cornerstone Cupboard. Your generosity is a blessing to all who receive and a witness to Christ's love for the world. Thank you!

*All who are able, please stand.

***DOXOLOGY** Chalice Hymnal #46

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.

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
All: Faithful God, we offer humble thanks today for your generosity to us through the Church that bears Christ's name. Receive our gifts as tokens of our love and loyalty. Use them to sustain the mission of the Church in ways we cannot yet imagine, in a future that you are creating through Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #472
We Are Living, We Are Dwelling

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE — Julie LaRocca

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*All who are able, please stand.

We Are Living, We Are Dwelling
WORDS: Arthur C. Coxe, 1840, alt.; st 2 adapt. Ruth Duck, 1995
MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams, 1890
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Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

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The Rev. Craig Cowing	**Bridge Minister**
Juliane LaRocca	**Director of Music**
Lee Carman	**Director of Faith Formation**
Caroline Takach	**Office Administrator**
Maggie Kutscher	**Substitute Office Administrator**
Cheyenne West	**Little Sparks Nursery Attendant**
Donna Heidelmark	**Assistant Nursery Attendant**
Irene Mosher	**Volunteer Lay Minister**
Betsy Cottle	**Volunteer Church Clerk**
Lisa Sirag	**Volunteer Church Historian**

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*All who are able, please stand.