**Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights, UCC**

**April 23, 2023**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**No matter who you are, you are welcome here!**

**Call to Worship from Psalm 116**

One: What shall I return to the Lord
    for all the bounty to me?
**All:I will lift up the cup of salvation
    and call on the name of the Lord;**One: I will pay my vows to the Lord
    in the presence of all the people.
**All:I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
    and call on the name of the Lord.**One: I will pay my vows to the Lord
    in the presence of all the people,
**All:Praise the Lord! Amen.**

**Opening Prayer: Dear One, This morning we come to you with thanksgiving. Our lives are thanks to you. Sometimes we fall, and you are there to give a helping hand. Sometimes we are frightened and you are there to light our way. When we need you, you are always there, and for this we are so grateful. Amen.**

**Hymn –** All are Welcome

**Children’s Sermon: Helping Others**

**Scripture Readings: Psalm 116**

**Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon:** **Hit Me With Your Best Shot**

**Hymn – Just as I am, 339**

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

**Lord’s Prayer** (using debts/debtors)

**Offering**

**Doxology**

**Hymn –** Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, 2

**Announcements**

**Commission and Benediction Postlude**

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**Manage your giving online:**

Community Congregational Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1) Visit the church website at **www.clintonheightsucc.org**,

2) Click on the **Donate Now** button,

3) Click on the **Create Profile** button, then

4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contribution.

Psalm 116, The Message

**116 1-6**I love God because he listened to me,
    listened as I begged for mercy.
He listened so intently
    as I laid out my case before him.
Death stared me in the face,
    hell was hard on my heels.
Up against it, I didn’t know which way to turn;
    then I called out to God for help:
“Please, God!” I cried out.     “Save my life!”
God is gracious—it is he who makes things right,
    our most compassionate God.
God takes the side of the helpless;
    when I was at the end of my rope, he saved me.

**7-8**    I said to myself, “Relax and rest.
    God has showered you with blessings.
    Soul, you’ve been rescued from death;
    Eye, you’ve been rescued from tears;
    And you, Foot, were kept from stumbling.”

**9-11**I’m striding in the presence of God,
    alive in the land of the living!
I stayed faithful, though overwhelmed,
    and despite a ton of bad luck,
Despite giving up on the human race,
    saying, “They’re all liars and cheats.”

**12-19**What can I give back to God
    for the blessings he’s poured out on me?
I’ll lift high the cup of salvation—a toast to God!
    I’ll pray in the name of God;
I’ll complete what I promised God I’d do,
    and I’ll do it together with his people.
When they arrive at the gates of death,
    God welcomes those who love him.
Oh, God, here I am, your servant,
    your faithful servant: set me free for your service!
I’m ready to offer the thanksgiving sacrifice
    and pray in the name of God.
I’ll complete what I promised God I’d do,
    and I’ll do it in company with his people,
In the place of worship, in God’s house,
    in Jerusalem, God’s city. Hallelujah!

