

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

218 W. Second St., Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

September 29th, 2019

Welcome to the First Congregational United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



"Joy is the serious business of Heaven" C.S. Lewis

***Our mission is to embrace people of every age and stage of life
and help them become the most loving version of themselves
possible.***

Words of Welcome

**Opening Song of Praise*

(R) 155 "Spirit of The Living God"

"Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me"

Minute for Stewardship & Moderator's Message

Rokko Jans

**Call to Worship: (WL = Worship Leader, M= Ministers)*

(based on post by Trinity United Parish)

WL: Joy is loose,

M: In the wiggles of the children,

WL: The whispers of the youth,

M: The smiles of all of us

WL: We praise God for this glorious day,

M: Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places, and in silly ways.

WL: Joy and praise fills our hearts and, in our songs,

ALL: Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people. Let us worship God.

**Opening Hymn*

(R) 540 "Happy the Home When God is There"

**Corporate Unison Prayer*

(based on the writings of Henri Nouwen)

God of Laughter,

You have gifted us with both joy and laughter as reminders of your presence. Mourning and dancing, grief and laughter, sadness and gladness – they belong together as the sad-faced clown and the happy-faced clown, who make us both cry and laugh. The cries that well up from our losses belong to the song of praise. Those who cannot grieve cannot be joyful. Those who have not been sad cannot be glad. Quite often, right in the midst of our crying, our smiles come through our tears. Grief and joy softened our spirits and push us to say "Thanks". Help us to trust that the beauty of our lives becomes visible where mourning and laughter touch each other. Mold our hearts and let joy and laughter in. AMEN

**Gloria Patri (sung)*

1st Scripture Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Thank you, God, for the many ways you still speak to us.

Children's Time
Special Offering - CROP
"Jesus Loves the Children" –by Rokko Jans
Jesus loves the children. He says, "Come unto me."
Lord, teach our hearts to open wide
Thy Kingdom comes to those who like a child
Come unto Thee

Offering
Offertory Music
"Happy" by Pharrell Williams
*The Doxology

2nd Scripture Reading
Philippians 4:4-6
Thank you, God, for the many ways you still speak to us.

Sermon
"Laugh Out Loud (LOL)"
Liz Larrivee

Prayers of the People

**Communion Hymn*
B 389 "Un Mandamiento Nuevo" (A New Commandment)

World Communion Celebration

**Invitation*

WL: Dear friends, the Spirit of God gives life to the world!

M: Life that never ends!

WL: Here and now Christ feeds the world!

M: Plenty for all, enough for today!

WL: Come to the table of justice and joy!

M: No one will be turned away! No neighbor in need will go wanting!

WL: Let praise go up to God our Life!

All: From every creature on God's good earth!

Communion Prayer
The Meal
Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

**Closing Hymn*
(B) 524 "This Joy I Have"

**Benediction*

***Song of Sending**

(B) 425 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

“For the Harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us

Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.”

SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS:

Worship Leader: Liz Larrivee

Music Director: Rokko Jans

Kidz on a Mission: Stephanie Kalember

School of Love: Helen Mate

Ushers/Greeters: Pat Sepura and Mardee Storing

Liturgist: Don Storing

September Flowers: Joanie Sietsema

Moderator

Rokko Jans

E-mail: rokko@alaricjans.com

Communications Coordinator

Jessica Benoit

989-732-5726

E-mail: office@firstuccgaylord.org

Jessica's Upcoming Schedule:

Tuesday: 10/01 8:00-10:45am, 11:45am-2:30pm

Wednesday: 10/02 8:00am – 2:30pm



Following worship, please join us in the Fellowship Hall where today's coffee hour will be hosted by Cathy Otto, Joanna Morse, and Kathi Arnold.

*You are invited to stand if you feel comfortable doing so.

*Please note that we have two hymnals, one is red (R), the other is black (B).