

First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second St., Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

May 15th, 2022

Based on Richard Rohr *Breathing Under Water* Chapter 11
And Celebration of Creation Sunday

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!



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

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.

Congregational Response: *You are welcome to journey together with us!*

***Call to Worship**

From earthdaysunday.org

One: Like Job in the Whirlwind, or Jonah in the storm at sea, we come before you in awe of your power, God.

ALL: *We recognize that today's storms and whirlwinds are not your judgment on your people, but the distortion of natural systems through our own sin and hubris.*

One: As the storms and whirlwinds of the climate crisis accelerate around us, may our sanctuary be a place of refuge and resilience, where all of God's creation might be protected and sustained, and from which we People of God might be sent forth to bring healing and justice.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit:
three in one!

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Responsive Reading

Adapted from Psalm 18 (earthdaysunday.org)

One: I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.

ALL: *My God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

One: The earth reels and rocks; the foundations also of the mountains tremble. In my distress I call upon the Lord.

ALL: *From God's temple God hears my focus and my cry reached his ears. God reaches down from on high, takes me; and draws me out of mighty waters. God delivers me, because God delights in me.*

One: This God's way is perfect;

ALL: God is a shield for all who take refuge.

Education Moment

“Faithful Resilience: Stories from Georgia”

****Hymn***

B.290. Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (verses 1.3.5)

Prayer of Confession

(Adapted from WCC Prayer, Earth Gospel p 86 from
earthdaysunday.org)

One: The climate crisis calls out for urgent repentance and conversion. We are beckoned to rediscover a biblical vision and a new understanding of ourselves and God's creation. The only future foreshadowed by the present crises, both spiritual and ecological, is massive suffering, both human and nonhuman. “Giver of Life--Sustain your Creation!” is our prayer; we should pray it without ceasing.

One: Creator, we disfigure your world.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

One: Redeemer, we reject your redemption and crucify you daily.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

One: Giver of life, we too often choose death

ALL: Lord, have mercy

Prayer of Absolution

One: Creator, forgive us for our sins against you and your Creation.

ALL: In your name, may we turn from our sins and work towards a new creation, one in which all creatures are freed from the bondage of greed and accumulation and are able to flourish into their creatureliness.

One: May this church be a site of redemption, resilience, and hospitality; an extension of your love to all who are affected by the climate crisis.

ALL: In this land, this structure, this community, this worship, may we love you more fully by seeking justice for our neighbors. Amen.

Scripture Lesson
Psalm 46: 8-11
Ephesians 4: 17-24

Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to God

****Doxology***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that Love has done
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One

****Prayer of Dedication***

A Time for 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, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Scripture Lesson
Mark 1: 35-39

****Hymn***

R.1. For The Beauty of The Earth (3 verses)

Message

“An Alternative Mind”

Special Music

“Watch It Fall” by Billy Strings
Performed by Rokko Jans, Melissa Mannion, and J. Morse

Blessing

from 1 Thessalonians 5:23

One: May the God of peace make you whole and holy, may you be kept safe in body, heart, and mind, and thus ready for the presence. God has called you and will not fail you.

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

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

SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS:

Worship Leader: Rev. Greg Watling

Liturgist: Sallie Anderson

Greeter: Don Storing

Flowers: Bill and Maxine Dely

Music Director: Rokko Jans

Altar & Banner Design: Helen Mate

Music Videos: Brenda Brummel

Production: Mary Fox

Coffee Hour: Rod and Sallie Anderson

Lawn Mowing This Week: George Lienerth

Pastor

Rev. Greg Watling

989-732-5726

920-472-9172

Monday: 8:00am – 12:00pm

Thursday: 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Or by appointment

Email: pastorg@firstuccgaylord.org

Communications Coordinator

Jessica Benoit

989-732-5726

Monday: 8:00am – 12:00pm

Thursday: 10:30am – 2:00pm

E-mail:

office@firstuccgaylord.org

Moderator

Margaret Wallin

margaretwallin@msn.com

~ *In Our Prayers* ~

During the month of May, the UNA is holding the Cheboygan First Congregational church in prayer.

Laura Bantens and her partner, Chris – as Chris is experiencing health issues and they are both encountering major life changes.

Sandra Soderberg – as she is experiencing trauma with one eye.

Maxine Dely – as she deals with ongoing balance issues.

John Hellenberg

Gloria House's granddaughter, Madison Crawford – as she suffers from cataplexy in narcolepsy along with other neurological struggles. She is at home and adjusting to new medication which seems to be helping but is still in need of prayers.

Brad Derenzy—as he has continuing health struggles.

Ariah House – as she is finally home but still in need of prayers. She will be traveling to Grand Rapids for monthly infusions.

Mardee Storing's daughter, Lori Lane

All of those working on the frontline to fight COVID-19, those that are considered essential workers, those without jobs, those ill, and those affected by this pandemic in anyway.



Prayer Requests

Prayer requests are received by the church office. Names will appear on the list for two months; please let the office know if this time needs to be extended, or if it is time to remove a name.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

4 Pat Sepura
8 Brenda Brummel
10 George Dunn
15 Norm Dressel
17 Lani English
17 Don Storing
22 Pat Dressel
25 Mackenzie Fobar

26 Roy Wolf
31 Alaina Anderson

Anniversaries

20 Rollie & Louanne
Spearman
25 Pete Amar & Mary Fox

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Earth Day Service and Spring Clean-Up – is today!

Bible Study – is now meeting in a hybrid fashion. Coffee will be provided, but please bring your own snacks. Masks are optional. 11am on Thursdays in fellowship hall. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612895017>

Blanket Sunday – will be honored throughout the month of May. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Salad Luncheon – Save the Date! May 24th at 11:30am.

BOOK STUDY – “Breathing Under Water” by Richard Rohr Meeting via Zoom Thursdays 7pm. Next meet will be May 26th with Ch. 10 & 11. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89372092567>

First Sundays –On the first Sunday of each month, all students from K-12 will be meeting together for a special project. This may involve a field trip on a related subject. A permission slip will be required for the field trips. ***The class will meet at 10:00am*** and end at 11:00 unless otherwise notified. Students are encouraged to bring friends. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Brummel (brendabrummel@ me.com) or 810-623-1691 (call or text.)

Name Tags – if you are in need of a name tag, please let Jessica in office know.

Happenings at Church

For the week of May 15th, 2022

Sunday: *Spring Clean-up Day*
Earth Day Sunday Worship, 10am
Council, 1pm

Monday: Reaching Out, 7pm

Wednesday: Trustees, 11am

Thursday: Bible Study, 11am

Friday: Community Meal, 4pm

*Our meetings are open to all. If you have input for any of our teams and cannot make the meeting time, please email us your ideas at office@firstuccgaylord.org. Thanks!

Upcoming Book Study Dates:

May 26 Chapters 10 and 11

June 2 Chapter 12 and Postscript