

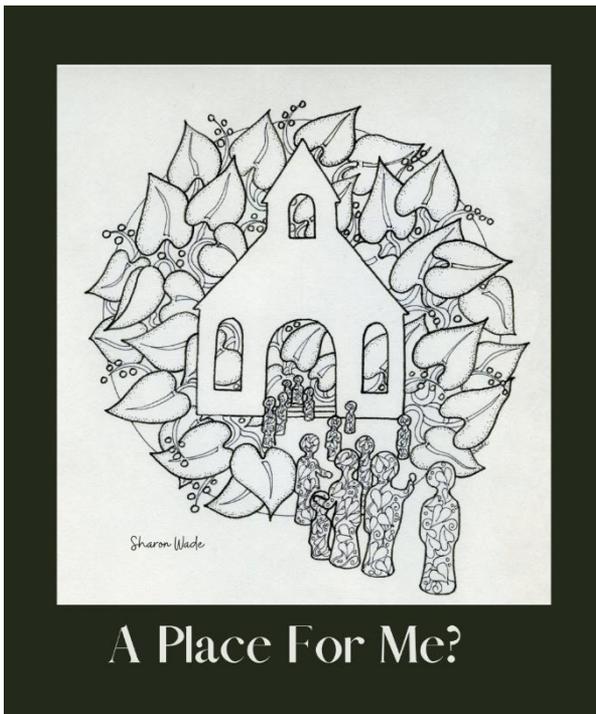
First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

February 12, 2023

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

(adapted from "The Church's One Foundation", Samuel J. Stone, 1866)

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***

(inspired by Sirach 15:15-20) (Be Reconciled: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Used by permission)

One: Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

Many: **God gives us the choice to follow and to be faithful.**

One: Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

Many: **God offers fire to warm us and water to quench our thirst.**

One: Great is the wisdom of the Holy One, powerful and knowing.

Many: **God considers us with care and knows our ways.**

****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.

****Invocation***

(By Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay)

One: Righteous God, in you we find life and liberty, compassion and care, redemption and reconciliation. You make your ways known to us, and you recognize your people as we are—fully human and made in your image. You come to us, and we come to you. Let us meet in this time and place. Let us bring our hope and our fears, our joys and our sorrows, our successes and our disappointments—the fullness of this glorious and maddening life toward you assured that you meet us here. Amen.

Kids' Chat

"Hide and Seek"

Rev. Greg Watling

First Scripture Lesson

Acts 6: 8-15

****Hymn***

B.391, "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

(4 verses)

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

(By Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay)

One: Holy God, your fire warms our hearts when they grow cold to the pain of the world, shines brightly to illuminate the shadows where we hide from you, and provides fuel to energize us when we grow weary of the work. Revive us again, O God, revive us. Amen.

Words of Grace

(By Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay)

One: God with Us knows the feeling of fatigue, the despair of doing hard things, and the frustration of a world that has turned from the Holy One. God is faithful to refresh us, renew us, and revive us.

Invitation to Generosity

One: 1 Corinthians 3:8-9 reminds us that, "The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building." What a privilege to be God's vessel and participant in kingdom nurture and care. Let us give generously knowing we have been given gifts to be used for the building.

****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 and Thanksgiving

(By Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay)

One: One: God who gives the increase, receive these gifts and magnify them for your kindom. Continually grow generosity in us and be glorified. Amen.

Sharing of Prayer Concerns/Pastoral Prayer/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, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Second Scripture

Luke 10: 25-37

****Hymn***

B.541, "They Asked, 'Who's My Neighbor?'"

Message

"Blinded By Innocence"

Rev. Greg Watling

Special Music

"We Shall Overcome

Performed by the choir

Blessing

By Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: May you move forward from this gathering with the good news written on your heart, faithfulness embedded in your spirit, and God's wisdom leading your path. In righteousness, grace, and hope, be reconciled.

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: Laura Bantens

Greeter: David Henson & Margaret Hafner

Flowers: David Henson & Margaret Hafner

Music Director: Rokko Jans

Altar & Banner Design: Helen Mate

Graphic Arts: Brenda Brummel

Production: Maggie Wallin

Coffee Hour: David Henson & Margaret Hafner

Slide & Bulletin art: Sharon Wade

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

Stephanie Kalember

989-732-5726

Monday: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Thursday: 12:00 pm – 4:00pm

E-mail: office@firstuccgaylord.org

Moderator

Margaret Wallin

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Jessica Benoit

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~ In Our Prayers ~

**During the month of February the UNA is holding the
*Benzonia First Congregational UCC in prayer.***

Cindy Goller, Pastor Greg and family – as Cindy’s dad, Marty Goller, fell twice the weekend of 1/23/23 and fractured his left hip. He went to the ER, spent a night in the hospital and has been admitted to a local nursing home for the short term for physical therapy.

Joanie Sietsema and family– as they grieve Joel’s sudden passing.

Margaret Hellenberg and family– as they grieve John’s recent passing.

The English Family – as they manage medical and family challenges.

Mischelle Stone and family as they grieve the passing of Mischelle’s sister-in-law, Judy Harlukowicz.

Janet Holmes, cousin of Kay Boughner, as Janet is hospitalized in Pontiac with a variety of issues.

Andrew Short, Helen Crandall's grandson, who was seriously injured in a motorcycle crash during a race.

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.



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.

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

Book study is underway; however, that doesn't mean you can't join! Pastor Greg would love to have you whenever you're available. The Zoom link is here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88171572216>

Food Pantry – needs a few more volunteers. Please contact Don Storing if interested.

Bible Study –11 AM on Thursdays, but please keep an eye on your email for communication from Rokko. The Zoom link is provided: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612895017>

PLEASE NOTE: we will be using a new zoom link for reaching out meetings from now on.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83640729481>
Meeting ID: 836 4072 9481

Birthdays:

- 3 Alan Trenda
- 5 DeLayni Brown
- 6 Joanie Sietsema
- 7 Callie English
- 7 Evelyn Pratt
- 10 Margaret Hellenberg
- 18 Aysia House
- 27 Jay Anderson

Anniversaries:

- 28 Jim & Vicky Rigney

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Happenings at Church for the week of February 12, 2023

Sunday: Worship, 10 AM
Wednesday: Trustees, 11 AM
Thursday: Bible Study, 11 AM
 Choir, 4 PM
 Book Study with Pastor Greg 7 PM
Friday: Community Meal, 4 PM

*Our meetings are open to all, except where noted. 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!