

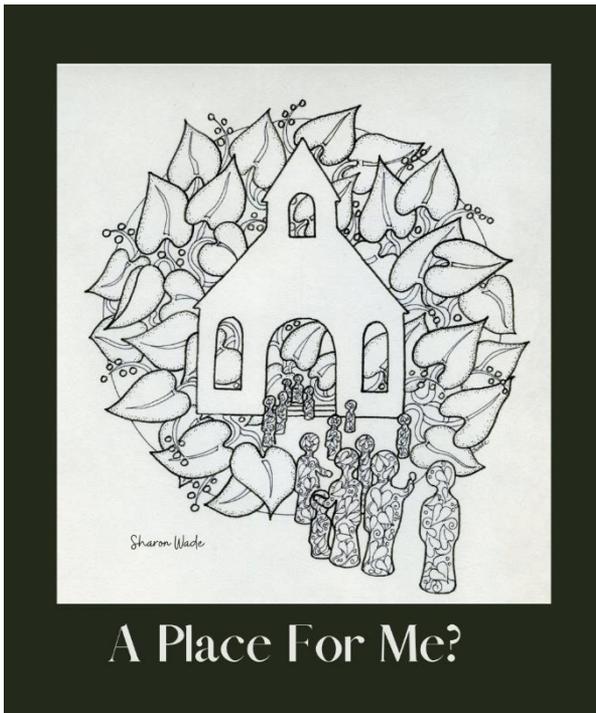
First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

February 19, 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 Psalm 99) (Come up and down: service prayers for transfiguration Sunday was written by the rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, minister for worship and theology, United Church of Christ.
Worship ways: united church of Christ. Used by permission)

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the holy one.

Many: **The holy one is high on the mountain and exalted among the people.**

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the mighty one.

Many: **The mighty God is sovereign, loves justice, and establishes equity.**

One: Let us praise the great and awesome name of the everlasting God.

Many: **The everlasting God hears our cries and answers our call.
Praise our God!**

****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: Radiant god, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness in a place where heaven and earth collide. May our worship of you encourage us on the journey and make us aspire to reflect your kingdom in the world. Transform us and keep us near to you. Amen.

Kids' Chat

"Free To Be You and Me"

Rev. Greg Watling

First Scripture Lesson

Matthew 17: 1-9

****Hymn***

B. 292, "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

(By Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay)

One: Righteous God, we find ourselves wanting to retreat from the harsh realities of life. We can find ourselves lifted to high places and forget those we have left behind. Our concern for our neighbor too often dissipates at the point of our discomfort. Forgive us for wanting to dwell in your presence without being transformed with new energy for the work of your ministry. Amen.

Words of Grace

(By Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay)

One: Just as Jesus gifted his disciples with a moment of respite and awe, it is good for us to join transcendent movements in the presence of God. When we too often choose to linger there rather than enter into hard or even mundane places, God does not condemn us. With grace and compassion, Jesus encourages us in the direction we should go.

Invitation to Generosity

One: Jesus comes down to us as a gift of presence, compassion, and companionship. His entire life is a demonstration of committed generosity and stewardship. We too are called to present our lives as a gift to the god who has created us and the world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent, and treasure. Let us reveal the glory of God by the giving of our good gifts.

****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!

Amen.

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

Acts 9: 1-9, 19b-22

****Hymn***

B. 458, "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Message

"I've Changed"

Rev. Greg Watling

Special Music

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Performed by Stephanie Kalember

Blessing

By Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: May the shining radiance of God warm you. May the dazzling splendor of God surprise you. And the glory of God transform you. May you come up to the mountaintop. May you remember the experience with wonder and awe. And may you come down renewed and empowered. For the glory of God and the hope of the world.

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: Carol Leser

Flowers: Margaret Hellenberg

Music Director: Rokko Jans

Altar & Banner Design: Helen Mate

Graphic Arts: Brenda Brummel

Production: Mary Fox

Coffee Hour: Cathy Otto

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

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Moderator

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Finance

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 will soon be moving into an assisted living apartment.

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 Bouwman.

Janet Holmes, cousin of Kay Boughner, as Janet has been released from the hospital and continues her recovery.

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

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.

Cindy Goller's dear friend, Kaye as she was diagnosed with kidney cancer this week. She will be having surgery in the next several weeks.

Brad Derenzy—as he has been blessed with a bit of a reprieve from his illness.

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

Happenings at Church for the week of February 19, 2023

Sunday: Worship, 10 AM
Monday: Reaching Out, 7 PM via Zoom
Wednesday: Church Book Club, 1 PM
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!