

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

218 W. Second St., Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

September 23rd, 2018

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 as possible.

Welcome Music & Sharing God's Presence
"Surely God is in this Place" – Stephen Iverson
Surely, God is in this place, holy ground
Surely, God is in this place, holy ground

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

WL: In the last three weeks, we've listened to the world's favorite six stories

M: Stories of domination, revolution, isolation, victimization, purification, and accumulation

WL: All of them have a certain appeal and allure

M: But none of them can transform the world. None of them will lead us to a brighter future, where God's will is done on earth

WL: We must turn to a seventh story for that, the story of Jesus

M: It is a story of love and liberation for all, a story where no one is left out, no one is forgotten, and no one is unimportant

**All: Thanks be to God for the 7th story and its ability to make all things new!
Amen!**

***Opening Hymn**

425 (B) "For the Fruit of All Creation"

***Corporate Unison Prayer**

(adapted from Henri Nouwen's *You Are the Beloved*)

Gracious Creator, help us to live each day, each hour, and each minute as a new beginning, as a unique opportunity to make everything new. Help us see each moment as pregnant with the possibility for new life. Empower us to walk through life always listening to your voice as it whispers, "I have a gift for you! I can't wait for you to see it! My name is 'God-with-you,'" for I live and dwell among all people." Amen.

***Gloria Patri (sung)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading

Luke 10:25-37

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

Children's Time

Special Offering for The Otsego County Food Pantry

Offertory Music – "All You Need is Love" – The Beatles

"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*

2nd Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:31-44

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

**Sermon Hymn*

587 (B) “Through All the World, a Hungry Christ”

Sermon

“The 7th Story: A Story of Love, Liberation, and Life”

Prayers of the People & Singing the Lord’s Prayer

Hymn of Celebration

522 (B) “I Love to Tell the Story”

Benediction

***Sung Response**

“May Our Lives Speak of Your Love” by Ian Coates

May our lives speak of Your love, may our feet walk in Your grace

May we share Your friendship with all Your children

Bringing hope, peace, and joy

Send us out into Your world, free to be, to live, and to love

And may all we do and say for You bring freedom to all

*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).

SUNDAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Music Director: Rokko Jans

School of Love: Kay Boughner

Kidz on a Mission: Brenda Brummel

Liturgist: Marilyn Kaczanowski

Usher/Greeter: Mardee Storing

Pastor

Toby Jones

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs.

10:00am-noon or by appt

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Communications Coordinator

Jessica Benoit

989-732-5726

E-mail: office@firstuccgaylor.org

Jessica's Upcoming Schedule:

Tuesday: 09/25 8am-2:30pm

Wednesday 09/26 8am-2:30pm

Moderator

Rokko Jans

E-mail: rokko@alaricjans.com



Following worship, please join us in the Fellowship Hall where today's coffee hour will be hosted by Rod & Sallie Anderson.