

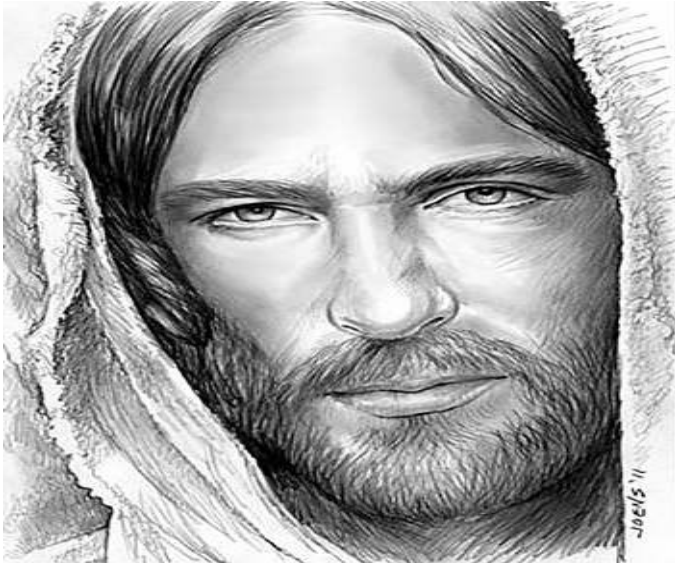
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

218 W. Second St., Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

March 22nd, 2020

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!



And he had a man's face, A human face.
...Like you and me he had a face his life gave shape to.
And that shaped his life and others' lives...

He had a face."

- *The Faces of Jesus*, 1974

Frederick Buechner

***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 and Candle Lighting

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

WL: We come together to worship longing for tenderness

M: Because this world can be hard.

WL: We come longing for light

M: Because our lives are crowded with shadows.

WL: We come desperately needing direction.

M: Because so many voices are telling us what to do

WL: We come praying for healing for many

M: Because You are the ultimate healer to bring healing and comfort.

WL: We especially pray for those who are caring for the sick

M: Because they are your hands and feet right now in a troubled world

ALL: Fill us this morning with your peace: your spirit is our peace and our path.

**Corporate Unison Prayer*

Living God,

You created us in your image and breathed life into us. You set the world in motion and your creation is beyond what any of us could have imagined. We take a breath now in appreciation for your creation.

Lord, our world is turned upside down. People are suffering from illnesses and people are fearful of contracting the coronavirus. Help us to lean into safe and healthy practices.

Lord we breathe in your hope and promise of new life. We breathe out fear.

Lord, renew our energy for loving others and help us to know how and where we can help. We remember those that are more than just inconvenienced by this pandemic -- your children who face real struggles to care for their families, to pay their rent, to feed their children, to protect the fragile health of loved ones. Help us to lean into caring for our neighbors as we care for ourselves.

Lord we breathe in your love. We breathe out rejection.

We breathe in forgiveness. We breathe out abandonment.

Breathe in grace. As you breathe out, release your spirit to God' will.

Amen

Children's Time

1st Scripture Reading

Isaiah 53:1-2

“Who would have believed what we now report?

Who could have seen the Lord's hand in this?

² It was the will of the Lord that his servant
grow like a plant taking root in dry ground.

He had no dignity or beauty
to make us take notice of him.

There was nothing attractive about him,
nothing that would draw us to him.

Offering

Please mail offerings to First Congregational UCC, 218 W. 2nd St. Gaylord MI 49735. *You may also earmark a special offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing**.*

Special Music

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”
Performed by Stephanie Kalember

2nd Scripture Reading

Mark 12:13-17

¹³ Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. ¹⁴ And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? ¹⁵ Should we pay them, or should we not?” But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” ¹⁶ And they brought one. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”
And they were utterly amazed at him.

Sermon

“The Faces of Jesus”

Prayers of the People

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, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

****Benediction***

From Numbers 6: 25-26

The LORD makes His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.

SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS:

Worship Leader: Brenda Brummel, Rokko Jans, Stephanie Kalember

Music Director: Rokko Jans

Liturgist: Stephanie Kalember

~ In Our Prayers ~

During the month of March, the UNA is holding the Harrison church in prayer.

Mona Viviano – as she grieves the loss of her brother, Marvin Evans.

Norman Reim - Rokko's bandmate, as he addresses his recent cancer diagnosis.

Don Storing's longtime friend, Eric Larsen – as he navigates his recent stage IV lung and brain cancer diagnosis.

Louanne Spearman – as she has been experiencing back issues.

Lani English and Family – as they grieve the passing of Lani's cousin, Adam.

Margaret Soller – as she grieves the loss of her twin sister, Liz.

Marcus and Samantha Fray – as they navigate Marcus's recent ALS diagnosis. Marcus is married to George and Judy Dunn's granddaughter. He is in his thirties with two small children.

The Boughner Family – as they grieve Scott's passing.

Rev. Ginny Titus and Family



If you have a prayer request at this time, please contact the church office at 989-732-5726 or email office@firstuccgaylord.org.

If it is an urgent matter, please call or text Jessica at 248-215-6973 as she may not receive voicemails for several days.

– ANNOUNCEMENTS –

COVID -19

If you must be isolated during the COVID-19 crisis, please let the Church Office know 989-732-5726 or office@firstuccgaylord.org so we can call or visit you as well as keep you in the prayers of the congregation.

Reaching-In Meeting at noon, Monday, March 23 via Zoom. For inclusion in the meeting, please contact the Church Office via email no later than Monday at 11 AM. Directions for joining will be emailed to anyone interested in participating. Signing on to Zoom is very easy and part of this meeting is to help folks get familiar with the platform.

Rev. Webeler reports that she is doing much better, and well on her way to recovering from the automobile accident. She thanks our congregation for the prayers and sends her love to all.

Office Hours – are suspended effective immediately. There will be no face to face office hours until further notice.

Building Use – all building use is suspended until further notice unless otherwise discussed. This includes The Community Meal, bible study, and book club.

The Food Pantry – is in desperate need of food donations as many families from the service

industries are without pay right now. If you can spare non-perishables, please call the United Way for drop-off times and more information regarding the next dates for helping with The Food Pantry are: March 25th and 26th (Wednesday and Thursday). April 27 & 28, May 18 & 19th: 12p-2p (Monday and Tuesday).

Happenings at Church
For the week of March 22nd, 2020

Sunday: Virtual Worship, 10:00am



*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!