

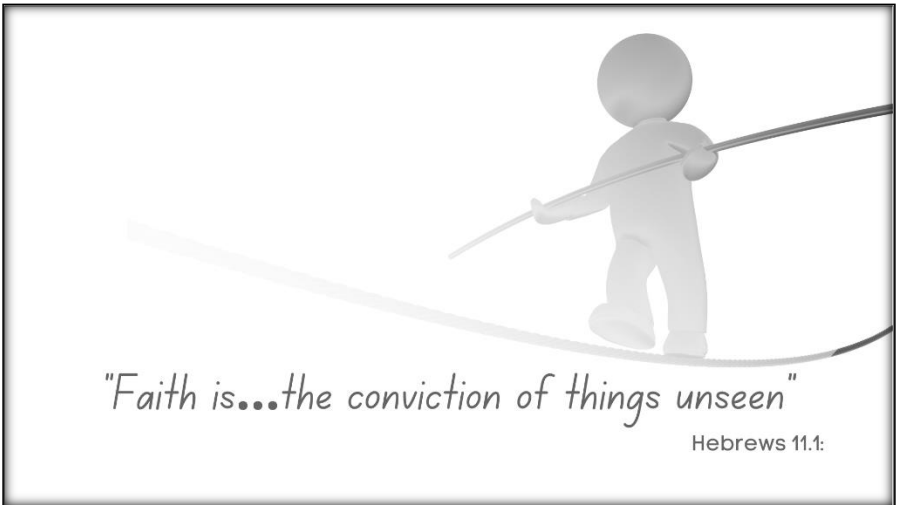
# First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

[www.firstuccgaylord.org](http://www.firstuccgaylord.org)

March 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**

(Give Us Water: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Lent were written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ. . Worship Ways: United Church of Christ. Used by permission)

One: God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

Many: We come before you weary from traveling through barren lands.

One: Holy One, you give water that sustains body and spirit.

Many: You hydrate us when we need, how we need.

One: Miracle Worker, you caused a rock to crack and bring forth water.

Many: Crack our hearts open and let your love flow from them like a spring.

### **\*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. Teña T. Nock)

One: Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that you are. Your presence is desired here. We take joy in knowing that you are as close to us as our next breath. We thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with your love. Amen

### **Kids' Chat**

"Complaining"

*Rev. Greg Watling*

### **First Scripture Lesson**

*Exodus 17: 1-7*

### **\*Hymn**

*B. 196, "When Like the Woman at the Well"*

## ***Prayer For Transformation and New Life***

(By Rev. Teña T. Nock)

All: Enduring Presence, we confess that sometimes we question if you are among us or not. Sometimes we quarrel with you when we are tested. These are the moments when our outlook needs transformation. You are gracious in looking beyond our faults to see our needs and meet them. Thank you for your immeasurable grace. Amen.

### ***Words Of Grace***

(By Rev. Teña T. Nock)

One: New mercies are granted daily and every day we have an opportunity to be changed forever and for good. Amen.

### ***Invitation to Generosity***

(By Rev. Teña T. Nock)

One: God gives good things to us, so let us give good things to God. Let us bring gifts that can be like water in dry places. May these resources be used to testify to the goodness of God. Amen.

### ***\*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***

(Rev. Teña T. Nock )

One: Fount of Blessing, receive our gifts in the joy that we give them. Be it time, tithe, or talent, it all comes from you. Thank you for blessing us to be a blessing to you and each other. 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*

John 4: 5-30, 39-42

### *\*Hymn*

*B. 211, "Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days"*

### *Message*

"Better Protected from Mayhem" ©

*Rev. Greg Watling*

### *Special Music*

*"Dock of the Bay"*

*Redding/Cropper*

*performed by Rokko and Melissa*

### *Blessing*

(by Rev. Teña T. Nock)

*One:* As you depart this space, remember that the God who caused water to flow from a rock is the same God who walks with you. Go forth with the assurance that in the midst of a chaotic world something good can happen and something good will happen. Amen.

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.

### *~ In Our Prayers ~*

During the month of March the UNA is holding the  
*Cadillac First Congregational UCC* in prayer.

**The Family of Jon Bowman** – Jon, whose mother is a dear friend of Helen Crandall, passed away unexpectedly at age 61.

**Jeannine Wambold and family** – as they grieve Jeannine's mother's recent passing.

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

**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.

**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.

**Jen Crandall Finnegan** - as she was recently hospitalized with migraine headaches.

**Helen Crandall's family** – as a cousin's son passed away unexpectedly last week.



*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.*

---

### **SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS:**

Worship Leader: Rev. Greg Watling  
Liturgist: Helen Mate  
Greeter: Mona Viviano  
Flowers: Jeannine Wambold  
Music Director: Rokko Jans  
Altar & Banner Design: Helen Mate  
Graphic Arts: Brenda Brummel  
Production: Pete Amar  
Coffee Hour:

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](mailto: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](mailto:office@firstuccgaylord.org)

Moderator  
Margaret Wallin  
[margaretwallin@msn.com](mailto:margaretwallin@msn.com)

Finance  
Jessica Benoit  
[finance@firstuccgaylord.org](mailto:finance@firstuccgaylord.org)

## - ANNOUNCEMENTS -

- 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
- March 16 – April 2 -- Stephanie working remotely – I will be in Florida, but I *will* be working and checking email daily. For the weeks of 3/26 and 4/2, Pastor Greg could use some help folding bulletins! Thank you! ~Stephanie

### Birthdays:

4	Sharon Wade
6	Pete Amar
8	Andrew Brazelton
8	Natassja English
11	Eric Anderson
11	Emily Brazelton
11	James Brazelton
12	Roger Brummel
12	Kay Boughner
14	Maryetta House
27	Carol Lienerth
30	Ryan Anderson

### Anniversaries:

13	Russ (Bo) & Carol Leser
28	Norm & Pat Dressel

## Happenings at Church for the week of March 12, 2023

Sunday:	Worship, 10 AM
Monday:	Reaching In, 12 PM
Wednesday:	Trustees, 11 AM
Thursday:	No choir rehearsal or Bible study this week.
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](mailto:office@firstuccgaylord.org). Thanks!