

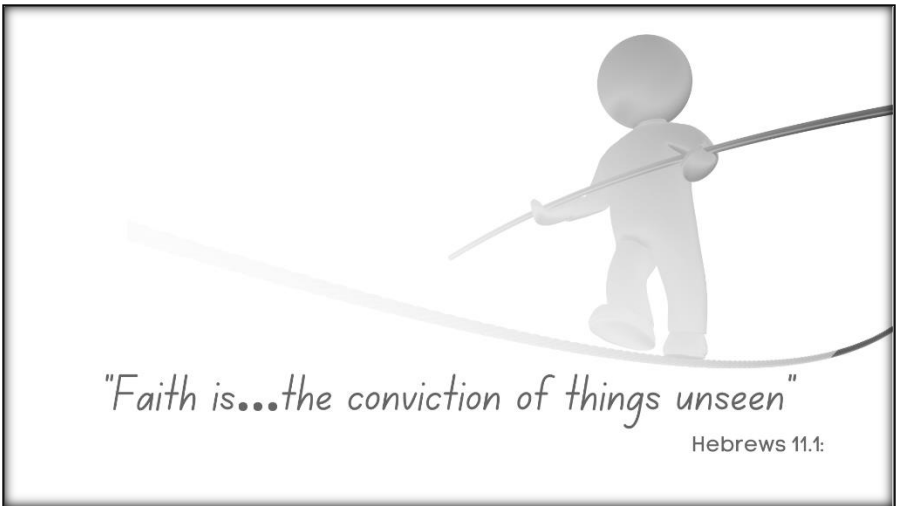
# First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

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

March 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**

(**Come Peaceably:** Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Lent were written by Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ. Worship Ways: United Church of Christ. Used by permission)

One: Kindred of God, a new vision of leadership is called forth and God calls upon the least likely, the unheard of, and the humble . . . of heart to assemble to receive anointing.

**All: In peace, we anoint the forgotten, the youngest, smallest, and unlikeliest of siblings whom God has raised up to serve.**

One: Though the call may involve risk and danger, we are called to listen, obey, and live a love unwavering.

**ALL: In peace, we anoint the disinherited and dismissed.**

One: God's call does not depend on our outward appearance or our earthly achievements.

**All: In peace, we anoint neighbor and kin alike, knowing God looks upon the heart. Let us open our hearts to God this day. Amen.**

### **\*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: Anointed One, your love comes peaceably into our lives if we will but let it. We are so fixated on the gold standard, the familiar, and the safe choice that we often lose sight of what you are raising up right in our very midst. Enliven us with your Spirit this day so that we might get a glimpse of your peace. Take what we might imagine as too small for your kingdom and use it to open the world to your overflowing abundance and provision for all that you have created. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

***Kids' Chat***  
*"You're Too Little!"*  
Rev. Greg Watling

***First Scripture Lesson***  
*Ephesians 5: 8-14*

***\*Hymn***  
*B. 207, "Just As I Am"*  
*3 verses*

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

(By Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott)

One: God of surprises, we know that we do not often perceive the world as you do. We look to the flashy fame, the grand gestures, optimal achievements, and unreachable standards. Yet, in spite of our misguided reach towards perfection, you give us glimpses of your grandeur and grace. Surprise us yet again this day, O God, that in our complacency which allows us to drift towards the same old ways of faith that we may be transformed anew. Provide us with a new cup of oil that we may be anointed by your love so that we may set out into your world to bless and anoint others. In the name of the One whose love and peace make all things new we pray. Amen.

***Words Of Grace***

(By Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott)

One: Friends, receive the anointing of God's tender love and forgiveness this day. For God's care and compassion for you abides in your heart today and always.

**All: We rise and set out restored and renewed. Amen.**

***Invitation to Generosity***

(By Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott)

One: It is not the outward appearance or size of the gifts we have to share that matters to God. It is the loving generosity of our hearts that is closest to the heart of God. We are invited to give this day out of the abundance of our lives, from our heart, knowing that no matter the size of the gift that God knows our hearts.

**All: We give this day from our hearts and may it be pleasing to 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. Dr. Chad Abbott)*

One: Generous God, you remind us that you “anoint our heads with oil” and that our “cup overflows” with your abundance. We do not take for granted all that you provide. Take these gifts and use them for the healing and tender care of your hurting world. May your cup of love overflow and abide with the hurting and heartbroken, forgotten and despised, so that we may all be made whole. 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***

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

### ***Special Music***

*“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”*

*J.S. Bach*

*Performed by choir with Rebecca Reynolds on Flute*

### ***Message***

*“An Unlikely Prospect”*

*Rev. Greg Watling*

### ***Special Music***

*“Andante Et Scherzo”*

*Louis Ganne*

*Performed by*

*Rebecca Reynolds and Rokko Jans*

## ***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:** Laura Bantens  
**Greeter:** Carol Leser  
**Flowers:** Jeannine Wambold  
**Music Director:** Rokko Jans  
**Altar & Banner Design:** Helen Mate  
**Graphic Arts:** Brenda Brummel  
**Production:** Laura Hotelling  
**Coffee Hour:** Margaret Hellenberg

**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 possibly 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 19, 2023**

**Sunday:** Worship, 10 AM  
**Monday:** Reaching Out, 7 PM  
**Thursday:** Bible Study, 11 AM  
Choir, 4 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@firstuccgaylor.org](mailto:office@firstuccgaylor.org). Thanks!