

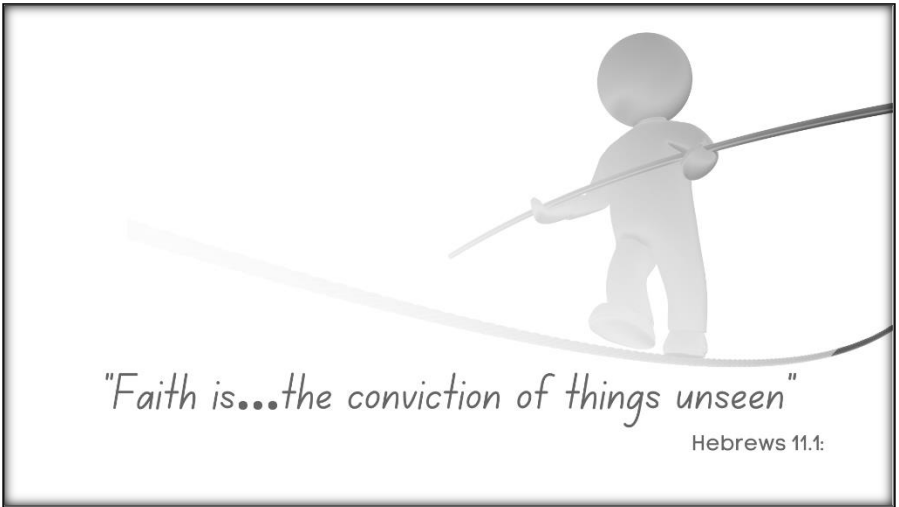
# First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

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

**March 26, 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***

(Prophesy to the Bones: **Service Prayers for the Fifth 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: Breath of Life, you animate us.

**Many: We come before you are seeking revival from within.**

One: Holy One, when you speak, great things happen.

**Many: Empower us to make great things happen.**

One: Matchless One, you bring good things to life.

**Many: We desire to bring good things to life too.**

### ***\*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***

One: Life Giver, come and revive us again. Indwell us with your spirit and let our souls awake to joy. We come boldly that you might breathe on us. May what we experience with you today change us forever and for the better. Amen

### ***Kids' Chat***

*"Spring!"*

*Rev. Greg Watling*

### ***First Scripture Lesson***

*Ezekiel 37: 1-14*

### ***\*Hymn***

*B.434, "All Beautiful the March of Days"*

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

One: Mender of Hearts, we confess that sometimes in our brokenness, we cause brokenness in others. Sometimes in our woundedness, we wound others. In these despairing moments, we need healing and restoration. We give thanks that we are never beyond your reach or grace. Amen.

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

One: Mender of Hearts, we confess that sometimes in our brokenness, we cause brokenness in others. Sometimes in our woundedness, we wound others. In these despairing moments, we need healing and restoration. We give thanks that we are never beyond your reach or grace. Amen.

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

One: God is the source of our supply. Let us give from what we have been supplied. May this supply meet every demand. 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***

One: Divine Sustainer, receive this offering that we gladly give. May it be used to revive and restore those in need. 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 11: 1-44

### ***\*Hymn***

*B.417, "This is a Day Of New Beginnings"*  
*verses 1-4*

**Message**  
“Beyond All Hope”  
Rev. Greg Watling

**Special Music**  
“Morning Has Broken”  
Eleanor Farjeon  
performed by Rokko Jans

**Blessing**

**One:** As we go our separate ways, remember that God has placed God’s Spirit within in you. Go forth centered in God and let God be centered in you. 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.**

**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 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:** Margaret Wallin  
**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

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**Happenings at Church for the week of March 26, 2023**

**Sunday:** Worship, 10 AM  
**Monday:** Reaching In, 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@firstuccgaylord.org](mailto:office@firstuccgaylord.org). Thanks!