

# **First Congregational United Church of Christ**

**218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735**

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

**April 16, 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!**



**Unfailing  
Love**

***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***

*(from the Revised Common Lectionary, Vanderbilt Divinity Library)*

**All:** Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. 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***

**ALL:** Parent God, we have so many moments in our lives that would cause us to doubt all of the good that the world holds. In our doubtful moments that focus on the negative, help us hold onto the love and joy in our lives and to spread that love and joy with those around us.

### ***Kids Chat***

*"Made You Look"*

Laura and Aaron Hotelling

### ***First Scripture***

1 Peter, 1: 3-9

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

*B.237, "In The Garden"*

## **Prayer of Assurance**

(From Cheryl A. Lindsay, UCC podcast)

**One:** Thomas stands in for all of us without the benefit of firsthand experience of the transcendent power of Christ. The encounter they share provides a model for how to search for proof. Thomas states his need; then, Jesus shows up to meet that need. This was a divine moment of “show and tell,” in which Jesus is both narrator and demonstration. In the future, it will be the disciples who will not only tell the good news, they will be charged to show it. The Spirit will be their new guide and companion—as well as ours—in this ministry.

## **Moment for Mission**

### ***Blanket Sunday***

*Mona Viviano*

## **Invitation to Generosity**

(From The Romero Prayer by Bishop Ken Untener)

**All:** We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

## **\*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:** Thank you, Mother and Father God for the gifts we have. May we use them to make the world a better place. In your name, Amen.

## ***Prayers of the People /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 Reading***

John 20: 19-29

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

*R.298, "Christ Arose"*

### ***Message***

*"Yeah...Um...Doubtful!"*

*Laura Hotelling*

### ***Special Music***

*"What a Wonderful World"*

*By Thiele and Weiss*

*Sung by Paul Balliet*

### ***Blessing***

One: As we move forward from this place, let us remember that some of the best things are those that came from the unexpected. Let us remember that although we will always have moments of doubt, that believing in the seemingly impossible can yield so much good and that in doing so, we can better the world.

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 April the UNA is holding the  
*Charlevoix First Congregational UCC* in prayer.**

**Eric and Meredith Anderson and family** – as they grieve the passing of Meredith's mother, Ardis Johnston.

**Helen Crandall's family** – prayers of celebration and thanks as a great-granddaughter has arrived to Amallia (Molly) Kassuba and Stanley Lamberies: Maylah Sue Lamberies born on 3/29/23; 7 pounds 8 ozs....all are doing WELL!

**Caroline Compton** – as she had major shoulder surgery on Friday, April 7 and is recovering at home.

**Duncan Palmer, grandson of Bo and Carol Leser** – as he moves from Florida to Virginia.

**Sallie Anderson and family** —as they grieve the sudden passing of Rod. On April 22, 2023, the family will receive friends from 9:30 -11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. The service will follow at 11AM in the church. A luncheon will be served in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

**Pat Kilbourn, a longtime friend of the church** – as she is recovering from a fall.

**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.

**Bill Dely**—as he recovers to a recent fall and continues to grieve the passing of his dog Max.

**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 Madison 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.



*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:** Laura Hotelling

**Liturgist:** Stephanie Kalember

**Greeter:** Carol Leser

**Flowers:** Cathy Otto

**Music Director:** Rokko Jans

**Altar & Banner Design:** Helen Mate

**Graphic Arts:** Brenda Brummel

**Production:** Maggie Wallin

**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)



## The warm miracle of *love*

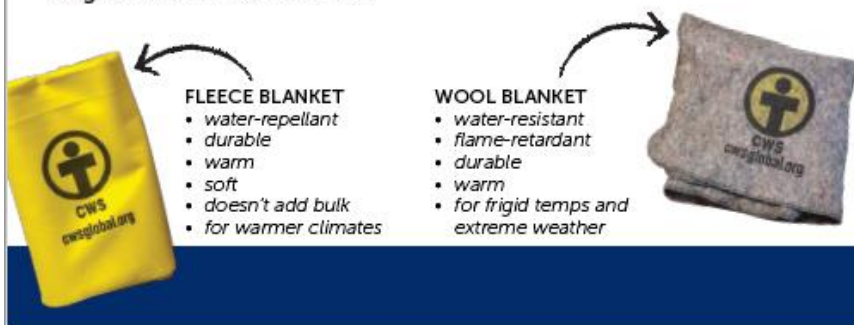
It's no secret that a miracle happens every time dedicated supporters donate to CWS Blankets.

Just ask the two churches in Columbus, Ohio that host "The Largest Table." During this monthly event, friends and neighbors experiencing homelessness are invited to share a meal and receive toiletries and items to keep warm, like a CWS Blanket.

"These are the kind of blankets that people carry with them. They pack them up in their roller suitcase or their backpacks," said Pastor Gini, one of the event's organizers.

For those experiencing difficult times, these blankets and other items serve as a warm and comforting reminder that they are loved.

**Do you want to be a part of the miracle of sharing love and hope with neighbors around the world?**



*"And don't forget to do good and share with those in need."*

— HEBREWS 13:16

For over 75 years, Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to people in the U.S. and around the world. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.

**\$10** CWS Blanket

**\$25** CWS Blanket and a CWS Hygiene Kit

**\$30** Three CWS Blankets  
(two wool and one fleece)

**\$45** Three CWS Blankets and a CWS Hygiene Kit

**\$60** Blanket Bundle! Three wool CWS Blankets  
and three fleece CWS Blankets



**CWS HYGIENE KIT**

- hand towel
- washcloth
- comb
- fingernail clippers
- bar of soap
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- bandaids

## - 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**

### **Birthdays:**

1 Anna Kalember  
2 Avery Ball  
3 Doreen Dobosy  
3 Kathy Arnold  
4 Duncan Palmer  
7 Jenna Andrews  
8 Paige Kassuba  
9 Jane Hanck  
9 Anna Fry  
14 Ben Fry  
14 Scott Fry  
16 Cathy Otto  
19 Aaron Hotelling  
19 Caroline Compton

### **Anniversaries:**

20 Alan and Becky Trendera  
25 Bill & Maxine Dely

### **Happenings at Church for the week of April 16, 2023**

**Sunday:** Worship, 10 AM  
**Monday:** Reaching Out, 7 PM  
**Wednesday:** Trustees, 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 our teams and cannot make the meeting time, please email us your ideas at [office@firstuccgaylord.org](mailto:office@firstuccgaylord.org). Thanks!