

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

April 23, 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.

Prelude Pondering

A pilgrimage is a journey whose destination is ultimately the same as that from which you set out: through it, you are asking God to show you your life, your home, your place, in a new light.

Words of Welcome

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***

Worship Leader: God said: 'Leave your country, your family and your relatives, and go to the land that I will show you.' (Genesis 12:1)

****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.

Opening Responses

Worship Leader: The day is coming when things will change.

Congregation: The day is coming when we will set out.

Worship Leader: The day is coming to cross the sea, to touch the earth, to plant a seed, to trust ... and not look back.

Congregation: To trust and not look back.

Worship Leader: The day has come when Christ sets out.

Congregation: The day has come for food and friendship.

Worship Leader: The day has come not to flee but to embrace; not to escape but to welcome; not to shut out but, in safety and in community, to trust and not look back.

Congregation: To trust and not look back.

Kids' Chat

"Going on a Journey"

Rev. Greg Watling

First Scripture Lesson

Psalms 18

***Hymn**

B.249,

“Peace I Leave With You, My Friend”

The Discipline of Letting Go

Luke 9: 57-62

Worship Leader: Along the way, someone said to Jesus, “I’ll go anywhere with you!” Jesus said, “Foxes have dens, and birds have nests; but the Son of Man doesn’t have a place to call his own.” Jesus told someone else to come with him. But they said, “Lord, let me wait until I bury my father.” Jesus answered, “Let the dead take care of the dead; whilst you go and tell about God’s kingdom.” Then someone said to Jesus, “I want to go with you, Lord; but first let me go back and take care of things at home.” Jesus answered, “Anyone who starts ploughing and keeps looking back isn’t worth a thing to God’s kingdom.”

Invitation to Generosity

***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

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

Luke 24: 13-35

***Hymn**

R.1. “For The Beauty Of The Earth”
(3 verses)

Message

“You Show Me”

Rev. Greg Watling

Special Music

“Songbird”

By Christine McVie

Sung by Emma Markham

Blessing

One: Downtrodden Christ, as we set out in sandals, boots and trainers, on wheels, and borne by angels, be our leader and our guide, our back-marker and our patience, with each other, with each creature, with ourselves – with God’s good intent all around us on our way.

All: 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 April, the UNA is holding the
Charlevoix First Congregational UCC in prayer.

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.

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.

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!

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: Rev. Greg Watling

Liturgist: Helen Mate

Greeter: Chuck Falk

Flowers: Cathy Otto

Music Director: Rokko Jans

Altar & Banner Design: Helen Mate

Graphic Arts: Brenda Brummel

Production: Mary Fox

Coffee Hour: Louanne Spearman

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

Communications Coordinator

Stephanie Kalember

989-732-5726

Monday: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Thursday: 12:00 pm – 4:00pm

E-mail: office@firstuccgaylord.org

Moderator

Margaret Wallin

margaretwallin@msn.com

Finance

Jessica Benoit

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

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 Lienarth
30 Ryan Anderson

Anniversaries:

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

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Happenings at Church for the week of April 23, 2023

Sunday: Worship, 10 AM
Council Meeting, 11:30 AM
Wednesday: Church Book Club, 1 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. Thanks!