

First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

April 30, 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

Liturgy (except where noted) from *While You Walk: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Easter*, written by The Rev. Sharon Lee Mei-Shem MacArthur (PSR 2001). Born and raised in Stockton CA by Immigrant parents from China via Hong Kong, with English as second language; UCC pastor recently retired after serving in churches in Northern California and Hawaii as senior pastor and intentional interim pastor; currently serving as Moderator of National PAAM, UCC Manual on Church Writing Group; lives in Hercules CA with Nowell, husband of 58 years. Worship Ways: United Church of Christ. Used by Permission.

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*

One: Come! Let us worship our God who listens to us...

All: Whatever language we speak!

One: Come! Let us worship our God who understands us...

All: Whatever story we live and share!

One: Come! Let us worship our God who loves us...

All: Just as we are!

**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

Holy One, God of many names, Be with us while we walk our road to Emmaus...Be with us as we share a simple ordinary meal with you.

Rejoice with us as we recognize you more clearly with each tasty mouthful of familiar food...that you are alive and real in our midst! May we open our hearts along with our eyes...to the resurrected Jesus during this hour of worship and beyond...that we become your Easter People of today...embracing all colors, nations, and races. Amen!

Kids' Chat

"Define God"

First Scripture Lesson

Deuteronomy 4: 29-31

****Hymn***

B.245,

“The Day of Resurrection”

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

(By the Gate: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter/Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) Sunday was written by the Rev. Kenneth Makuakāne, Senior Pastor of historic Kawaiaha'o Church, UCC in Honolulu, Hawaii. A prolific songwriter, Kenneth's compositions have been recorded by local artists, as well as international artists and he has received a total of 21 Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards, the Hawaii equivalent of the Grammy Awards. Worship Ways: United Church of Christ. Used by Permission)

Leader: God's love for the world has been revealed in Jesus Christ, who certainly loved us to the uttermost; Jesus – Savior and Lord – who at His last meal with his disciples gave them – and us – that new commandment: "...love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Leader: Merciful God, we have not loved you with all our heart and mind and soul. (silence) Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy

Leader: We have not loved our neighbors as you have taught us. (silence). Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: We are indifferent to the saving grace of your Word and life(silence) Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Forgive and heal us by your steadfast love made known to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: AMEN.

Leader: Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ, we are loved, and we are, forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Leader: God of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, along with these offerings we bring our hope that you continue to open our eyes to Jesus just as you did for the travelers on the road to Emmaus. Help us to see all of creation – the world and all who live in it – through your eyes. Help us to see and act, listen, and pray, feel and respond to your larger vision of what can be. Help us to grow in you...may our eyes be Easter eyes to recognize Jesus wherever we are, whoever we are, whoever we are with. 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

Romans 10: 20-21

****Hymn***

R. 6, "This Is My Father's World"

Message

"My Search for God"

Don Storing

Special Music

"Show Me the Way"

By Dennis DeYoung

Performed by Rokko Jans

Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

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.

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.

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

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: Don Storing

Liturgist: Helen Crandall

Greeter: Margaret Hellenberg

Flowers: Rod Anderson Family

Music Director: Rokko Jans

Altar & Banner Design: Helen Mate

Graphic Arts: Brenda Brummel

Production: Maggie Wallin

Coffee Hour: Mary Evans & Mona Viviano

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 -

Directory – The directory is being updated. It will be finalized and posted by Tuesday, 5/2. To assure that your information is correct, please look at the version in this week's eblast. Let me know of any changes there might be. Thank you! ~Stephanie

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



Keeping our neighbors in *prayer*

Being a part of the miracle and blanketing the world in love doesn't stop when neighbors receive a warm blanket. The miracle includes prayer too!

Here are three ways you can keep our most vulnerable neighbors in your prayers:

- *God of promises, you remind us that you are present with all your people, including those who call the outdoors home or people who are living in a temporary shelter.*
- *God of warmth, you are with our neighbors who are cold and need comfort.*
- *God of hope and promises, the blankets and kits we offer today represent our compassion for our siblings, acknowledging that we first received this love from God. We pray by sending these blankets and kits that God's grace will spread far and wide.*

Want to support CWS Blankets?
Scan this QR code to learn how
you can be part of the miracle!

Scan Me!



"Every year I donate to the CWS Blanket offering at my church. I know my gift will help to provide love, warmth, and comfort to individuals who need a reminder that someone cares about them."

— ASHLEY K., ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



CWS | CWSBLANKETS.ORG

BP 2339a

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 April 30, 2023

Sunday: Worship, 10 AM
Monday: Reaching In, 12 PM
Thursday: Bible Study, 11 AM
Women's Fellowship, 1 PM
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!