

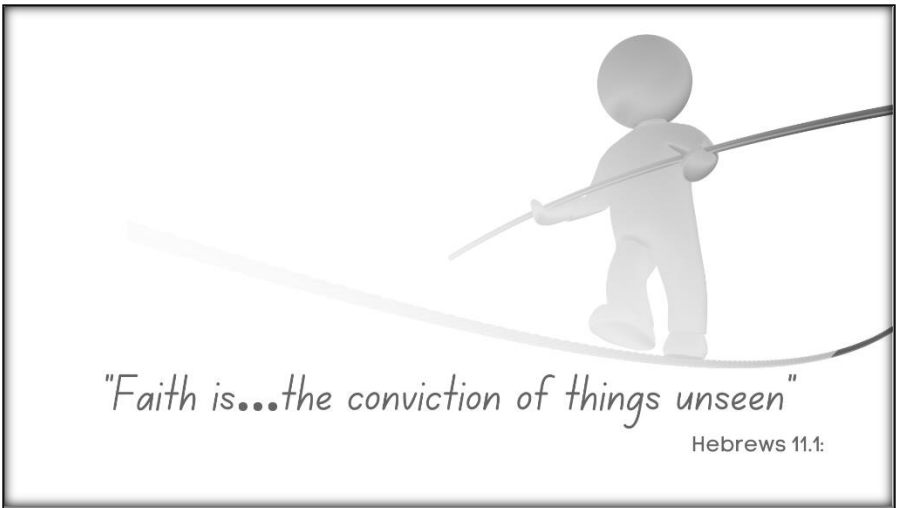
# **First Congregational United Church of Christ**

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

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

**April 9, 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.***

## ***Easter Proclamation***

Worship Leader: He is not here, he has risen!

**ALL: He is risen indeed!**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

B. 233, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

### ***\*Call to Worship***

One: Give thanks to our Good God whose unfailing love lasts forever!

**Congregation: Give thanks to our Risen God whose unfailing love lives forever!**

One: We gather together in the dawn of a new day. We look toward the tomb to seek the Enfleshed Word.

**Congregation: The stone has been rolled away. The tomb is empty! Alleluia!**

One: We find God alive in the searching, in the garden, in our hope-filled spaces.

**Congregation: Alleluia. Christ lives and finds us with unfailing love!**

### ***\*Invocation***

One: Resurrected God, you are the God of new beginnings, of new dawns and new mercies. Enter into our presence again. When we move toward the tomb, remind us that you come with life. When we despair at the world unfolding around us, assure us of your redemptive power. When we long for your voice, speak a word of hope, encouragement, and peace. May we reflect your image as resurrection people in covenant with you. 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.

### ***First Scripture Reading (responsively)***

Psalm 118

A Song of Victory

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

**Many: Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures forever.' The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.**

One: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

**Many: ‘The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.’ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.**

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

**Many: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

### **Special Music**

“St. Francis Prayer”

By, Alaric Jans

Sung by the choir.

### **Prayer Of Transformation and New Life**

One: Amazing God, we know there is nothing you cannot overcome. We confess to our profound need of your love, strength, and mercy. Too often, we come toward the tomb resigned to the status quo. We anticipate the worst even when you are the provider of every good and perfect thing. We allow despair over the condition of our world overwhelm us when you call us to follow you. Fortify us to live abundantly in your kingdom on earth. Transform us and breathe new life into us. Amen.

### **Words of Grace**

One: The One who transformed death can and will certainly transform our lives. Jesus welcomes us on the journey to new life. No matter how many times our steps stray, we hide from hard things, or we betray the good news, God’s grace meets us with an unfailing love to guide us on the path of life abundant and everlasting. Receive the resurrection power of the One who was and is and is to come.

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

One: Colossians 3:1-2 states, “So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” In the giving of our gifts, we seek the kingdom, we trust in the Provider, and we follow in the way of Jesus.

### **\*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: Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us.  
May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for  
your glory. 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.

### ***Gospel Lesson***

John 20: 1 - 18

### **\*Hymn**

*B. 238, "Now the Green Blade Rises"*

### ***Message***

"Mistaken Identity"  
*Rev. Greg Watling*

### ***Special Music***

"Angels Among Us"  
By, Goodman and Hobbs  
Sung by, Stephanie

### ***Blessing***

One: Like the disciples on the day of Resurrection, May we go toward  
the tomb a place seemingly devoid of life. May we find life in all  
its glory and spread the news that life prevails, that life redeems and  
that love never fails. Go in peace with resurrection purpose to love  
God, God's children, and God's creation.

All: **Life prevails. Life redeems. Love never fails. Alleluia! Amen.**

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.

**Brenda Brummel** - as she had eye surgery on Friday, April 7 and is recovering at home.

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

**Sallie Anderson and family** —as they grieve the sudden passing of Rod. On April 22, 2023, the family will receive friends from 9-11 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.

**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.

**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 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.

**Jen Crandall Finnegan** - as she was recently hospitalized with migraine headaches.

**Helen Crandall's family** – as a cousin's son passed away unexpectedly.



*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:** Don Storing  
**Greeter:** Mona Viviano and Carol Leser  
**Flowers:** Cathy Otto  
**Music Director:** Rokko Jans  
**Altar & Banner Design:** Helen Mate  
**Graphic Arts:** Brenda Brummel  
**Production:** Pete Amar  
**Coffee Hour:**  
**Brass Fanfare:** Aaron and Ian Hotelling

### **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**

**Birthdays:**

1 Anna Kalember  
2 Avery Ball  
3 Doreen Dobosy  
3 Kathy Arnold  
4 Duncan Palmer  
7 Jenna Andrews  
8 Paige Kassuba  
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 9, 2023**

**Sunday:** Worship, 10 AM  
**Monday:** Reaching In, 12 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!