

First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

May 14, 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.***

Worship Order from: Coming to You: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day/Festival of the Christian Home were written by Rev. Epenito "Rambu" Ursos, Jr., Senior Pastor of First Filipino American United Church of Christ (FAAUCC) in San Bruno, California. *Worship Ways: United Church of Christ. Used by Permission.*

Prelude Music

Rokko Jans, piano

Kerry Alspaugh, and Melissa Mannion, violins

"Pavane"

By Fauré

"21st Century Blues"

By Jeremy Cohen

Prelude Pondering

*Bathala Maykapal is the name given to God by ancient Tagalogs which means transcending supreme being and the origin of the universe. The name, Bathala, was encountered by both Muslim and Spanish missionaries arriving in the Philippines hearing it from the natives referring to the supreme being and maker of the universe. In ancient Philippine mythology Bathala is the supreme god and creator of all. Though the Spanish friars with Christian doctrine eventually got rid of the other deities (called anitos), they upheld Bathala which they retaught to the natives as equal to the Christian God. Even today the name, Bathala remains in many Filipino expressions such as, Bahala na meaning, God will take care of it or surrendering to God's will. In recent years, many churches have readopted the name, Bathala to be more inclusive to indigenous communities in the country who remain practicing ancient ways of worship with the Christian tradition. Calling God Bathala / Bathala Maykapal allows the Filipino to reconnect to Philippine ancient roots and spirituality. It affirms that God indeed is the God of many names and expresses the God-self in various ways even in ancient stories.

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: *Bathala Maykapal (Bat-ha-la My-ka-pal)—Creator God, you call us.

Many: We say, yes, to your invitation and we gather as one to worship you.

One: Bathala Maykapal—Creator God, you invite us to stay with you.

Many: You never leave us, you never forsake us, you abide with us, and we gather as one to worship you.

One: Bathala Maykapal—Creator God, you love us.

Many: Extravagant is your welcome, great is your faithfulness, your grace overflows, and we gather as one to worship you.

****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

Worship Leader: Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for being with us today and always. You have gathered us here to celebrate you—our Creator, our Mother, our Father—with the gift of your Holy Spirit. Let our worship be all about you as we humbly pray for the Holy Spirit to keep our hearts, minds, and souls in tune with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Kids' Chat

"Honoring Mothers - Pagmamano"

First Scripture Lesson

Acts 17: 22-31

****Hymn***

"God, You Wrap Your Love Around Us"

(to the tune of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus")

**God, you wrap your love around us, Like a blanket, soft and warm.
You give rest when we are weary, You protect us from the storm. May
each person who finds shelter In these blankets that we share Also feel
the joy and comfort Of your love's protecting care.**

**Jesus, you were once a baby, Sought by those who would destroy.
Into Egypt you were carried — Far from home, a little boy.
Were you wrapped up warm to travel, Safe from terror, free from
harm? Did you feel God's strong protection, Snuggled there in Mary's
arm?**

**May the women, men and children Fleeing danger every day
Know, through us, your living presence; You walk with them on their
way. Spirit, as you give them comfort, Teach us here to freely give;
May we blanket this world over With your love, so all may live.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Confession)

**ALL: We come in boldness and in brokenness Loving God. We come
in repentance asking for your grace and mercy for the
indifference we do towards you and our neighbor. Many times,
we have failed to keep your commandments to love you above
all and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Give us the grace to
abide in you as you remain abiding in us that we may live as
Christ lives in this world. Amen.**

Words of Grace

Worship Leader: God whose goodness and mercy chase after us, finds us,
and gathers us like a mother hen gathering her chicks.
Under her wings, God covers us with God's grace and
holds us close declaring, "My child you are forgiven.
Come back to me for you are loved." Amen.

**Celebration of The Sacrament of Baptism
for Jason Eric Peterman**

(Liturgy from *Book of Worship: United Church of Christ*, altered)

Welcome

Address

Questions of the Candidate

Congregational Assent

Worship Leader: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples and to offer them
the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and
celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and
care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and
grows in Christ?

ALL: We promise our love, support, and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized

Sung Response

B. 325. Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verses 1 and 4)

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

Worship Leader: May these gifts be our testimony of our faithfulness to
you, Abiding God, even as we offer to you all that we are
and all that we have for your glory, honor, and praise.
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 14: 15-21

Message

"I Will Not Leave You Orphaned"

Rev. Greg Watling

Special Music

"I Shall Not Live In Vain"

By Emily Dickinson/Ruth Morris Gray

Performed by the Choir and

Kerry Alspaugh, and Melissa Mannion, violins

Blessing

Worship Leader: The Bathala Maykapal (Bat-ha-la My-ka-pal) is with you and all around you—upholding, sustaining, loving. Go, and be Christ's justice and peace! Go, and be God's goodness and love! Go, and be the Holy Spirit's visible expression! 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 May, the UNA is holding the
Cheboygan First Congregational UCC in prayer.

Donna Kofler – as she is recovering from a fall.

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

Tony and Mike Dockery-Fobar – as Mike awaits testing and a possibly serious diagnosis.

Sallie Anderson and family —as they grieve the sudden passing of Rod.

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

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: Louanne Spearman

Greeter: Jeannine Wambold

Flowers: Mary Evans

Music Director: Rokko Jans

Altar & Banner Design: Helen Mate

Graphic Arts: Brenda Brummel

Production: Maggie Wallin

Coffee Hour: Women's Fellowship

Lawn: Jason Peterman

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 -

Spring Clean-up – Spring clean-up will take place after the fellowship luncheon on May 21st. Rev. Lillian Daniel is visiting and preaching that day, but please dress as you normally would for clean-up day. Rev. Daniel will be here to know us as a church and maintaining our lovely grounds is part of who we are.

Directory – The directory has been updated; however, if at any time you have changes, please forward them. You can access the directory via our weekly eblast, or stop in the office for a copy. It would be great if you could take a moment to check your information and let me know if you find errors. Thank you all for your input!

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>

Reaching Out – Reaching Out meets virtually. The next meeting is Monday, May 15. The Zoom link is below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83640729481>

Meeting ID: 836 4072 9481

Birthdays:

4 Pat Sepura
8 Brenda Brummel
10 George Dunn
15 Norm Dressel
17 Lani English
17 Don Storing
18 Jason Peterman
22 Pat Dressel
24 Julia Chwatun
25 Mackenzie Fobar
26 Roy Wolf
31 Alaina Anderson

Anniversaries:

16 Mary & Jason Peterman
20 Rollie & Louanne Spearman
25 Pete Amar & Mary Fox

Happenings at Church for the week of May 14, 2023

Sunday: Worship, 10 AM
Monday: Reaching Out, 7 PM (virtual)
Wednesday: Trustees, 11 AM
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!