

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God,  
we open our doors and hearts to all,  
in service and love as modeled by Jesus Christ.*



*Second Sunday after Epiphany*

*The Lord's Day  
Second Sunday after Epiphany  
Seven-Thirty and Ten O'Clock in the Morning*

## ***The Worship of God***

Gathering Music

The Greeting

The Spirit of the still-speaking God be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Music for Piano

The Collect

The Concerns of the Church

\*The Opening Hymn, No. 66 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

\*The Gathering

Longing to be recognized and affirmed, God turns our water into wine! With a steadfast love, God calls each one of us by name!

**We have come to this safe shelter of refuge, gathered under God's protective wings, seeking to feast on the abundance of God's word.**

Drink deeply from the fountain of life, listening for the voice of God, guided by the truth of the Holy One!

**God's gifts are poured out upon us in these sacred moments of worship, this holiest of settings, the Spirit inspiring and empowering us to become water into wine, inspired and empowered for service!**

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

ISAIAH 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

The Witness from the Gospels

JOHN 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Sermon

*The Good Stuff*

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

The Pastoral Prayer and 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, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

\*The Closing Hymn, No. 464 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

\*The Benediction

The Music for Piano

\*You are invited to stand as you are able.

## Concerns of the Church

As you noticed in today's Worship Folder the Closing Song has at least for the time being has been suspended due to the rapid rise in COVID and the necessary protocols response that this continuous pandemic demands.

In light of the spike in the omicron variation of COVID, the First Congregational United Church of Christ is now requiring parishioners to wear a mask during worship no matter their vaccination status. For those who are uncomfortable attending worship in person we continue to offer an online version of the 7:30 service, made available as quickly as it can be edited and produced. In addition, we remind you that if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or you are feeling ill, please stay home! We are all in this together!

The personnel team is actively seeking a non-member to fill the vacancy of Church Administrator. If you know of an individual that would be a potentially good fit, feel free to share their information with a member of the personnel team. A job description is available upon request.

Our January book selection is "Clark and Division" by Naomi Hirahara, facilitated by Susan Krivichi on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. A short description from Goodreads: "Set in 1944 Chicago, Edgar Award-winner Naomi Hirahara's eye-opening and poignant new mystery, the story of a young woman searching for the truth about her revered older sister's death, brings to focus the struggles of one Japanese American family released from mass incarceration at Manzanar during World War II." Questions? Contact Donna De Pape: [715-617-1710](tel:715-617-1710) Email: [spindle257@gmail.com](mailto:spindle257@gmail.com)

Online Giving is now available on the church website. With online giving, you can set up recurring or one-time gifts to be made automatically from your checking account or by debit or credit card. Online giving allows you to make gifts more conveniently and easier, especially when not physically attending worship. If you have questions on how to get started with online giving feel free to reach out to Alex at [alex@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:alex@eagleriverucc.org) or give him a call at 715-802-8501, Option 8.

Prayer requests can be sent to the prayer group through Tobi Johannsen (920-450-1402). We ask that any prayer requests mentioned from the pulpit have the permission of the one desiring prayer. Thank you for your understanding.

A polite reminder, as of now we have pledged a total of 140,174.00 toward our goal of 155,000.00. It is not too late to make a pledge if you are so inclined.

Frederick Place is a sixteen-bed temporary emergency housing shelter for families directed by the Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing (NATH). Admission is on a first come, first-serve basis and applicants must meet the federal and state guidelines defining homelessness including income limits. Residents receive services to help them draft and execute a plan for obtaining permanent housing. There is a zero-tolerance policy for violence, drug, or alcohol use in the home. Residents must be able to care for themselves without assistance. While the initial admission is for 30 days, stays may be extended for up to 90 days. There are guidelines for reapplying after 90 days to prevent additional bouts of homelessness.

Some of the ways that First Congregational United Church of Christ can assist the residence are:

- \* Help prepare or shop for ingredients for the monthly meals we are currently providing.
- \* Donate sides, such as bread, butter, dessert, and milk or juice.
- \* Drive the meals to Rhinelander on the meal day.
- \* Donate cash to help offset the cost of the meals.
- \* Donate needed items for the Wish List published monthly on the Frederick Place website; items can be purchased on Amazon and shipped directly to Frederick Place. (These items are given to the residents when they obtain housing to help them set up housekeeping.)

Contact Mary Lou Congdon or Susan Krivichi for more information or you may sign up on the volunteer sheet attached to the poster in the narthex.

The new phone number is 715-802-8501. Only the 3 middle digits have changed. Please update your contact list with the new phone number.

Scripture readers, ushers, and camcorder operators are always needed as well as readers for the Concerns of the Church. You may sign up by visiting our website; or you may also contact Joy Turpin at: joyfaithchapinturpin@gmail.com or (715) 479-6560.

Offering envelopes for 2022 are now available. You can pick them up from the counter in the back of the sanctuary. There are several boxes without names if you prefer.

Designated offering envelopes are not necessary to make a gift and to receive a yearly contribution statement. With our new accounting software, we will be recording contributions based on name and not by envelope number. Any cash offering that is placed in any envelope with a name on it, or a personal check will be recorded. If you would like to donate to a specific ministry, please indicate on the envelope or on the check memo line.

If you are unable to wear a mask, you are still welcome in worship, but the more who do wear them, the safer we will be.

The church office will be closed on Monday January 17<sup>th</sup> in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr Holiday.

In the interest of protecting members of the congregation from potential identity theft, we are removing the birthday list from the *Church Mouse* as a precautionary move. Unfortunately, there are people who are looking for just this kind of information to steal an individual's identity and First Congregational certainly does not want to be responsible for this unlikely but real possibility. For those who wish to continue the practice of publishing your birthday, we need written permission in order to do so.

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

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