

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.*



Third Sunday after Epiphany

*The Lord's Day
Third 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 Music for Piano

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Collect

*The Opening Hymn, No. 56 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

*The Gathering

The Creator of the universe bids us come and worship! Gather in awe and mystery, reverencing the Holy with eager anticipation, united as one in this sacred setting!

As one in the body of Christ, we come together to learn and to care for one another, gaining strength from our common bond!

As beloved faith community, we lean on one another to discern the will of God, trusting in the still speaking Spirit to lead, guide, and empower us!

Our joy in the Holy One is our strength, opening us to the words of life, as we lift our hands and hearts to the Source of all being!

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

NEHEMIAH 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Sermon

Oops, Said Too Much!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

The Concerns of the Church

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. 272 *The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

*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!

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 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.

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.

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 personnel team has found a new church administrator, more information to follow.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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