

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.*



*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The Lord's Day
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Seven -Thirty and Ten O'clock in the Morning*

The Worship of God

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by God's holiness; the nourishment of the mind with God's truth; the purifying of the imagination by God's beauty; the opening of the heart to God's love; the surrender of the will to God's purpose—all of this gathered up in adoration.

~William Temple

The Prologue

Yes, it is really in there! It really is in the Bible! “Do to others as you would have them do to you!” The phrase has been used so widely and is so worn out, that it seems like a cheap cliché. No, these are words attributed to Jesus, sage wisdom speaking a sermon all their own. Everyone asks, “Can't we all just get along?” The answer, unfortunately, is usually a resounding, NO! If we human creatures could only somehow learn this one great lesson, harnessing the essence of what has come to be conventionally known as *the “Golden Rule,”* the world as we know it would change in a nanosecond, becoming a much better place. Today's Witness from the Gospels in Luke gets to the heart of the matter of all our relationships, the core of every human interaction, especially to whom we aspire to be as beloved faith community.

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

God of the Golden Rule, we have gathered in this sacred setting to worship the One who calls us to be a worldwide beloved faith community, to come before you as people committed to your divine purpose, creating unity among all people; lead us to take such delight in you that our thoughts and desires become perfectly attuned to your will, that we may learn your ways of trust and commitment, empowering us to face with confidences all times of trouble and distress; reveal to us here your purposes and design, so often hidden from us in our preoccupation with our own narcissistically inclined concerns of immediate and superficial import; open us to care as you have cared for us in all we say and all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

*The Opening Hymn, No. 2 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

*The Gathering

Come near to one another and to God in this sacred setting! Be still before the One who knows the desires of our hearts!

We gather to worship God as beloved faith community, engaging one another in this holy hour, longing for quiet moments amidst life's anxieties!

Wait patiently, anticipating the presence of God, longing for the Holy to be revealed in our midst! God is our refuge, the One in whom we place our trust!

We reverence the One who knows us and is known by us, nourishing us in abundance, providing purpose and meaning for our lives!

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 45:3-11

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’”

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

Thanks be to God!

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 6:27-38

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Doing to Others!

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. 499

When Love Is Found

O WALY WALY

*The Benediction

The Music for Piano

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

Concerns of the Church

Lent is coming! As always, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This year it will be on March 2nd. We are offering two opportunities for worship this year, one service at noon and a later service at Six O'clock in the Evening. Each week during Lent we will offer a soup supper beginning at Six O'clock in the Evening, followed by a brief worship service, hopefully with some discussion. Those dates are: March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and April 6th. Maundy Thursday worship, April 14th, will begin at Six O'clock in Fellowship Hall with an Agape Meal, followed by Holy Communion, Footwashing, and the Service of Tenebrae in the Sanctuary. On Good Friday, April 15th, the Sanctuary will be open for meditation, prayer, and reflection from Noon until Three O'clock in the Afternoon. Finally, we will have a unity service at Nine O'clock in the Morning on Easter Day. We hope to see you there!!! P.S. We need volunteers to prepare soup for the suppers. Please let Debbie in the Church Office know.

In light of the spike in the omicron variations 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.

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.

We are asking that if you belong to a local organization (i.e., Lions Club, Rotary, Easy Eagles, etc.) that you would like to invite Tim to come to your meeting and introduce him to the community.

If you have any digital materials or any church records from previous years, please bring them to the church office.

There have been inquiries regarding the collection of greeting cards for recycling. Some card donating tips:

- All types of greeting cards, including Christmas are used.
- Only the card front can be used (please check to be sure the back side is clear of any writing, etc.)
- They cannot accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards.
- 5" x 7" size or smaller is preferred.
- St. Jude's Ranch for Children has a Recycled Card Program where the children take used cards and make new ones.
- The rewards are great. You get satisfaction in knowing the cards are used to help sick children, plus it helps keep your storage area uncluttered. The sick children get satisfaction in taking an old, used card and making it into a brand new one; plus they receive money for their work and they are taught entrepreneurship skills.
- Women's Fellowship pays the postage for the cards sent from our church.
- At this time, they are in particular need of Birthday and Thank You cards.

Church Staff:

Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor

Debbie Brown, Church Administrator

Jonathan Alexander (Alex) Fluegel, Information & Electronic Technology Director

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Linda Brainard, Pianist

Norma Yaeger, Pianist

Christine Clough, Cleaning Services

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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February 20, 2022



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

Church Office: 715-802-8501, office@eagleriverucc.org,

Timothy W. Shirley: pastortim@eagleriverucc.org

Website: www.eagleriverucc.org

Flowers are given by the family of Susan Krivichi
in honor of her 70th trip around the sun.