

# 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.*



*Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Last Sunday after Epiphany  
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
A Unity Service*

*The Lord's Day  
Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Last Sunday after Epiphany  
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
A Unity Service  
Nine 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

On this day of Transfiguration, we end the season after Epiphany, bringing to a close a long period of Ordinary Time. Today, we gather on the mountaintop with Jesus and his two new friends, Elijah and Moses. Wow! What a triumvirate! Transfiguration is a day devoted to mystery, a day wrapped in awe-inspiring transcendence, an enigma indeed! Once again, we are reminded that we walk by faith and not by sight, that we see through a dark glass, a dimly lit mirror. Our faith is both veiled and unveiled, or so it seems. And yet with each new day, we are becoming more in touch with holiness and the God who made us, creating us in the divine image.

### Gathering Music

### The Greeting

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

**And also with you.**



commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. But whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 9:28-43

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep. But since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen! Listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son! He is my only child! Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth. It mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon

*Trans!*

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

*Transform Us!*

REGENT SQUARE

*Transform us as you, transfigured, stood apart  
on Tabor's height. Lead us up our sacred mountains,  
Search us with revealing light. Lift us from where we have  
fallen, full of questions, filled with fright.*

*Transform us as you, transfigured, once spoke with those  
holy ones. We, surrounded by the witness  
of those saints whose work is done, live in this world as your  
body, chosen daughters, chosen sons.*

*Transform us as you, transfigured, would not stay with-  
in a shrine. Keep us from our great temptation;  
Time and truth we quickly bind. Lead us down those daily  
pathways where our love is not confined.*

\*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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 6<sup>th</sup>. Maundy Thursday worship, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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. Also, we invite you to please sign up for the Wednesdays you plan to attend to help us know how many people will be in attendance.

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](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.

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](mailto: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

105 North First Street ~ PO Box 1385

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February 27, 2022



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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Timothy W. Shirley: [pastortim@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:pastortim@eagleriverucc.org)

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Flowers are given by Marilyn Preisler