

# 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.*



*First Sunday in Lent*

*The Lord's Day  
First Sunday in Lent  
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

In the Book of Deuteronomy, we read an ancient liturgy crafted around the settling of the Promised Land, a litany of thanksgiving calling to mind God's benevolent grace during years of wilderness and exile. This ancient story calls to mind the adventures, the exploits of one who became known as the "Father of the Faithful," Abraham, a humble Bedouin herder, who in his quest for greener pastures, ventured far beyond the comfortable confines of his ancestral homeland, paving the way for Israel's great future as a nation. In the Witness from the Gospels in Luke, we read the familiar story of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness, his own personal exile. Three times he is given short cuts and easy solutions, a readymade, perfunctory, answer always available. Jesus never yields to the paths of least resistance, the least common denominators of compartmentalized pre-packaged simplicity. Jesus always kept his eye on the prize, knowing he had a purpose far beyond the immediacy of a meatless sandwich. This offering was even worse than a tasteless Vegemite spread! What's the point? Jesus had bigger fish to fry as he engaged the Holy, never failing to remember that there was something to be learned, a new discovery unfolding at every turn. It is a good, yes relevant, word for us all during these challenging, anxious, and exciting days!

### 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

Spirit above all spirits, we have gathered to worship and praise the God of tests, trials, and temptations, knowing that you are not the source of any of our tribulations, but join with us on life's wonderfully exciting journey; reveal to us in the faithfulness of Jesus and in the testimony of our ancestors in the faith, we pray to you, God of sacred promises, that you would keep us from the many temptations that inhibit our worship and silence our witness; inspire us to share both bread and meaning, to worship with pure motives, to serve without need for recognition or reward, that your name may be glorified and your will be done among us and through us; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God now and forever.

**Amen.**

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

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\*The Gathering

Gather to remember, sharing stories of your faith, rejoicing in the goodness of a loving God in whom all our stories are formed!

**Throughout our days, the Holy One walks with us, giving and sustaining our lives! The Holy One is with us wherever we go!**

Bring praises to the God, our refuge and strength, trusting in God's eternal promises, delighting in the One who dances with us and calls us to join in the dance of life!

**God frees us for new possibilities when we call out to the Holy! In listening, we know there is much truth to be revealed, much truth to be received.**

The Witness from the Hebrew Bible

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response

before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon  
The Music for Meditation

*Breading!*

Timothy W. Shirley

The Service of Holy Communion  
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. 491 *As Grain on Scattered Hillsides* MERLE'S TUNE  
\*The Benediction  
The Music for Piano

*The color for the Sundays in Lent is Purple, symbolizing the penitential nature of this holy season.*

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

## **Concerns of the Church**

Just a friendly reminder! The last Sunday of the month is always *A Unity Service*, meeting at *Nine o'clock in the Morning*. Please put these services on your calendar. (Please take note, the Palm/Passion and Easter Day services will be unity services.

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!!! Volunteers are needed. Sign-up sheets are located in the back of

the Sanctuary or call Sharon Breit (715-477-2163) or Linda Sanborn (715-891-5655). 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 and 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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March 6, 2022



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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

Website: [www.eagleriverucc.org](http://www.eagleriverucc.org)

Flowers are given by Grandma Pat Adamovich  
Please join in the celebration of Berklee's First Birthday in Heaven