

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.



Maundy Thursday

In Anticipation of Good Friday

A Service of Feasting, Holy Communion,
Foot Washing, and Tenebrae (Darkness)

*Maundy Thursday
In Anticipation of Good Friday
A Service of Fellowship Feasting, Holy Communion,
Foot Washing, and Tenebrae (Darkness)
Six o'clock in the Evening*

The Worship of God

The Prologue

Maundy Thursday is the day in Holy Week when we recall the events leading to Jesus' death on the cross. On this night, the disciples gathered for a meal that would prove to be their last with Jesus. In a demonstration of authentic servanthood, Jesus surprisingly began to wash the disciples' feet, the ultimate act of humility in the ancient world. All of this took place before those vivid scenes in the garden that culminated with Jesus' arrest, trial, and condemnation. Recalling the sacred events of that evening, we gather to share a meal and to receive the bread and wine, the holy supper of our Lord, in order that we might catch just a glimpse of the drama played out that fateful night some two thousand years ago. Traditionally used in either the Maundy Thursday or Good Friday liturgy, or both, the ancient Tenebrae, from which this service of darkness originates, dates to the early years of the Church. Derived from the Latin word meaning "shadows," Tenebrae depicts, through the extinguishing of candles and the dimming of lights, the flight of the disciples and the approaching crucifixion.

The Sharing of the Agape Feast

The Invitation to the Meal

The Blessing

The Eating of the Meal

**The congregation is requested to observe the discipline
of silence while moving into the Sanctuary.**

Gathering Music

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Music for Contemplation

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, whose dear Son, Jesus, our brother, our mentor, and friend, on the night before he suffered, shared a last meal with his disciples, the signature event initiating the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion; mercifully grant that we may receive the Eucharist, partaking of this bread and wine, thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; we humbly pray you graciously behold this your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, given into the hands of sinners, suffering death upon the cross, executed as a common criminal; all this we pray in the name of the one who now lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

The Call to Confession

Come, all who have resisted being in authentic relationship with Christian brothers and sisters. While a significant part of our faith involves our individual discipline, we cannot be Christian solely unto ourselves because so much of Christianity is centered around building beloved faith community, relating to those with whom we choose to be accountable and responsible. We are dependent on God whether we acknowledge that fact or not. We are in debt to Christ, who painfully broke bread and then humbly washed the disciples' feet as he announced his impending death. In the silence and stillness of these moments, let us confess before Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of shadowed crosses, oft times we believe we do not deserve all the blessings offered to us in Christ. We usually resist the servant role modeled for us by Jesus, believing it is beneath our dignity. We do not care to wash feet. Why should we stoop down before people who may deny and betray us? After all we do not know their heart nor their motives! God of all our Maundy Thursdays, we confess under the shadow of today's cross that our faith wavers before the slightest threat and our love is limited by our own self-interest. We want to serve without sacrifice or inconvenience. We need forgiveness, along with the courage to love according to the higher values set before us by Jesus.

Lord, have mercy!
Christ, have mercy!
Lord, have mercy!

The Assurance of Pardon

Beloved faith community, hear the good news of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. God hears our voices and listens to our supplications. Our spiritual ancestors found relief from the plagues in Egypt and freedom from bondage when they cried out to the living God. So, too, those who seek to know and serve God today are offered the bread of life, the cup of salvation. It overflows with a love that enables us to love one another.

Thanks be to God!

The Invitation to the Table

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

The Sharing of the Eucharist

The Music for Communion

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Silent Reflection

The Discipline of Foot Washing

The Invitation to Foot Washing

The Narrative

The Proclamation

The Washing of Feet

The Prayer

The Silent Reflection

The Anthem

Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You
Chancel Choir

Jay Althouse

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE (DARKNESS)

The Shadow of Betrayal, Cathy Palmer

LUKE 22:1-6

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people. Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve! He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So, he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

The Hymn, No. 196 (stanzas 1 and 2) *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

REDHEAD

The Shadow of the Agony of the Spirit, Mark Johannsen

MATTHEW 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated! Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death! Remain here and stay awake with me!" And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me! Yet not what I want but what you want!" Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping! And he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial! The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak!" Again, he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done!" Again, he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy! So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand!"

The Hymn, No. 196 (stanzas 3 and 4) *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

REDHEAD

The Shadow of Arrest, Carol Marshall

MARK 14:43-49

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived! And with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man! Arrest him and lead him away under guard!" So, when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him! Then they laid hands on him and arrested him! But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear! Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me! But let the scriptures be fulfilled!"

The Hymn (stanzas 1 and 2)

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

*Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended?
That we to judge you have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by your own rejected,
O most afflicted!*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, have undone you!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you!
I crucified you!*

The Shadow of Desertion, Ursula Charaf

MARK 14:50, 66-72

All of them deserted him and fled. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth!" But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about!" And he went out into the forecourt! Then the cock crowed! And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them!" But again, he denied it! Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them! For you are a Galilean!" But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about!" At that moment the cock crowed for the second time! Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times!" And he broke down and wept!

The Hymn (stanzas 3, 4, and 5)

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

*Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered!
All have now sinned, and the Son has suffered!
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded!*

*For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation!
The death of anguish and thy bitter passion, For my
salvation!*

The Shadow of Accusation, Pat Fox

MATTHEW 27:11-18, 21-26

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so!" But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time, they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So, after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So, when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood! See to it yourselves!" Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified!

The Hymn, No. 202

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

The Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation, Tobi Johannsen

MATTHEW 27:27-37

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head! They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head! After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him! As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall! But when he tasted it, he would not drink it! And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots! Then they sat down there and kept watch over him! Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews!"

The Hymn, No. 200

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

The Shadow of Death, Lori Hunter

MATTHEW 27:45-54

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon! And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah!" At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink! But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him!" Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last! At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom! The earth shook, and the rocks were split! The tombs also were opened, and many

bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many! Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

The Hymn, No. 195

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

The Shadow of Burial, Donna DePape

JOHN 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission! So, he came and removed his body! Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden, there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there!

The Solo

Were You There?

African American Spiritual

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

The Silence of Darkness

The Stripping of the Altar

The Return of the Light

The Procession

The color for the Maundy Thursday is Purple or Scarlet symbolizing the penitential nature of this Holy day. The color for Good Friday is Black, a sobering color that not only reveals the absence of light but also emphasizes the darkness reflected on this sobering day in Holy Week.

Please observe the discipline of silence as you leave.

Worship Notes:

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Debbie Brown, Church Administrator

Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education

Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music

Linda Brainard, Pianist

Norma Yaeger, Pianist

Christine Clough, Cleaning Service

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Vice President, Mark Johanssen

Trisha Moore

Cathy Palmer

Deb Stolze

Steve Burrill

Clerk, Norma Yaeger

Pastor Parish Relations, Tobi Johanssen

Women's Fellowship, Sharon Breit

Sanctuary Arts Group, Patti Roberts

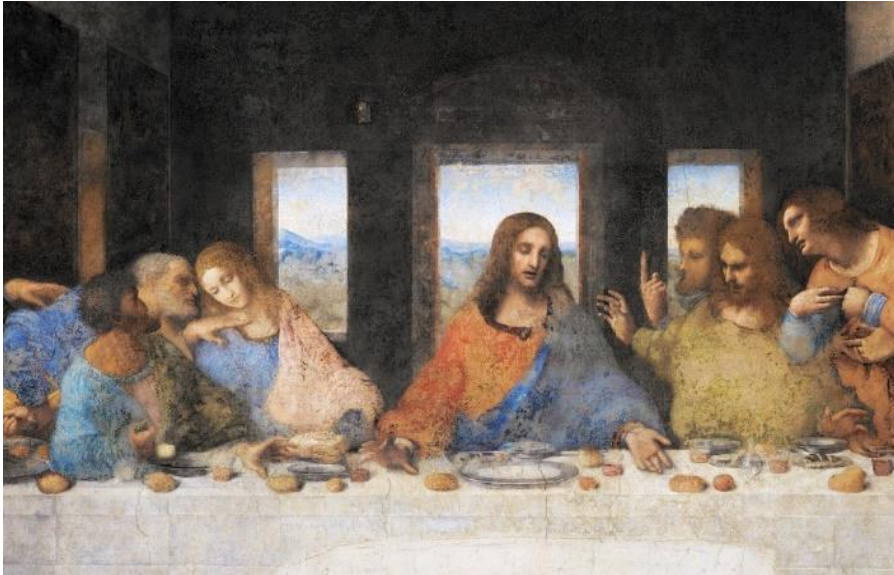
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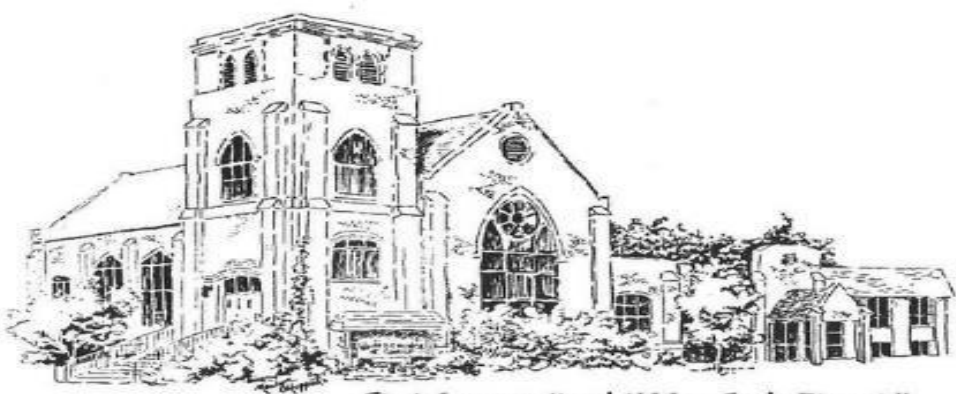


First Congregational United Church of Christ

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

April 6, 2023

Concerns of the Church

Don't forget! We have *Coffee Hour* every Sunday following worship. Please stop by for refreshments and some wonderful conversation! After all, fellowship is the spice of the steeple!!!

If you are able to volunteer to help with the **Homebound Outreach**, or know anyone who could benefit from this outreach, please contact Tobi Johannsen.

Prayer Concerns: As we worship today our thoughts are with Ruth Hibbard, Tom Helmick, Molly Jaeger, Gary and Bernice Gilbert, Marshall Patten, and Bernard Stanke. We continue to pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

Game Night:

Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 27th at 6 pm for the second annual First Congregational, UCC Game Night! It promises to be an evening of laughs, fellowship, and fun challenges for all ages. Barb Helmick and Nancy Diepenbrock are hard at work planning an evening that will include something for everyone, so come one, come all!!! Singles or couples, old or young, academicians or dunderheads, you are all welcome and won't be disappointed. There will be party snacks provided for munching during play, as well as beverages, but feel free to bring anything extra to put on the buffet. A signup sheet will be in the back of the church, so please add your name to help determine the number of players. It is not mandatory to sign up for the evening but would be helpful. Hope to see you there! GAME ON!

Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:

This month we are collecting items to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault provides refuge for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault from Oneida, Vilas, and Forest counties. According to the Tri-County Council's website, survivors often flee abuse with nothing more than the clothes on their back. Traumatized and fearful, they turn to the Council for safe shelter and to be provided with everything they need to start over from bedding and towels to toothbrushes and shampoo.

Please remember to bring your change to contribute to the ***Melody of Compassion*** fund, the proceeds of which go toward helping those in our community who are in need.

Just a reminder that the **Church Council** meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room. Church members are welcome to attend. The next meeting is April 10th.

Scripture readers (Lectors) and ushers 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.

The ***church budget*** for 2023 is \$150,000! To date we have received pledges in the amount of \$113,580.00. Pledge cards are available on the table outside the Church Office door.

Please sign the ***"Who's Who in the Pew"*** pads noting the service you attended.

