

**First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Just Peace Congregation
June 14, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress

Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music

Be Still and Know

Marty Haugen

**Be still and know,
Be still and know,
Be still and know that I am God.**

Call to Worship

St. Boniface

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children,
we praise you for all you have given us,
**for all you have done for us,
for all that you are to us.**
In our weakness, you are strength,
in our sorrow, you are comfort and peace.
**We cannot number your blessings,
we cannot declare your love:**
For all your blessings, we bless you.
**May we live as in your presence,
and love the things that you love,
and serve you in our daily lives. Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Spirit of the Living God

Iverson

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

Time With Children

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.
All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

Scripture

Psalm 46

Susan Evans

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Hymn

As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams

Land of Rest

As pants the hart for cooling streams
When heated in the chase,
So longs my soul, O God, for thee,
And thy refreshing grace.

For thee, my God, the living God,
My thirsty soul doth pine;
O when shall I behold thy face,
Thou majesty divine?

Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Hope still, and thou shalt sing
The praise of God, thy only God,
Thy health's eternal spring.

Sung Call to Prayer

One: We do not know how to pray as we ought,

All: But the spirit of God intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words.

Pastoral Prayer

Response

One: We do not know how to pray as we ought,

All: But the spirit of God intercedes for us, with sighs too deep for words.

Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to unmute and pray the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:

Our God, 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.

Sharing our Gifts and Music

Offertory

How Firm a Foundation

Early American melody

Prayer of Thanks

Blessed are you, God of all life! You rejoice in our worship, you attend to the cries of the poor, you offer hope in hard times. May our whole beings resonate in praise to you, as we offer you the gifts of our lives. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home,

A thousand ages in your sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising dawn.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream
Fades at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last,
And our eternal home!

Benediction

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress

John Leavitt

We are so glad you joined us for worship today!
Please remain in the meeting if you would like to check in over Zoom Coffee Hour.

News to Note

From the UCC Covid Task Force

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." -- Galatians 6:9

The First UCC community has found creative and supportive ways to stand with one another this spring, even as we connect remotely. Moved by love for our neighbor we have chosen the path of caution. The Covid Task Force is committed to staying that course while being responsive to changing local conditions. The church building will remain closed for now. After considering the current data, we have agreed to begin moving into a slightly more relaxed phase, understanding that an uptick in local cases may necessitate a return to our "base phase" in the future. For the time being, we are comfortable re-introducing in-person gatherings of First UCC small groups (10-15 people), so long as they can meet outside away from the church building, in spaces where social distancing can be maintained. Given the transmission risks associated with singing, we ask that small groups meeting in person please refrain from singing at this time. If eating is part of these gatherings, each person should bring their own food and utensils. Some groups who have been meeting online this spring may have members who are not comfortable meeting in person. We encourage groups to listen for any concerns from members and

choose the most inclusive gathering option, be it in person or online. Northfield Daycare will re-open on a limited basis beginning June 15. Worship will continue to be offered online for the foreseeable future. We are grateful to our staff for their willingness and ability to create meaningful worship services in this new format. The committee will meet again at the end of June to look at changing data and revisit our phased plans.

With thanks to all for your support and encouragement of one another and the work of First UCC,

First UCC Covid Task Force (Gary Carlson, Anne Meyer-Ruppel, Linda Larson, Erin Barnett, Greg Muth, Wendy Vander Hart, Janet Lewis Muth)

A Message from Council

On Sunday, June 28 - immediately following our online worship - we will have a special Congregational Meeting to vote on the slate of candidates to serve on our Transition Team and Search Team. These are incredibly important roles, and we are bound by the constitution to vote on them at a special meeting. We also really want and need congregational input! Please put the meeting on your calendar; we promise to be efficient. And continue to submit nominations for either role to governance@first.ucc. Many thanks to those who have already submitted names!

Juneteenth 2020: And We Still Rise

Join the Movement

June 19, 2020 will kick off a 4-year campaign within the United Church of Christ racial justice ministries.

Register for and join the live webinar, [And Still We Rise: Juneteenth 2020 event](#).

For more information contact Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Lovev@ucc.org

Zoom Worship Security - You Can Help

We have grown into our worship format on Zoom and are always looking for ways to enhance the experience. This includes paying attention to security issues that other congregations have encountered. Sadly, some churches have been what is now termed, "Zoombombed." Scattered worship services across the country have been interrupted by racist rhetoric and images. We have created a password to join Zoom to make the meeting secure, but have also made it public in order to extend our extravagant welcome.

As we have gathered on Sundays we have monitored who is joining the meeting. We have had a few occasions where we have not been able to identify someone- exclusively those who have not shown themselves on video or whose name on the screen is not identifiable. In these cases, we have reached out in the Chat feature to inquire about identity. In those cases where we have not received a reply, the person has been removed from the meeting and is unable to join again.

We respect that some do not wish to show video, but it would help us if you identified yourself by name. In Zoom, there is a menu item to "rename" yourself. We strongly encourage you to use this feature so we can recognize you. If we reach you via Chat, please respond so we can identify you. If you have

further questions about using Zoom, Carl Henry has generously offered to be a consultant. He can be reached at carlfhenry@gmail.com.

Remembering Arthur Campbell

Arthur Morrow Campbell, age 98, of Northfield, died Monday, June 1, 2020, following a fall.

Arthur was born in Lexington, Missouri, on April 4, 1922, and raised with his older brother Walter, by their mother Elizabeth (née McClure). Their father, also Arthur Morrow Campbell, died two months before Arthur was born. When Arthur was four years old the family moved to Nevada, MO, home of his great-aunt Alice Cottey, founder of Cottey College. There his mother taught English. In 1930 his great-aunt sold the college to the PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization) and the family moved to Kansas City, MO. Arthur and his brother lived with their aunt Virginia and grandmother Dora while their mother pursued a PhD at the University of Chicago. The next year, the family moved again to Parkville, MO, where their mother taught English at Park College. Please click [here](#) for the remaining obituary.

SCAM Emails

Many clergy have reported their names being used to gain monies from parishioners in a scam around gift cards. Pastors Lauren and Wendy will never send you an email or text asking you to contribute money to buy gift cards. Please be vigilant in checking email addresses and refrain from clicking on links should you receive an email making such requests.

Spotlight on our Gardens

The memorial garden grew out of the courtyard created by the 1996 addition that created the office wing south of the sanctuary. David Maitland suggested that the courtyard become a memorial garden. In 1999 Grove Landscaping designed and installed the stonework. Volunteers planted the garden in the early spring. But first there was a service to bless the garden gloves. Large stones, benches, etc. were loaded into the garden area through the hallway windows on the east side of the addition.

The garden was formally dedicated on May 10, 1999 during the Sunday service with the congregation watching through the hallway windows. The program listing the volunteers and donors was among the most comprehensive ever devised! – individuals in the Wheelbarrow Brigade, the Gutter Runoff Advisor, the Manhole Cover Donor and the Window Washers were among the many recognized for their help making the memorial garden a reality. Today volunteers, including Amanda Pettis Eastvold, Margit Johnson, Garda Kahn, Ed Langerak and Elizabeth Olson, continue to maintain the garden by weeding, pruning, and polishing the brass plaques on the two benches. Anyone wishing to volunteer their gardening services to the Memorial Garden may contact Margit Johnson, Johnson.margit@gmail.com.

How did there come to be a landscaping/gardening task force at 1st UCC?

You have to go back to the spring of 2014. That spring it was decided to remove a row of mature pine trees along the south side of the parking lot. Imagine a row of large stumps along the split rail fence and the two garages! Elizabeth Olson became interested in developing a garden in that area. But there was no money in the 2014 budget for new landscaping. Beth Kallestad, suggested that the church consider

applying for a Rice County Community Partners Mini-grant funded by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, Clean Water Fund and Elizabeth undertook the task.

On September 30, 2014, the church was awarded TWO grants; \$5,000 to develop a rain garden on the south side of the parking lot and another grant for \$5,000 to redesign the south entrance garden to include a rain barrel and rework the garden so plants and ground cover would better absorb stormwater to reduce stormwater pollution. Church member partners listed in the grant included master gardeners Tom and Linda Gagnon, Linda Wagenbach and Sharon Detert. Around fifty UCC members provided hours of loving labor to create the new landscaping. From shoveling and removing rock and old plants to planting and mulching new ones- as well as 35 of those volunteers watering the new perennials, shrubs, and trees every day-the plants survived and thrived!

Then in the spring of 2015 the newly formed committee decided that there needed to be a major reworking of the gardens on the east and north sides of the church as well as the garden west of the parking lot. Jan Shoger offered seed money from Ross's memorial funds for evergreens and Knecht's Nursery landscaping architect, Chris Lampert, drew up a plan. Donations toward the new landscaping were collected and work began August of 2015. The new gardens were planted and mulched, thanks again to many hands making for light work. Truly a community effort.

Now there is a need for volunteers to maintain the lovely landscaping. The plants are flourishing. If you would like to volunteer to keep the grounds attractive, please contact Elizabeth Olson elizabeth.k.olson1@gmail.com for more information.

Fighting Apostles

With our softball season on hiatus, I thought we could run some retrospectives for the congregation's reading pleasure.

Here is an entry from 2011.

Apostles win predestined....or was it?

I think we were all still contemplating Ed Langerak's weighty sermon Sunday evening when we took the field. This whole free-will-determinism thing knocked us back a bit, and we got off to a slow start against a less conflicted Evangelical Free Church's Cedar team.

We gave up six of the most inexplicable runs in the bottom of the first, and it took us two more innings to overcome our bad start. But this is a measure of the pluck these Fighting Apostles possess. We overcame our own mental lapses to eventually win 16-6.

Erik Burton led the way with an inside-the-park home run and a high-arching shot to right center that fell at the foot of the fence for a triple. Jacob Newman hit a similar ball to left center with the same result. David Beimers had three hits and two runs scored.

This afternoon, we square off with a solid Trinity Red team, 4:50 p.m. at Sechler Two. We're in the heat of the pennant drive now. Wish us well. ~ Scott Richardson, Former Fighting Apostle manager

Transition Team and Search Team Nominations Process

Throughout the past two years, First UCC has undergone tremendous change, much of it unplanned, and this congregation has navigated that change with grace and resilience. Now, it is time to engage purposefully with the next change. It is time to begin the search for our next senior minister. Today is the deadline for submitting names to nominate.

Forming the Transition Team and Search Team:

There are two ways congregants' names can be submitted for consideration.

1. Individuals within the congregation who feel called to be a part of either the Transition Team or the Search Team should submit a paragraph of interest to governance@firstucc.org.
2. Individuals within the congregation who believe they know someone who would make a good member of either the Transition Team or the Search Team should first have a conversation with that person to ensure their willingness to be considered. Then the nominator can submit a recommendation paragraph to governance@firstucc.org

The window for submitting names closes on Sunday, June 14th. It is especially important for those following the second path to submit names as early as possible.

Once the full list of interested members has been compiled, it will be considered and narrowed down to a slate of four to seven names by the three members of the nominations committee along with two members of council. These recommended names will be voted on by the full congregation at a meeting tentatively planned for June 28th, and the Transition Team will begin its work in July.

New Group - Who We Want to Be in Times of Extraordinary Change

Let's talk and write and draw to explore who we want to be during these times of extraordinary change. Elizabeth O'Sullivan and Linda Larson will be digging into these themes in a new group that meets for 8 weeks, starting this week.

We will look at stories from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah as conversation starters because these books describe rebuilding a community and identity after tremendous loss and change. However, this is not a traditional Bible study because our main goal is to befriend our own experiences of exile, loss, identity and rebuilding. Our weekly meetings will include a story from Ezra/Nehemiah, a discussion of that story, and a discussion of our own experiences. Between our meetings, participants will be invited to write or draw using prompts from the themes we discussed. To register your interest as meeting dates are set, please contact Elizabeth elizabethosulli@hotmail.com or Linda ralinlar@gmail.com

CAC Food Shelf

Due to extra anticipated needs this summer, the Community Action Center (CAC) Food Shelf could use any financial help you can offer.

Member Scott Richardson proposes a summer First UCC Food Shelf Challenge. He writes: "The Northfield Community Action Center (CAC) Food Shelf needs help. The pandemic has increased the number of local families who are challenged with food insecurity. The food shelf needs resources to keep its shelves stocked. I am suggesting that members of the congregation, as they are able, take the

money they would have spent in coffee houses or restaurants this past week and donate it to the CAC for food security. Northfield Rotary is doing that with money it is not spending on its noon lunches. This is one way we can make a difference while most of us are home." You may contribute directly to the CAC, or if you would like to contribute through the church, you may mail a check to the church, with "CAC Food Shelf" on the memo line.

ISAIAH News

Iman Asad Zaman, who is on the Muslim Coalition of ISAIAH, notes how "the Qur'an teaches us that to save a single life is to save all of humanity." We're seeing people all over the world responding to this call we all share.

Northfield folks linked to ISAIAH will be calling many of you in the weeks to come on what concerns you most of all as we formulate a loving vision going forward. Please respond to these calls.

If you would like to be part of local and regional meetings (and aren't already on the Isaiah email lists), please contact Carolyn c.fureslocum@gmail.com, Leota leotagoodney@hotmail.com, or Matt rohn@stolaf.edu.

Invitation to Prayers of Solidarity

During this time of pandemic, we invite you to take a moment of mindfulness or prayer each evening at 7:00 p.m. If it helps, set an alarm on your phone or device for this time each night. Pray for those who are living in isolation at home, or in assisted living, or in other care facilities. Together, at the same time each night, we will be praying in solidarity and hope. If you are isolated at home, or in an assisted living or care facility, we invite you to put a post-it note on your clock so you know that there are people all over the community specifically holding you in their hearts each night.

Giving to the Church

In an effort to care for those who are most at-risk in our community, we are worshiping online and connecting in small groups virtually. We still need your gifts! You may give electronically by visiting our website and clicking the "[Donate Online Now!](#)" button, under the Giving tab. You may also visit our website [electronic giving authorization form](#) and mailing it to Finance Manager Andrea Pegram at church. Gifts may be mailed to First UCC, 300 Union Street. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministries!