

**First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Just Peace Congregation
August 16, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

Prelude *In Thee Is Gladness* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Testimony and Welcome Amanda Pettis Eastvold

Announcements and Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music *I Woke Up This Morning* African-American spiritual

One: I woke up this morning with my mind

All: Stayed on Jesus,

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus.

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus.

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

One: Singin' and prayin' with my mind

All: Stayed on Jesus,

Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus.

Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus.

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Call to Worship

One: Come, Holy Spirit!

Many: Pour out your power on us, this day.

One: Grant us your solace and healing.

Many: Give us insight, courage, and strength for the journey.

One: Guide us in your amazing grace,

Many: That our lips may sing your praise and our lives may be a proclamation of your love.

Opening Hymn *My Shepherd Is the Living God* Consolation
(see next page)

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 Elizabeth Olson

My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Sermon

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

Hymn

Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire

St. Agnes

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

No prayers do humans make alone;
The Holy Spirit pleads,
And Jesus on the eternal throne
For sinners intercedes.

O Christ, by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way,

The path of prayer you too have trod;
Christ, teach us how to pray.

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

Larghetto

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

Prayer of Thanks

Holy One, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to your realm breaking into our midst even now. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Guide My Feet

African-American spiritual

**Guide my feet while I run this race, (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**I'm your child while I run this race, (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

**Stand by me while I run this race, (x3)
For I don't want to run this race in vain.**

Benediction

Postlude

Partita in C Minor: Rondeaux

J.S. Bach

**We are so glad you joined us for worship today!
We will gather in Breakout Rooms for friendship following the Postlude music.**

News to Note

The First UCC Transition Team is in Motion!

The Transition Team has been meeting almost weekly since it was elected on June 28, 2020. As a reminder, The Team is tasked with helping the congregation discern answers to three questions to inform our search process:

- Who are we now?
- Who are our neighbors?
- Who is God calling us to be?

We completed five community interviews this week to learn more about who are our neighbors. Many are scheduled for the coming weeks. It has been great to hear from our neighbors about their connections to First UCC as well as the challenges in the community.

Even while we listen to neighbor, we need to hear from you. We believe God is still speaking in this process and that we are called to co-create what is next for UCC.

We will be piloting Community Engagement sessions (via zoom) in August to hear from you. We are looking for creative ways to include as many people as possible. To that end, we are going to experiment initially with 3 sessions - one with an existing Connect group, one for an affinity group (Faith Formation parents) and one open session for anyone who wants to join. We want to keep the groups small enough for good participation. Know that we will schedule additional sessions in September, and will share what we learn along the way.

- Wednesday, August 26th – An established Connect Group @ 4:30pm (Full session already)
- Thursday, August 27th – Faith Formation families @ 6:30pm
- Sunday, August 30th – Open Session for congregation members @ 4:00 pm

Please RSVP to transitionteam@firstucc.org with your name, email and whether you wish to sign up for the Faith Formation families session or Open Session. We will limit each group to 12 participants, so

please respond early. You are also welcome to use this email address to send any questions or concerns you have about our transition process. Pastor Wendy and Sarah Carlsen will check this email regularly and share the content, but not specific names, with the full transition team.

We welcome your prayers for our work on your behalf!

Your beloved Transition Team – Bob Bruce, Sarah Carlsen, Margit Johnson, Shawn Nuebel, Laura Turek, Janet Lewis Muth (Moderator) and Pastor Wendy.

ISAIAH

ISAIAH's scroll handed to Jesus proclaimed that "he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19). We, too, are called to do this work, and there is much we can do now as another special session of the state legislature begins and the November election is on the horizon. Absentee ballots for the November election can be obtained at the Secretary of State's website as a way of voting safely and reducing contact poll workers will otherwise face.

Spiritual Practice of the Week

Each week, the Chronicle will feature different First UCCers leading us through a video spiritual practice, or talking about their spiritual practice and why it's meaningful in a short video. When we speak about spiritual practice, we believe it is important that the definition is open, because we recognize that people find many ways to express and experience spirituality. This week, watch Katharine Powers's video of Identification and Dis-Identification as spiritual practice. You can find it on our church website [here](#). If you would like to share a spiritual practice, please contact coordinator Sue Evans, susancevans@charter.net.

Staff Vacations

- Gladys Ehn, Office Manager - August 20-21
- Rev. Lauren Baske Davis, Minister for Congregational Life - August 19-24

Summer Drop-in Hours

In the summer season, Pastor Wendy and Pastor Lauren are setting up drop-in Office Hours in outdoor spaces or on Zoom. In order to maintain compassionate distancing and yet offer some venue for connection, you can find the pastors on these days, in these locations. You may either drop-in or send an email in advance that you plan to show up. Because there may be more than one person at a time, we hope community bonds will be built. For the outdoor locations, the rain plan will be to meet on Zoom instead. Dates range June 30 - August 28.

Pastor Wendy beginning June 30:

Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Bridge Square picnic tables

Thursdays from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. until August 27 on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97669397249>

Meeting ID: 976 6939 7249

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Pastor Lauren beginning July 6:

Mondays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on Zoom (excluding August 24)

Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Bridge Square picnic tables (excluding August 19)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95172199066?pwd=eS8xekowL3QwK2xJeDlFelp1VG9wdz09>

Meeting ID: 951 7219 9066

Password: 308429

Giving to the Church

In this time of pandemic, 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 and complete the electronic giving authorization form and mailing it to Finance Manager Andrea Pegram at church. Gifts may be mailed to First UCC, 300 Union Street, Northfield, MN 55057. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministries!

Care Ministry Team

A note from the UCC Care Ministry Team: WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! Please know that the Care Ministry Team wants to know if you have any needs that can be met by us or members of our congregation. We serve as the extra eyes and ears of the church, so please speak with any member of our Care Team if you or someone you know is in need of extra support--anything from meals, rides, deliveries of essential needs (groceries, meds, etc.), or weekly check-ins. We can connect you with congregational support. You can also continue to check in with the pastors. Our team is: Barb Altstaetter 507-645-9786, Barbara Crouter, Linda Larson 612-709-6795, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Bill Poehlmann 507-645-5422, Katharine Powers, Claire Rafferty, Kathy Sandberg, Jan Shoger 507-645-5236, Kellee Tussing, Gina Washburn, Bonnie and Larry Fowler 507-645-6930.