

**First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Just Peace Congregation
June 28, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

Prelude *With Joy I Await the Lovely Summertime* Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

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 Kate Layzer

One: Beloved of God, the Spirit is with us even now, gathering us in: you who are broken-hearted, you who are bold, you who rage, and you who weep.

Many: Our nation is an uproar. Our kingdoms totter before our eyes. Yet God's love is stronger! God's mercy and truth endures forever!

One: Gather, then, and let yourself be held in the presence of God's courage, strength, and love. The Spirit meets us wherever we are!

Many: Her love is poured out in abundance— where tears and hope are mingled together, where anger cries out for justice and peace.

One: Receive her power, wisdom, and healing in the work of liberation; receive her strength in stories of justice.

Many: Come, let us worship God.

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
Chris Brunelle and Mary Carlsen

Anglican chant,
based on 'A Mighty Fortress'

Sermon

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

Hymn

Shadow and Substance

Twilight

**Shadow and substance,
Wonder and mystery,
Spellbinding spinner of atoms and earth,
Soul of the cosmos,
Person and energy,
Source of our being, we sing of your worth.**

**We are your image,
Formed in community,
Sisters and brothers of Adam and Eve.
You gave us color,
Custom and history;
Teach us to honor what others receive.**

**Naming the nameless
Spirit of unity,
Scanning the heavens for signs of your care,
God of the ages,
Give us humility;
Guide us to mystical union in prayer.**

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

Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul

Siegfried Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Prayer of Thanks

Generous God, who inspires our own generosity, receive this offering of spirit, means, and energy. May what we give be a glimpse of our whole-hearted investment in partnering with you for a world of peace and joy. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ellacombe

**I sing the mighty power of God that made the heavens rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word and then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky.**

**On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, o God, are present there.**

Benediction

Postlude

Minuet

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Matt and Avery Eastvold, violin
Roger Solie, 'cello

**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

Special Congregational Meeting Called

Peace be with you. I am writing to share information for our special congregational meeting today. Our gathering will commence immediately following worship on Zoom. At the start of the meeting, you will hear a presentation that describes the process of Nominating, [the names](#) on the slate and how we will conduct our meeting in the Zoom format. There will be time for questions, as with all congregational meetings.

I hope you can be present and help us take these next steps on our transition journey. Thank you.
Janet Lewis Muth, Moderator

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 and 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 meeting on Zoom instead. Dates range from June 30 - August 28.

Pastor Wendy:

Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Bridge Square picnic tables
Every week on Thursdays from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. until August 27 on Zoom
Wendy Vander Hart is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Drop-in Office Hours with Pastor Wendy

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

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 pm on Zoom
Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Bridge Square picnic tables
Lauren Baske Davis is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Office Hours - Pastor Lauren

Time: Jul 6, 2020 01:00 PM - 3:00 PM Central Time

Every week on Mon, until Aug 31, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 951 7219 9066

Password: 308429

Staff Vacations

Chris Brunelle, Senior Choir director- June 27 - July 12

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis, Minister of Congregational Life - June 28 - July 5

Gladys Ehn, Office Manager - July 21 - August 4

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart, Interim Senior Minister - August 3 - 10
Andrea Pegram, Finance Manager- August 8 - 15

Engaging Racial Justice through the MN Conference

Don't miss two UCC virtual events mentioned in the Conference "COMMAntary: "[Justice Walk to Justice Talk](#)" webinar and the "[Youth and Adults Connecting for Racial Justice](#)" gathering.

Spotlight on Windows Project

The windows in the fellowship hall, kitchen, and parlor have all been replaced with new custom-made Marvin windows, and the next step in the project is the large window in the library (or chapel, as it was known). This window is unique and very large, so it's been a trick to imagine how to design the new window, but we have figured out a way that will keep with the original feel of the window. We are now at the phase of making templates -- basically transferring the shape of the window onto paper, and then sending those to Marvin. The new window will be installed by Northfield Construction Company, as they are our local contractors for this whole project. You may have noticed one detail that was done in preparation for the new library window's arrival: the old ceiling of the library had been built in such a way that it hid from view the top of the pointed arch on that window. Northfield Construction has now vaulted that small section so the entire window can be seen. Much of the work has been delayed due to the pandemic, but it's still hopeful that we will have the new window installed before winter. ~ Christie Hawkins

Isaiah's Work...

...for Racial and Economic Justice

The need for prophetic imagination grounded in faith and community is great right now. The killing of Black and brown people in Minnesota and across the country is an affront to justice for all of us. While we did not build these structural challenges, we all have the responsibility to dismantle them. Here is an opportunity to act:

- Contact your State Senator: The MN House passed the POCI (People of Color and Indigenous) Caucus's package of proposed reforms for systemic justice in the wake of the George Floyd murder. Isaiah calls on the Senate to also pass these crucial reforms. Please email or call your Senator to support the reforms addressing systemic inequities.

If you would like to be part of local and regional Zoom 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.

Helping the CAC

Due to extra anticipated needs this summer, the Community Action Center (CAC) Food Shelf could use any financial help you can offer in both food shelf and housing assistance needs. Keeping families who are already challenged with food insecurity in their homes is a great challenge, especially in this time of pandemic and financial uncertainty. If you are able to donate to the CAC for food or housing assistance, it would be greatly appreciated in this time. You can donate directly through their website, [here](#).

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.

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!

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, child care, crisis help or weekly check-ins. We can connect you with congregational support. You can also continue to check in with the pastor. 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, Claire Rafferty, Bonnie and Larry Fowler 507-645-6930.