

**First United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming
Just Peace Congregation
July 12, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

Prelude "Brotherly Love" (1995) Dave Brubeck
(from Two-Part Adventures)

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candle

Gathering Music *The Kingdom of God* Austin C. Lovelace (1985)

Refrain: **It is like the kingdom of God and a mystery.**

Call to Worship Adapted from Thom Shuman

One: Welcoming God, you gather everyone, especially the outsiders.

Many: For you are protector of the helpless, parent to the poor, friend of the lonely.

One: There is not any place you will not go to bring your grace to others.

Many: In you, the enemy is made a friend, the broken are made whole, the shelterless find a home.

One: Your gentleness falls upon us, and our fears of rejection melt. Your truth is whispered in our ears, and our arms embrace strangers.

Many: Your peace is poured into our souls, and we are reconciled to all we hurt. Your love throws open our shuttered hearts, and we see our siblings in you, all around us. God of Grace, Forgiveness and Community, in you we have life and hope forever.

Opening Hymn *O My Soul Bless Your Creator* Stuttgart

**O my soul, bless your Creator;
all within me bless God's name;
bless your Maker, and forget not
all God's mercies to proclaim.**

**Far as east from west is distant,
God has put away our sin;
Like a mother and a father,
God compassionate has been.**

**God forgives all your transgressions,
all who suffer, gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction,
and with you so kindly deals.**

**As it was without beginning,
so it lasts without an end;
To their children's children ever
shall God's righteousness extend**

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

2 Corinthians 2:1-10

Kris Felbeck

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Hymn

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing Grace

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Kay Sahlin, flute

Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

There's a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice
Which is more than liberty;
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is all the joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the head.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,
We should take him at his word,
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

Fearful souls, why will you scatter
Like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
From a love so and deep?
There is welcome for the sinner
And more the graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior;
There is healing in his blood. Amen.

Prayer of Thanks

With hope in our hearts, we offer you the gifts of our lives, O God. Entrusting them to you, we pray they may be used for your realm, which welcomes all, loves all, needs all, and serves all. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

My Soul, Go Forth, This Summer Day

MY SOUL, GO FORTH, THIS SUMMER DAY

Paul Gerhardt, 1653
Tr. Britt Hallqvist, 1980, alt.

I DENNA LJUVA SOMMARTID 8.8.7.D.
Anders Öhrwall, 1980



1 My soul, go forth, this sum - mer day, Go forth, be glad, re -
2 For when I hear the thrush - es' song, The lark re - joic - ing
3 But all the beau - ty of the earth, The glo - rious sum - mer,



joice and say: I thank God for these pleas - ures. See,
all day long High o - ver hills and moun - tains, Then
songs of mirth, Are but a glimpse of heav - en. What



all a - round the earth is new, God has a - dorned the
I can - not re - strain my voice, I will sing prais - es
God will show to you one day Eye has not seen, nor



world for you With won - der - ful green treas - ures.
and re - joice; My thanks will flow like foun - tains.
tongue can say What won - ders we'll be giv - en.

Benediction

Postlude

“Prelude in C Major” BWV 545

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

News to Note

Transition Team Work is Underway

The newly elected Transition Team began its work on July 8 with a two hour meeting to get acquainted with each other and with the work ahead. Janet Muth, Moderator, joined the Team for the meeting as ex officio and it is also staffed by Pastor Wendy. Sarah Carlsen has agreed to chair the Team and they will be meeting weekly through the rest of the month. An [email](#) is available for the Team that the congregation can use to communicate questions or feedback directly to the group. The Team covets your prayers for their work on behalf of the whole. Watch the Chronicle for regular updates as well as announcements in Zoom worship.

MN Conference UCC Offers Faith Formation Resources

Spice Up Your Summer with Our New Family Connections Toolkit!

The Minnesota Conference Outdoor Ministry is partnering with a team from Danger Boat Productions and Doing Good Together to provide five weeks of a family-focused toolkit, a collection of at-home faith formation resources to support parents at a time when COVID-19 has interrupted the routines of daily life and altered so many summer plans.

Week 1 focuses on Connecting with the Sacred in Nature and offers a fantastic collection of spiritual practices, games, activities (like how to make an insect hotel!), readings, videos and more. The toolkit is available on the Conference's website in weekly installments July 8 through August 5.

To receive an email with the weekly toolkit offerings, [email Sandy Kellen](#).

Free Cloth Masks

First UCC member Sarah Entenmann has been busy sewing and has a great offer to the church community – free cloth masks! If you are interested, you can email Sarah [here](#). She will reply with details of pick-up location and timing. Thank you Sarah for this ministry of care!

How to Be an Antiracist Book Group

Sarah Carlsen and Carrie Menk will provide a safe container, via Zoom, in which to practice honest self-reflection and humility about our ability to practice antiracism in our lives. We want the opportunity to move the knowing about antiracism from our heads to our hearts. The group will be an offering of three 90-minute sessions, and likely additional sessions for people who are wanting to move to action.

The book we will begin our book group with is, *How to Be an Antiracist*, by Ibram X. Kendi. People are invited to read the entirety of the book prior to our first session, working through the book a second time as a group with a greater sense of personal goals from the book study process. There will be three 90-minute sessions, with a combination of large and breakout group sessions. Sessions will run 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Sarah and Carrie will set the container with the large group, give questions for small group time, and then bring the large group back together. People are encouraged to get together to talk in between sessions for further discussion. NOTE: Two session 1 options (exactly the same) will be offered, to ensure that folks can make the first session, working around existing summer plans.

- Session 1 - Focus on self and personal challenges around being antiracist. Choose just one time: July 29 OR August 12, 6:00- 7:30 p.m.
- Session 2 - Focus on our interpersonal/community challenges with being antiracist - September 9, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Session 3 - Focus on 1st UCC and where structural racism is showing up in our community and life - September 30, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

We are also anticipating that we could follow this session by reading another book that might help us start to answer the "Who is our neighbor?" question: *The Undocumented Americans* by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, a DACA recipient who reports on multiple undocumented experiences from across the nation while exploring her own personal narrative. We will use Zoom so it is accessible to everyone.

Please contact [Sarah](#), and [Carrie](#), to sign up or for more information.

First UCC Women's Group

The First-UCC Women's Group provides an opportunity for a time of sharing and forming new friendships. We share our stories and discuss current issues as we draw support from each other. Our next Zoom meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14 at 10:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to join the Women's Group. If you are new to the group and would like to join in, please contact me with your name and email address and I will be happy to add you to our contact list and for Zoom meeting announcements. [Email](#) me, or call/text me at 507-412-7861. We look forward to having you join us! Judy Kinstad, Coordinator

***My Grandmother's Hands, Healing Racialized Trauma* Book Group**

Would you like to be part of an "Abolitionist Culture" to end racism? If so, we each need to start with our own. Resmaa Menakem is an African American trauma therapist from Minneapolis who published a powerful book, *My Grandmother's Hands, Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies*. In this book, he makes the connection of how racism was used on black bodies to shore up capitalism, and that white bodies all have been conditioned into racism for this reason as well, including police bodies. Menakem is a powerful mind/body therapist and his book includes many practices for us all to look at this conditioning in our own lives and history, including ancestral history with powerful opportunities to create a different culture. He does not want us to merely have a book group, but to see the possibility of actually doing our work which we all need to do, together. If you are interested in being part of this group, please email Dorothea Hrossowyc [here](#). We will meet for 75 minutes, weekly for 12 weeks, on Zoom, starting at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. The book is a bit hard to find, as it has become popular, but you can get it immediately on Audible or on Kindle. You can also check online,

where there are some used copies available. Please sign up by emailing, and the start date will be announced soon.

Summer Drop-in Office Hours

In the summer season, Pastor Wendy and Pastor Lauren have drop-in Office Hours in outdoor spaces or on Zoom. 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

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

Join Pastor Wendy Office Hours Zoom Meeting on Thursdays

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

Meeting ID: 976 6939 7249

Pastor Lauren:

Mondays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm on Zoom

Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Bridge Square picnic tables

Join Pastor Lauren Office Hours Zoom Meeting on Mondays

<https://zoom.us/j/95172199066?pwd=eS8xekowL3QwK2xJeDIFelp1VG9wdz09>

Meeting ID: 951 7219 9066

Password: 308429

Staff Vacations

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

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

Isaiah Builds Hope!

In this very difficult time for our state and country, many of us have found hope in taking action with ISAIAH. Because the state legislature will likely return soon for another special session, it is still urgent to contact your [Senators and Representatives](#) to pass bills on healthcare, housing, and police accountability (as framed by the People of Color and Indigenous Caucus). Please call about these or other matters that help to build the "beloved community" where everyone can thrive, no matter their color, age, religion, sexual orientation, or zip code.

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](#).

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, 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 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, Bonnie and Larry Fowler 507-645-6930.