



**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**First United Church of Christ**  
**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation**  
**September 12, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

**Prelude**

*Go and Do the Same* Claire Lynch and Pamela Brown Hayes  
Mark and Holly Fischer

**Announcements and Lighting of the Candle**

**Call to Worship**

One: In the name of Jesus  
the bread breaker  
the light gatherer  
cross carrier

**Many: welcome**

One: May the peace of Jesus  
the peacemaker and the temple disturber  
the friend of the sinner  
and companion on the road

**Many: be with us all**

One: Let us draw close to Jesus  
the savior  
the healer  
the teacher

**Many: and ask ourselves,  
who do we say he is?**

**Opening Hymn**

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

Holy Manna

V1 Brethren, we have met to worship  
And adore the Lord our God.  
Will you pray with all your power  
While we try to preach the word?  
All is vain unless the spirit  
Of the Holy One comes down;  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna  
Will be showered all around.

V2 Sisters, will you join and help us?  
Moses' sisters aided him.  
Will you help the trembling mourners  
Who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior,  
Tell them that he will be found;  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna  
Will be showered all around.

V3 Let us love our God supremely,  
Let us love each other, too;  
Let us love and pray for sinners  
Till our God makes all things new.

Then he'll call us home to heaven,  
At his table we'll sit down;  
Christ will gird himself and serve us  
With sweet manna all around.

### Time With Children

**All your children shall be taught by God, and they shall have peace.** (Isaiah 54:13)

### Scripture

Mark 8:27-38

Carol Rutz

### Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

### Prayer Hymn

*Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You*

NCH #510 (Quem Pastores)

V1 Grant us wisdom to perceive you,  
hearts awakened to receive you,  
minds alert to thoughts that grieve you,  
God of mercy, hear us.

V3 Grant us diligence in doing,  
patience when your truth pursuing,  
eager to receive renewing,  
God of mercy, hear us.

V2 Grant us faithfulness in praying,  
strength to keep our souls from straying,  
sense to cease from disobeying,  
God of mercy, hear us.

V4 Grant us courage to proclaim you;  
Savior of our lives we name you!  
May our actions never shame you;  
God of mercy, hear us.

### The Prayers

*We will begin prayers in song, then a minister will pray, and there will be time for silent prayer. Then we will sing again. All joining worship on Zoom are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.*

### Sung Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,  
Many: **God, let your spirit move in us.**

### Prayer of Jesus

*You are invited to speak 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.**

**Offertory**

*On the Pilgrim Way*  
Mark and Holly Fischer

Holly Turnquist Fischer

**Prayer of Thanks**

Adapted from Carol Penner

**Holy One, we offer our gifts to you with grateful hearts. Thank you for meeting our needs on the journey, providing what we need when we need it. Because of you, we can share what we have with others joyfully, together, today, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending**

*The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

NCH #306 (Wareham)

V1 The church of Christ, in every age  
Beset by change, but Spirit-led,  
Must claim and test its heritage  
And keep on rising from the dead.

V2 Across the world, across the street,  
The victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat,  
And never live before they die.

V3 Then let the servant church arise,  
A caring church that longs to be  
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
And clothed in Christ's humanity.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Where Can I Go but to the Lord?*  
Mark Fischer and Holly Fischer

J.B. Coates

Where could I go, oh where could I go?  
Seeking a refuge for my soul,  
Needing a friend to help me in the end,  
Where could I go but to the Lord?

**We are so glad you worshiped here today!**

**Zoom breakout rooms are available for friendship and conversation after the service. Whether you attended in person or online, you're invited to join in conversation on the lawn after worship. We hope you will stay!**

## **News to Note**

**Worship Information**

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Recently, First UCC returned to full capacity worship in the sanctuary, with no registration required. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom. Whether you are

joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here! Are you visiting today? [Fill out our virtual visitor card.](#)

### **Giving to the Church**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. Give online by visiting [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org) and clicking the "Give Now!" button under the "Giving" tab, or send in your gifts via mail.

### **News & Announcements**

Keep up-to-date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! [Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter](#), and find First UCC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org).

### **This Week at First UCC**

#### Tuesday, September 14

10 a.m. First UCC Women's Group (Zoom; contact Judy Kinstad for link [wjk@q.com](mailto:wjk@q.com))

1-2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

3-5 p.m. Pastor Lauren Drop-In Office Hours (Bridge Square)

#### Wednesday, September 15

5:30-6:30 p.m. Senior Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Zoom)

#### Thursday, September 16

10 a.m. Care Team Meeting (Assembly Room)

#### Saturday, September 18

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Hispanic Heritage Celebration Transportation Hub (Parking Lot)

#### Sunday, September 19

9:15 a.m. Children's Faith Formation (Front Lawn)

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship

### **ISAIAH (Faith-Based Community Organizing)**

Join the local Lutheran 2021 Faith Build to help construct Habitat for Humanity homes in Northfield on September 18-19. No prior construction experience is necessary, and volunteers will be guided by construction professionals on site. To learn more and register, visit <https://habitatricecounty.org/volunteer> and click on "On Site Volunteers (Quad/Faith Build)." Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org).

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Alexej von Jawlensky, 1864-1941, Meditation, The Prayer, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56613> [retrieved September 10, 2021]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jawlensky\\_Meditation\\_Das\\_Gebet\\_1290067.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jawlensky_Meditation_Das_Gebet_1290067.jpg).

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### **First UCC Leadership & Staff**



**Ministers:** All the people

**Moderator:** Sam Steinberg

**Minister for Congregational Life:** Lauren Baske Davis

**Director of Music:** Chris Brunelle  
**Organist:** Theo Wee  
**Director of Communications & Operations:** Green Bouzard  
**Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund  
**Sexton:** Mark Fischer

**Thanks to this Week's Leaders**

**Ushers:** Anne Meyer Ruppel, Mandy Everhart, Crystal Henslin,  
Barbara Crouter, Cyrus Kirby

**Reader:** Carol Rutz

**Special Musicians:** Mark and Holly Fischer

**Cantor:** Mary Carlsen

**Digital Zoom Host:** Gary Wagenbach

**Tech Team:** Mackenzie Perkins

**ASL Interpretation:** Mary Jo Cristofaro

**Worship Arts:** Linda Gagnon