



**Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**New Member Sunday**  
**First United Church of Christ**  
**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Congregation**  
**November 21, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

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

**Prelude** *Simple Gifts* arr. Jan Sanborn

**Testimony** Shana Hodel

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Gathering Music** *Come, Let Us Worship God* Ray Makeever (1983)  
(join in as directed)

**Call to Worship**

One: We thank you, God, for families and friends. We thank you for the warmth of kitchens, quilts, and good neighbors.

**ALL: We thank you, God, for newborn kittens and faithful dogs, for pine trees and sunlight and crisp, clear air.**

One: We thank you, God, for the sound of laughter and the touch of love, for brand new mornings and for dreams held close.

**ALL: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise. Come! Let us worship God.**

**Opening Hymn** *Come, O Thankful People, Come* #422 (St. George's Windsor)

v1 Come, O thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
as the winter storms begin;  
God our Maker does provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.

v2 All the blessings of the field,  
all the stores the gardens yield,  
all the fruits in full supply,  
ripened 'neath the summer sky,  
All that spring with bounteous hand  
scatters o'er the smiling land,  
all that liberal autumn pours  
from its rich o'erflowing stores.

v3 These to you, our God, we owe,  
source from whom all blessings flow;  
and for these our songs we raise,  
grateful vows and solemn praise.  
Come, then, thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.

**Land Acknowledgement Statement**

As a community of faith, we at First UCC Northfield acknowledge that our church was formed on the ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute Band and other bands of the Dakota Nation. Our church began here in 1856 when the Dakota were being forcibly removed from their homelands. With God’s help, we strive to repair ongoing injustices and grow toward right relationships with Native people. We lament the broken treaties and genocide that happened in the Dakota homeland Mni Sota Maçoke and the unjust legacy that persists. We faithfully commit ourselves to interrupt this legacy as part of our pledge to work toward racial justice. We will continue with acts of healing through our commitment to hear stories of this place and those who have lived here for generations, to learn about Native history, current stories, and public policies that impact Native people, and to take appropriate action to begin repairing the injustices done to Native people.

**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.**

**Welcome of New Members**

Jim and Nancy Barbour (Sponsors: Jim Gillis and Nancy Johnson-Maloney)  
Susan Gerard (Sponsor: Marian McKone)  
Cyrus Kirby (Sponsor: Mandy Everhart)  
Jackie McNeil and Cindy Maddox (Sponsor: Amanda Eastvold)  
Diane Parker (Sponsor: Linda Larson)

**Minister:** Do you, members and friends of First UCC, promise your friendship and prayers to these companions on our journey of faith? And will you extend to them the heart and hand of Christian love, welcoming them, and including them in our shared ministry and life?

**Congregation:** **We do and we will, as siblings of Jesus our Christ.**

**Minister:** Let us all join in the covenant of our congregation.

**All:** **We covenant together with God and one another, trusting in God’s continuing guidance, to seek to understand and do God’s will, to explore the mystery of Christ, and to witness to God’s reconciling love.**

**Anthem** *If You Believe and I Believe* from Zimbabwe  
If you believe and I believe and we together pray,  
The holy spirit must come down and set God’s people free.

**Scripture** Psalm 126 Sue Evans

**Sermon**

Rev. Cindy Maddox

**Prayer Hymn**

*An Echo of the Voice of God*  
(see page 9)

Adam M.L. Tice  
Sally Ann Morris (Wada Tune)

**The Prayers**

*We will begin with 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**

*We've Come This Far by Faith*  
Devonte Merrick, Trumpet

Albert Goodson

We've come this far by faith,  
Leaning on the Lord;  
Trusting in God's holy word,  
She never failed me yet.  
Oh, can't turn around,  
We've come this far by faith.

**Prayer of Thanks**

**With gratitude for all we have received, we dedicate our gifts with joy, that they may be used in the world to speak peace, bring justice, and share love with all the world. Amen.**

## Hymn of Sending

*Now Thank We All Our God*  
(3 verses in English)

#419 (Nun Danket)

v1 Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices,  
Who, from our parents' arms,  
has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

v2 O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us still in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.

v3 All praise and thanks to God  
our Maker now be given,  
To Christ, and Spirit, too,  
our help in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

**We are so glad you worshiped here today!**  
**Zoom breakout rooms are available for friendship and conversation after the service.**  
**We hope you will stay!**

## News to Note

### Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. in person on Sundays, 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**

#### Monday, November 22

6:30 p.m. Braiding Sweetgrass Book Group (Zoom)

#### Tuesday, November 23

1 p.m. Piano Tuning (Sanctuary)

1 p.m. Staff Meeting (Assembly Room)

#### Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving Day; Church Office Closed

#### Friday, November 26

Church Office Closed

#### Sunday, November 28

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship; First Sunday in Advent

### **New Member Bios**

Today at First UCC we welcome new members! Read on to learn more about those formally joining our community today.

**Jim Barbour** grew up on a dairy farm on the Coastal Plain of North Carolina. His early religious training was at his grandmother's Southern Baptist church where he challenged his Sunday School teachers. **Nancy Barbour** grew up in southeast Nebraska and graduated from University of Nebraska. Both attended North Carolina State University and met during the first session of Statistics 101. They married and Jim obtained his PhD in Agronomy from UGA Athens, Georgia. Jim and Nancy moved to Morris, MN. He worked at the USDA--Agricultural Research Service Soils Lab and took a position at UMN Morris as biomass energy scientist and chemistry laboratory instructor. Nancy spent her career in agricultural research, retiring from the Soils Lab in Morris, MN. In Morris, Nancy and Jim were active in Federated Church, a combined UCC/United Methodist congregation where Rev. Jerry Hankins was minister for 25+ years. After retiring Jim and Nancy moved to Omaha to be closer to her family. They missed Morris friends, many of whom had retired in Northfield, so they became part of the Northfield migration from the old Western Association of UCC MN in June 2021.

Sponsors: Jim Gillis (Jim Barbour); Nancy Johnson-Maloney (Nancy Barbour)

**Susan Gerard** was born in Spokane, Washington and lived in Japan, California, Germany, Nebraska and Arizona. She graduated from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN. She studied Psychology and Fine Art Photography. Incidentally, a former Northfield resident, Jessica Crawford, was her photo professor. Jessica was a photo student of Meg Ojala at St Olaf College. "We photographers take our lineage seriously!" Susan did not become a parent but worked with adolescents for twenty five years. First carrying a caseload of adolescents referred to the courts, then with the visually impaired, Somali American students in the Minneapolis Public Schools. These students had lived in the largest refugee camp in the world, Dadaab, in Kenya before coming to the US. Susan was raised in the Roman Catholic Church and was a member of St. Joan of Arc Church in Minneapolis.

Sponsor: Marian McKone

**Cyrus Kirby** is a father of three boys and soon to be blessed with two girls. He is engaged to Dr. Mandy Everhart and is currently making plans for a wonderful future with his best friend and children by his side. He

is a program manager by trade and a geek at heart. He loves comics and movies, music and art, attempting to cook good meals the children rarely enjoy, and making others laugh. He spends his free time with family and volunteering with youth organizations. He is known to chuckle softly at strange times and is constantly misplacing his wallet. His journey to spiritual enlightenment began as a young adult and continues to this day. He is pleased to report he knows nothing, will forever be questioning, and will never stop learning.

Sponsor: Mandy Everhart

**Jackie McNeil** and **Cindy Maddox** moved here when Cindy was called as our Senior Pastor, and they are happy to be making their home among us. Jackie is originally from upstate New York and has worked as an educator, journalist, cultural competency trainer, grassroots organizer, and political activist. Cindy has lived all over the Midwest, South, and Northeast, and she worked in publishing before entering the ministry. They have two children—Amelia (19) who is a sophomore at Elmhurst University in Illinois, and Joshua (9) who is a fourth grader at Spring Creek Elementary. Cindy and Jackie both enjoy writing, reading, theatre, family time, and watching women's basketball.

Sponsor: Amanda Eastvold

**Diane Parker** moved to Northfield in November of 2020. For twenty years, Diane and her husband, Sam, were active members of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Grand Marais, Minnesota. After the death of her husband in August of 2018, Diane made the decision to move to Northfield to be near her only sister and her brother-in-law. Visiting her sister at the memory care center is something Diane looks forward to. She and her sister share many happy stories of their time growing up together with their loving mom and dad. Northfield is somewhat of a homecoming for Diane: she and Sam lived in new Prague, and later, Prior Lake, for twenty years before moving to the North Shore. Diane is looking forward to becoming an active member of her new church home.

Sponsor: Linda Larson

### **Give to the Flower Power Fund!**

Thanks to your generous gifts, the Flower Power fund at First UCC is used to purchase plants and flowers to beautify the worship space throughout the year. You can give to the Flower Power fund in honor or in memory of a loved one, either for a specific occasion (such as Christmas), or to be used as needed. This is a special fund that is not part of the regular church budget, and so needs your particular support! Cost per plant is \$20. Let First UCC know you want to give to Flower Power! You can do so by: 1) [Filling out the Flower Power online form](#). You may choose to give electronically (via credit or debit card) to Flower Power through the form, or indicate that you plan to send in a check. 2) If you plan to attend worship in person, look for the Flower Power form in the printed bulletin at worship in the coming weeks; fill it out and return with a check or cash to the church office by mail or in the offering plate.

### **This Week's Children's Advent Kits Are Ready for Pick Up!**

Children's Faith Formation is providing weekly scripture and faith-at-home ornament kits as we gear up for Advent and Christmas. They are ready and waiting for you in a bin on the church steps. Feel free to pick up the previous week's kit if you weren't able to grab one last week. Families can find ornament kits to take home and make, along with scripture for families and a devotion for parents. Once your ornament is made, save it each week, and bring them all to church for our Cocoa, Carols, and Campfire gathering, outside, Sunday, December 19 from 4:30–5:30 p.m., where we will decorate our very own First UCC Children's Christmas tree!

### **Operation Joy**

Operation Joy, a community-wide gift sharing program of the Community Action Center (CAC), is set to take place on December 8, 2021! Through the generosity of hundreds of individual donors and dedicated volunteers, approximately 900 Northfield area children from 350 households will receive gifts through Operation Joy this year. The best way to support this goal is through monetary donations. Donate online at [communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy](https://communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy)

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

Join ISIAIAH on December 5 from 2–4 p.m. for a virtual (Zoom) Southern MN regional summit. The purpose of the summit is to strategize and build the people power we need for the thriving climate we deserve. We'll get grounded in the current political landscape around climate justice, hone our agenda, and strategize to bring climate priorities into decision-making spaces such as caucuses, state legislative session, and 2022 elections. [Register here](#). Questions about putting your faith into action through social justice and advocacy? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@firstucc.org).

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

**Ministers:** All the people

**Moderator:** Sam Steinberg

**Senior Minister:** Rev. Cindy Maddox

**Minister for Congregational Life:** Rev. 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:** Ann Sullivan, Dan Sullivan, Cyrus Kirby, Mandy Everhart, Janette Stromley

**Welcome & Testimony:** Shana Hodel

**Reader:** Sue Evans

**Digital Zoom Host:** Gary Wagenbach

**Tech Team:** Annika Reister

**Trumpet:** Devonte Merrick

**Worship Arts:** Linda Gagnon

# AN ECHO OF THE VOICE OF GOD

Adam M. L. Tice

WADA TUNE  
Sally Ann Morris

Oo, oo.

1. This cry, this groan, this psalm pour - ing  
2. This chant, this hum, this song ris - ing  
3. This hush, this rest, this prayer, soft and

out, pour - ing out, an ech - o  
up, ris - ing up, an ech - o  
still, soft and still, an ech - o

of the voice of God.  
of the voice of God.  
of the voice of God.

\* "Swing" eighth notes except where indicated.

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