



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**First United Church of Christ, Northfield**

**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,  
Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation**

**Confirmation Sunday**

**May 7, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.**



**Verse 1:** Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when hope and doubt touch every hour, when all thoughts find a voice, We turn, O God, to you for guidance and for grace. In all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.

**Verse 2:** Teach us to use our lives with purpose and with power for visions of a better world and for decision's hour; To choose the way of life, reject the way of death, until the radiant force of God fills mind and strength and breath.

**Verse 3:** Teach us to love in truth, to give and to receive with joyful and with open hearts, and all that we believe; To seek another's good, to honor what is right, to let our will and our desire be held in holy light.

**Verse 4:** Teacher, Creator, God, enfold us in your arms; be with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm. All good and perfect gifts come to us from your hand. O help us use them carefully and live by love's command.

**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.**

**Service of Baptism & Confirmation**

**Invitation**

**Act of Baptism**

**Introduction of the Candidates** (*Please see the last page for names*)

**Affirmation of Baptismal Promises**

**Blessing of Confirmands**

**Congregational Affirmation**

One: Do you, the congregation gathered here, members and friends of First UCC, promise your friendship and prayers to these confirmands - those confirmed as well as those who chose not to be - on their journey of faith, and extend to them the heart and

hand of Christian love, welcoming them, and including them in our shared ministry and life?

**Many: We do and we will, as siblings of Christ.**

### **Church Covenant**

One: As we welcome these newly confirmed members, let us join in the reading of our church covenant:

**Many: 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. Amen.**

### **Scripture**

Isaiah 43:1-7

Beth Kallestad

### **Sermon**

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

### **Prayer Hymn**

*Like a Tree Beside the Waters*

#313 (Silver Creek)

**Verse 1:** Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care, We, O God, your sons and daughters, your enduring witness bear. In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard. Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, living Word.

**Verse 2:** Like a tree beside the river, drawing life from holy streams, Fill us with your love

forever; recreate our hopes and dreams. Through the storms of life sustain us by the wisdom of your grace. May the changing of the seasons find us in your warm embrace.  
**Verse 3:** We, beside the living waters, drink from your eternal life. Give to all, your sons and daughters, faith that rises over strife. O Living God, most glorious, strengthen us for life today. By the hope of timeless promise guide your church upon the Way.

**The Prayers** *(All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.)*

### **Prayer Response**

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,

**All: God, let your spirit move in us.**

**Prayer of Jesus** (*You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with this version*):

**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**

**Offertory**

*Shenandoah*

arr. Hal Hopson (1985)

### **Prayer of Thanks**

**Gracious God, with gratitude for your love, we offer these gifts to you. Make them gifts of blessing, change, and solidarity for others. Send your Spirit upon us, that our hands and our hearts may do your work in the world. Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending**

*Go, My Children, With My Blessing*

#82 (Ar Hyd Y Nos)

**Verse 1:** Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone;  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my  
own;  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you  
mine forever,  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are  
my own.

**Verse 2:** Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and  
free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with  
tender comfort stilled you;  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful  
and free.

### **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Theme and Variations in C*

Cynthia Dobrinski (1986)

**We're so glad you worshiped here today!**

Please join us for a coffee, tea, and cake reception in the Assembly Room after worship.

For those considering membership on May 21, please bring your treats with you to the Parlor, and join us for New Member Orientation.

**Thanks to this week's leaders:**

Ushers: Dan Sullivan, Ann Sullivan, Lois Langerak, Ed Langerak, Anne Meyer Ruppel

Digital Greeter: Carl Henry

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Shenandoah © 1985 AGAPE

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**This Week at First UCC**

**Sunday, May 7**

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:30 a.m. Worship - Confirmation  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour / Reception  
12:00 p.m. Northfield Handbells Choir  
Performance  
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

**Tuesday, May 9**

10:00 a.m. Women's Group

**Wednesday, May 10**

5:30 p.m. WFFF

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 11**

10:00 a.m. Care Team Meeting  
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting (Big Room)

**Sunday, May 14**

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour  
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

**A Word from Pastor Cindy**

I am so sorry to miss this important event in the life of our youth and their families. I am away because of a previously scheduled trip to Chicago to see my daughter's Junior Recital. I pray God's blessings on these youth, their families, and on Pastor Lauren as their leader.

**Northfield Handbells Choir Performance**

Northfield Handbells Choir will be offering a concert today at noon. Please stick around after worship to join in a musical celebration of Spring!

**Women's Group**

Our next Women's Group meeting will be held in-person this Tuesday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m. Depending on weather we will meet either in the Assembly Room or outdoors on the front lawn. The Women's Group provides an opportunity for a time of sharing and forming new friendships. All ladies are invited. Any questions? Call or text Judy Kinstad at 507-412-7861.

### **A Note from ISAIAH**

At last! The final push is on for Paid Family and Medical Leave for all. The Minnesota Senate will likely hold a vote on May 8 after the House passes a version this week. It's clear that it will then go to the Conference Committee to work out differences. Corporate interests are pushing hard against Paid Family and Medical Leave and for it to be as limited as possible as passed. Contact your House and Senate representatives by phone and/or email in support of full coverage of this important bill, and make voices of Caring Minnesotans heard!

### **Creation Care Eco-Info: Lawns**

One-third of household water is used on lawns. A lawn mower in use for one hour generates pollution equivalent to driving a gas-powered car for 350 miles (not to mention noise pollution!). Gasoline spilled while refilling lawn mowers amounts to about 17 million gallons.

### **Nine-to-Dine 2023-24**

By popular demand, it's time to consider signing up for Nine-to-Dine. Nine-to-Dine is a planned potluck with the goal to meet new folks! Each group (consisting of 7-10 people) takes turns meeting in each other's homes or other convenient locations. If you'd like to participate, please send your name(s), email address, and a phone number to Linda Wagenbach at [ljwagenba@gmail.com](mailto:ljwagenba@gmail.com) or 507-649-0282 by **May 20**.

### **Join Us & Become a New Member!**

May is a busy month of welcoming new members to our church! Today, a New Member Orientation session will be held at 11:45 a.m. following the worship service. New Member Sunday will occur two weeks later on Sunday, May 21, during worship at 10:30 a.m. We hope those of you who have not "officially" become members of First UCC yet will plan to join us! Contact Jean Haslett, Membership Team Chair, at [hasletts66@yahoo.com](mailto:hasletts66@yahoo.com) or 507-650-0753.

### **Seeking New Bookkeeper/Finance Manager**

We were saddened this week to receive a letter of resignation from Pippa Younger, who has served as our Finance Manager for the past six months. Her family situation has changed, requiring her to seek full-time work. She will continue doing the work on evenings and weekends until we can find someone. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact Pastor Cindy.

### **Parking During Roofing Project**

As you undoubtedly noticed this morning, parking in the lot is very limited while our roof is being replaced. If you are coming for worship (or any other event likely to require parking for a number of cars) please save the parking for those with limited mobility. Parking is always available on the street, and on Sundays parking is permitted across the street in front of the Weitz Center.

### **Learn About the LGBTQ+ Movement in El Salvador**

Elizabeth O'Sullivan went to El Salvador in February on a trip led by Rhina Ramos. Rhina grew up in El Salvador and is now a UCC Pastor at a Spanish-speaking, LGBTQ-centered church in California. The trip focused on the people who are working for justice in El Salvador, with a special focus on the LGBTQ movement there. Join us on Wednesday, **May 10 at 6:15 p.m.** in the library (after WFFF), to hear about the trip and the resilience of the El Salvadorian people.

### **Housing Needed**

Can you help? The family from Peru that our church is supporting is in need of being housed in town sometime from July 1 until the end of the year while the husband fully recovers from surgery, their asylum claim is filed, and they can obtain a work permit and drivers' license. Roger and Joan Lindholm have graciously housed them for the past several months but we are asking that more members of the church open their homes. If you have any ability to help, please contact Gina Washburn at [washburng@hotmail.com](mailto:washburng@hotmail.com) In Gratitude.

### **Donate to the Yarn Fund!**

The First UCC Knitters work diligently to create beautiful prayer shawls that are passed out to members and friends of First UCC who are in need of extra care. The yarn fund has gone low! Please help us keep this important ministry going by donating to the yarn fund today! Checks may be made out to "First UCC" with "Prayer Shawls" in the memo line. Or, if you'd like to give online, please go to [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org) and select "Give to Prayer Shawls" under "Give." Thank you for your generosity!

### **ONA Team Volunteers for Pride in the Park**

First UCC will again host a table at Northfield's Pride in the Park Celebration to be held on **Saturday, June 3 from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Plans include a photo booth, some give-aways, and the chance to show our church's support of the LGBTQ+ community. This event creates an opportunity for **you** to show your support, too. We need volunteers for the church booth to help with set-up, tending, and clean-up. Shifts would be 1-2 hours depending on how many people offer their time. There is also a need for volunteers to help with the event at-large. Shifts here are for one hour. Duties would include counting people using a clicker when they enter the park and clean up following the event. We appreciate the generosity and support you demonstrate by signing up as a volunteer! Look for Anne Meyer-Ruppel and Kathy Sandberg



after church (they'll have clipboards), or send your offer of volunteering to [church@firstucc.org](mailto:church@firstucc.org).

# Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

## Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live-streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we're glad to have you here!

## Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. You may give online by visiting [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org) and clicking on the "Give" button, or you may place your gift in the offering plate, 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, at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org), and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org).

## First UCC Leadership & Staff

**Ministers:** All the people

**Moderator:** Gary Carlson

**Senior Minister:** Rev. Cindy Maddox

**Associate Minister:** Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**Director of Music:** Chris Brunelle

**Organist:** Theo Wee

**Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

**Office Manager & Director of Communications:** Kate Kvasnak

**Finance Manager:** Vacant

**Sexton:** Mark Fischer

**Audio Visual Technician:** Brynn Artley

## Confirmation Biographies

### **Mae Berglund** (she/her), Grade 8

- ❖ *Favorite part of Confirmation:* Learning more about my own Christianity and also other religions.
- ❖ *What I like about First UCC:* How welcoming everyone is.
- ❖ *Fun Fact:* I love rollerblading and I got the opportunity to rollerblade a half-marathon in Duluth.

### **Bella Christopherson** (she/her), Grade 8

- ❖ *Favorite part of Confirmation:* Exploring deep questions with other people from the church
- ❖ *What I like about First UCC:* How people are open to different interpretations of God's word and want to take an active role in doing good for the world
- ❖ *Fun Fact:* I enjoy rock climbing, singing, and adventuring

### **Will Henslin** (he/him), Grade 8

- ❖ *Favorite part of Confirmation:* J-term
- ❖ *What I like about First UCC:* I don't have to dress up to come to church.
- ❖ *Fun Fact:* I play baseball.

### **Erin Klaers** (she/her), Grade 8

- ❖ *Favorite part of Confirmation:* The interviews. I really enjoyed the people who were kind and easy to talk to. I loved their stories and will treasure them in the little notebook I took my notes in. It was also great to do confirmation with my friends.
- ❖ *What I like about First UCC:* How welcoming the community is.
- ❖ *Fun Fact:* I recently got my first degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

### **Ruthie Lippert** (she/her/hers), Grade 9

- ❖ *Favorite part of Confirmation:* Learning about the different interpretations of stories within the Bible
- ❖ *What I like about First UCC:* Everyone is so welcoming!
- ❖ *Fun Fact:* I run track

### **Theo Menk** (he/him), Grade 9

- ❖ *Favorite part of Confirmation:* Learning how people can interpret God and the Bible in their own ways
- ❖ *What I like about First UCC:* The way they include everybody with everyone's differences.
- ❖ *Fun Fact:* I enjoy making scratch brownies for my family, which have become known as The Super Good Brownies in our house.