



*“I pray that God may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know God,
so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,
you may know what is the hope to which you have been called.”*

Ephesians 1:17-18

Seventh Sunday of Easter
First United Church of Christ, Northfield
**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation**

May 21, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

V3: Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

V4: Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

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.**

Welcoming of New Members

New Member

Sponsor

Margaret Huber

Anne Meyer-Ruppel

Darlene Antony & Laurie Deibert

Muriel Hachfeld

Joan & Roger Lindholm

Mary & Gary Carlson

Diana Postlethwaite & Paul Thiboutot

Mary Carlsen & Peter Dahlen

Andrea & Brian Perry

Caitlin & Steven Reuter

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.

Covenant:

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

Let It Shine
The Laura Baker Choir

Don Besig, Nancy Price

Scripture

Ephesians 1:15-23

Marie Gery

Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Prayer Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

#472 (Precious Lord)

V1: Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

V2: When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone,
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

V3: When the shadows appear and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

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**

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

South Africa

We are marching in the light of God
(Congregation joins)

We are singing in the light of God

We are praying in the light of God

We are dancing in the light of God

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

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine.

Benediction

Postlude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

A very special welcome to the members, family and friends of the Laura Baker Choir. Thanks for bringing your musical gifts and adding your voices to worship today.

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

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Ushers: Nalani McCutcheon, Kathy Sandberg, Mary Savina, Scott Richardson, Cheryl Rempel

Digital Greeter: Elise Eslinger

Special Music: The LBSA choir performs regularly throughout the community, providing an opportunity for collaboration, musical expression, and meaningful engagement.

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This Week at First UCC

Sunday, May 21

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:45 a.m. BLA Presentation
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

Tuesday, May 23

7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 24

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 25

7:00 p.m. NA Meeting (Big Room)

Sunday, May 28

10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

BLA: Revisiting 19th-Century Congregationalism & Indigenous People

Join us after service today for a presentation by Rev. Dave McMahill in the Big Room at 11:45 a.m. All friends and members of the UCC are heartily welcome to attend! Our “BLA” team has invited former First UCC pastor Rev. Dave McMahill (1990-95) to share thoughts he has researched on the question of the role of Congregational theology and church leadership in the tragic displacements of the Dakota people. In his words: “Because attitudes and actions don’t just come out of nowhere, I realized that in order to find some possible answers to that question, I needed to go back to events, institutions, and ideas of Congregationalists and others many years earlier that helped shape what did, or did not, happen here in the late 1850s and beyond. I look forward to sharing some of what I’ve learned with you on May 21!”

A Note from ISAIAH

You worked hard for years to have a state government act boldly to help the most vulnerable as ours has been doing this year. We'll review notable legislative achievements in the weeks to come - once we see what comes of this final messy week of the session. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.

Water from Many Places

Are you traveling this summer? Whether you are traveling to faraway lands or your family's cabin here in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, we invite you to bring back a small container of water from your trip. In the fall we will all bring the water we collected to be part of a ritual where we name the sources and bless our Water from Many Places. Then the water will be filtered and boiled to purify it, and it will be used in baptisms for years to come.

Creation Care Eco-Info: Corrected

Plastics #1, 2 & 5 are recyclable. Items in these genres include, but aren't limited to, plastic bags (grocery bags, newspaper bags, etc.) and more! These items are recyclable at grocery stores and Target!

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 or 507-649-0282 **today**. We hope you'll join us - Meet, Eat, Enjoy!

Housing Needed

Can you help? The family from Peru, who 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 driver's 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 availability to help, please contact Gina Washburn at washburng@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Support for the CAC

In a clergy meeting with our community partner, the Community Action Center (CAC), we learned that the CAC serves people of every demographic in town as it is the hub for a variety of resources. Food shelf needs, in particular, though, have increased 40-80% depending on the season. While it is wonderful that the CAC can focus on these needs, it is also increasingly more than their resources allow. The CAC is currently going through 10 months-worth of work every month. After expanding to serve the county, the CAC went from serving 1,000 households in 2018 to serving nearly 5,000 in 2023. 1,800-2,000 of those households are in town here, meaning $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of people in Northfield rely on the CAC for resources like food, housing, and other needed support. If you can support the CAC, we encourage you to do so as we work together to serve our community.

Delegates Needed

We need delegates to attend the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting June 9th and 10th. The registration and housing are paid by the church. Please let the church office know if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

Volunteer to Help Fill Little Free Libraries

Ever wonder what's up with the children's books in the library and the Books on Break basement room? It's a Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) project led by Laura Turek. Donated

books are collected and shared in various ways with schools, teachers, Head Start, summer programs, and more. We could use your help now to make sure Little Free Libraries are well stocked for the summer. If you have a Little Free Library in your neighborhood or pass one on your way to run errands, you know how this community resource makes an impact. There are more than 40 Little Libraries throughout Northfield. We have a list of locations and invite your help stocking an individual site or several in an area. To volunteer, contact Charlotte Melin at rohnmfam@gmail.com. Thank you!

Digital Greeters Needed

We are in desperate need of adding more digital greeters to our rotation for Sunday mornings. The job is easy: Log onto Zoom a few minutes before worship begins, greet and welcome people, post links at appropriate times through the service, and keep an eye on participants during worship. You could even do it from the sanctuary on your laptop! Please contact the church office if you are willing to be added to the list.

Strengthen the Church

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special offering which reflects the shared commitment of UCC churches across the denomination to strengthen our ministry. This offering focuses on UCC churches and conferences by supporting leadership development, youth ministry, revitalization of existing churches, and the starting of new ones. This special offering will be received during worship next Sunday, May 28.

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 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, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at 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: Pippa Younger

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

New Member Biographies

Roger Lindholm & Joan Mikkelson Lindholm

Roger Lindholm and Joan Mikkelson Lindholm feel very fortunate in finding a new church home at UCC. They both grew up in Ortonville, MN, attended St. Olaf College, participated in the Lutheran Volunteer Corp in Washington D.C., and then worked and raised a family in New Ulm, MN for 30 years. Joan is a retired RN and yoga instructor and Roger is a MD who continues to practice Family Medicine three days a week in New Ulm. Besides spending time with family and friends, they enjoy cross-country skiing, hiking, biking, tennis, piano, and tending to their gardens and yard.

Diana Postlethwaite

Diana grew up in the Twin Cities as the daughter of a Methodist minister and a church choir director/organist. For twenty years, she lived in New England and Chicago where she studied and taught English Literature, specializing in the Victorian Novel. She met her husband, Paul Thiboutot, singing in the Rockefeller Chapel Choir at The University of Chicago. In 1987, she found herself married to the new Dean of Admissions at Carleton College and moved to Northfield. She taught in the English Department at St. Olaf College for three decades. She and Paul raised their daughters, Lucy and Lilly, here. Before and since retiring, her interests include literature, film, theater, and multitudinous craft projects. She has been singing in Northfield's I Cantanti Community Choir since 1988 and is delighted to now be a part of the UCC Choir.

Paul Thiboutot

Paul retired from a career as Dean of Admissions at Carleton College. He arrived in Northfield with his spouse, Diane Postlethwaite, in 1987 to work at Carleton and retired in 2019. Originally from New Hampshire, he was raised a Roman Catholic. His religious tradition has included being Episcopalian, Lutheran, and also studying at the University of Chicago Divinity School where he obtained his Masters in Religion and Literature. He and Diana met while singing in Rockefeller Chapel Choir in Chicago; he likes to sing and in Northfield he joined the adult choral group I Cantanti in 1988. They have two daughters: Lilly lives with her partner in south Minneapolis, and Lucy, along with her spouse and three children, live in Arlington, MA. Besides singing and music, Paul enjoys time at their lakehouse in Northern MN where he hikes, swims and kayaks as well as enjoys reading and watching movies. He also spends as much time with his 3 grandsons as time and distance allows!

Darlene Antony & Laurie Deibert

Darlene and Laurie are both from farming families and have been together for 23 years. Laurie works as a scheduler for Cardiology with MHealth Fairview and Darlene took early retirement from Best Buy after health issues prevented her from repairing appliances, a job she loved. They are both animal lovers and are more likely to know the names of the dogs in their neighborhood than any of their actual neighbor's names. They enjoy working in the yard and garden, spending time with their two dogs, watching PBS and Documentaries, and are delighted to have found First UCC where they are accepted and loved. They have been going to WFFF, Women's Group, and Laurie enjoys singing in Spirit Voices.

Brian & Andrea Perry

Brian and Andrea recently moved to Northfield from Ankeny, Iowa, with their sons Dillon (6) and Lee (4). Brian grew up in Blaine, MN and Andrea in Mason City, IA. They met and married in Minneapolis and are happy to be returning to Minnesota to raise their children. You can find them around Northfield walking in the arboretum, at various kid's sporting events, or grabbing ice cream downtown.

Margaret Huber

Finding a new church home has been a long process for Margaret. She is very thankful to have taken the opportunity to visit UCC a few years ago. Big changes take time. Yet, upon her first visit, she felt a sense of a comfortable and welcoming environment. The change began! Margaret is originally from a Chicago suburb. Her family moved to Lakeville where she spent most of her childhood. Upon graduation from high school, she left the state for college. She returned upon graduation and married her husband, Kris. Together they bought land in rural Northfield and built their current home where they raised four children (now adults): Derek (35), Schuyler (34), Kelsey (31), and Abby (29). Margaret works at Nerstrand Elementary School as a Para and an In-House Substitute Teacher. In addition to spending time with family and friends, Margaret enjoys cross-country skiing, biking, gardening, hiking, and camping.