



## **First United Church of Christ, Northfield**

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

**Creation Care Sunday  
June 16, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [Virtual Visitor Card](#).

**Prelude** *Cantilena* Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

**Welcome**

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

**Call to Worship** adapted from Carol Penner

One: God of sea and sky, of this great earth under the sun,

**Many: We come with thanks on our lips and praise in our hearts.**

One: Thank you for life and breath, for senses to experience the beauty all around us.

**Many: We come with prayers for this beautiful blue planet, and ask help for humankind as we live upon it.**

One: You are the creator of clean water, clean air, and wild spaces; open our eyes to how our actions affect your world.

**Many: Guide us, o God, into a hope-filled future of justice for all living things. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn** *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky* #563 (Endless Song)

**V1:** We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing, for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.

With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation, that all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

**V2:** When bodies shiver in the night and, weary, wait for morning, when children have no bread but tears, and warhorns sound their warning,

God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor, that all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

**V3:** God calls humanity to join as partners in creating a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.

That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor, that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

## Time with Children



Let the child- ren come un- to me, for theirs is the realm of God.



All who be- lieve must be - come like a child; theirs is the realm of God.

### Scripture

Leviticus 25:23-24; Mark 12:28-31;  
Matthew 23:1-3; Matthew 5:14-16

Mary Savina, Carol Rutz

### Sermon

*Exploring the Jesus Path*

Dwight Wagenius

### Prayer Hymn

*Awake, Awake, to Love and Work*

#89 (Morning Song)

**V1:** Awake, awake to love and work!  
The lark is in the sky;  
the fields are wet with diamond dew;  
The worlds awake  
to cry their praises to the Fount of Life;  
Christ Jesus passes by.

**V2:** Come, let your voice be one with theirs,  
shout with their shout of praise;  
See how the giant sun soars up,

God's gift for all your days!  
So let the love of Jesus come  
and set your soul ablaze,  
**V3:** To give and give, and give again,  
as God's own grace is free;  
To spend yourself nor count the cost;  
To serve most gloriously  
the God who gave all worlds that are,  
and all that are to be.

### 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

Hear my cry, O God. Listen to my prayer, listen to my song,  
sing - ing prais - es all a - long.

## 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

*The hearts in the plates are for the Children's Offering which supports the Community Action Center Food Shelf.*

## Offertory

*Morning Has Broken*

arr. Laura Wasson

## Prayer of Thanks

adapted from Carol Penner

**God of great wonders, you give life and breath to all creatures; you fill the world with beauty and our hearts with the desire to give. Bless and use these gifts, given for your precious creation in every season. Amen.**

## Announcements

### Hymn of Sending

*God, We Thank You for Our People*  
verses 1, 2, and 4

#376 (Holy Manna)

**V1:** God, we thank you for our people,  
roots dug deep within the soil,  
hardy spirits, rich in loving,

strong for struggle, bold for toil.  
Faithful Rock of generations,  
you whom parents' parents praised:

Here in hope as we remember  
may our song to you be raised.  
**V2:** Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure:  
lessons learned and secrets told,  
hopes and memories saved as treasure,  
passed to young ones by the old,  
Pranks and glories, songs and stories,  
food by loving hands prepared.  
God, we bless you for your presence

in our tears and laughter shared.  
**V4:** By your Spirit of creation  
keep us bold for risking still,  
eager in anticipation,  
ever strong to do your will.  
Bind us close to one another,  
sharing life and death and birth,  
Welcoming as sister, brother,  
all your children on the earth.

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

*Prelude in A Major*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

Please join us for a social hour in the Assembly Room after worship!

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

Music: Pamela Carlson, organ; Holly Fischer, soprano

Ushers: Jeffery Latterell, Nancy Barbour, Scott Richardson

Digital Host: Ben Reister

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## **This Week at First UCC**

### **Sunday, June 16**

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Summer Social

12:00 p.m. Yoga on the Lawn

### **Monday, June 17**

Office Closed

9:00 a.m. Men's Group

### **Tuesday, June 18**

6:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting

### **Sunday, June 23**

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Summer Social

11:45 a.m. BLA Presentation

12:00 p.m. Yoga on the Lawn

### **About Dwight Wagenius - Creation Justice Preacher**

Dwight Wagenius, a graduate of Carleton College, shares the following: "I just celebrated the eighth year of ordination, all dedicated to Community Ministry at Mayflower UCC. My seven years in seminary overlapped the last few years of my 30 years as an Assistant Attorney General and the beginning of my formal ministry. My public law practice focused on environmental protection – water quality, solid waste management, energy, and environmental review, along with a few years of consumer protection. Prior to law school I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer, junior high social studies teacher in DC public schools, and a Naval Officer."

### **Juneteenth at Northfield High School**

In commemoration of the emancipation of America's enslaved citizens, Northfield High School is offering a Juneteenth dinner and lecture this Wednesday, June 19. Dinner catered by Mama Sheila's House of Soul begins at 5 PM for the first 100 attendees, at no cost. The lecture follows at 6 PM, presented by Dr. Yolanda Williams, professor of African-American literature, art and history at the University of Minnesota.

### **Celebrating Weddings at Valley Grove**

Everyone is invited to Valley Grove on Sunday, June 23 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. to celebrate anyone who has ever been married at, attended a wedding, and everyone who aspires to be married at, Valley Grove. Everyone can enjoy coffee, lemonade and cookies, and Nordic music while they visit. From 3:00 - 3:45 stories may be shared with an audience in the wooden church. This is an opportunity for couples to show their family and friends and their children where it all began! For more information please contact Margit Johnson at [margit@usfamily.net](mailto:margit@usfamily.net).

### **Berry Fest is Back!**

Join us on Tuesday, June 25th from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room for a gathering of friends old and new. Enjoy delicious berries and cake! Entertainment by Holly and Mark Fischer, and Theo & DeWayne Wee. Please RSVP to the church office at 507-645-7532 by Friday, June 21st. We hope to see you there!

### **Liz Hankins Memorial Service**

A Celebration of Life for Liz Hankins will be held on June 29 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service. We hope you'll join us to celebrate and remember Liz.

### **Forest Bathing this Summer**

**July 14:** Our guide, Johanna Schussler, will be giving a talk and indoor forest bathing experience at 12:00 p.m. after service. More information to come!

**Forest Bathing Walks:** The outdoor forest bathing experiences are scheduled for Saturday, July 13 and Saturday, July 27 from 9:30 - 11:30. Johanna will reschedule sessions if weather looks

dangerous. Participants will meet at Caron Park. Those attending the Forest Bathing Retreat July 19-20 are highly encouraged to participate in these walks. If you're interested in attending, please sign up by going to [firstucc.org/members-friends](https://firstucc.org/members-friends) and scrolling till you see "Summer at First UCC."

### **Forest Bathing Retreat**

First UCCers are invited on a Forest Bathing retreat from July 19-20 at Mount Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington, MN. Meals are provided. Space is limited: 7 slots are available as of June 13. If you are interested in attending please sign up by going to [firstucc.org/members-friends](https://firstucc.org/members-friends) and scrolling till you see "Summer at First UCC."

### **Rest is Resistance Book Group**

*"Disrupt and push back against capitalism and white supremacy by connecting to the liberating power of rest, daydreaming, and naps as a foundation for healing and justice!"*

Join Adam as he leads the Rest is Resistance Book Group this summer, starting July 14-August 1. We'll meet in the Library. All are invited and we have multiple copies of the book to give away. Take one when you arrive or drop by the church office to get a copy in advance. Sign up by going to [firstucc.org/members-friends](https://firstucc.org/members-friends) and scrolling till you see "Summer at First UCC."

### **Immigrant Families Fund Update**

A thank you to members for their donations to the Immigrant families fund! Our April donation campaign resulted in \$6,888.48. These funds will support our family, Ademir, Eileen, and Kendrick, for the rest of 2024. Their road to economic independence is being paved now with Ademir securing part-time employment at HyVee in Faribault in addition to working on a farm nearby. Eileen is still looking for employment with the help of Lisa Sexton and the CAC. Funds not needed by this family will remain in the fund for future families. Your kindness and generosity for immigrant families is greatly appreciated.

### **How to Follow Pastor Cindy's Recovery**

A CaringBridge site has been set up for Pastor Cindy. This is a quick way to receive updates and to send messages to Pastor Cindy's family. Your abundant prayers for Pastor Cindy, her wife, Jackie, and children Amelia and Joshua, are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your love, care, strength, flexibility, and compassion in this time. Please go to [firstucc.org/members-friends/](https://firstucc.org/members-friends/) or scan the code.

### **Church Office Summer Hours**

The church office will be closed on Mondays until August 19. Regular hours continue the rest of the week: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### **A Note from ISIAIH**

ISIAIH Legislative Achievements 2024: With your help, the legislature clarified how benefits will roll out, as well as eligibility requirements, benefit amounts and the application process for the new Paid Family and Medical Leave program based on action taken last year initiating this crucial equity reform. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email [isaiah@firstucc.org](mailto:isaiah@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:** Anne Meyer Ruppel; **Senior Minister:** Rev. Cindy Maddox; **Associate Minister:** Rev. Lauren Baske Davis; **Interim Minister:** Adam Cerling; **Director of Music:** Chris Brunelle; **Organist:** Catherine Rodland; **Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund; **Office Manager & Director of Communications:** Kate Kvasnak; **Finance Manager:** Derek Melby; **Sexton:** Mark Fischer; **Audio Visual Technician:**  
Brynn Artley