First United Church of Christ, Northfield
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Creation Justice, Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
June 30, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.
Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our Virtual Visitor Card.

Prelude

*A Beautiful Day*  
India Arie  
Lori Dokken, piano

Welcome

Carol Rutz

Gathering Music

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

Call to Worship

One: Out of the depths we cry to you. God, hear our voices! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of our longings!

Many: If you, O God, focused on our weaknesses, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, there is hope with you, there is renewal with you.

One: Let our soul wait for your love, and hope in the Word. Let us wait and hope as one who waits for the sun to rise.

Many: Let us hope in the Creator of all! This is where we find steadfast love, and the great power to redeem, restore and recreate.

All: It is the Creator who will enter into a relationship with us to make all things good and true and beautiful.

Opening Hymn

*Spirit of the Living God*  
#283 (Iverson)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt on me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
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.

Scripture
Acts 9:1-20
Nancy Carpenter

Sermon
Can We Be Reconciled?
Rev. Dr. David Lindsey

Prayer Hymn
An Open Hand
see bulletin

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,
singing praises all along.
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

Imagine

John Lennon

Prayer of Thanks

adapted from Carol Penner

God of our life, bless and use the gifts of our hands, the thankfulness of our hearts, and the sounds of our voices, all lifted in praise to you. Amen.

Announcements

Hymn of Sending

God Be with You

#81 (God Be With You)

(verses 1-3)

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

V1: God be with you till me meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd’s care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

V2: God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

V3: God be with you till we meet again;
When life’s perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Benediction

Carol Rutz

Postlude

Both Sides Now

Joni Mitchell
We’re so glad you worshiped here today!

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

Thanks to this week’s leaders:

Music: Laurie Dokken, piano and voice; Bob Gregory-Bjorklund, voice
Ushers: Margit Johnson, Cheryl Rempel, Linda Larson, Laura Funke, Phil Parsons
Digital Host: Ben Reister

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This Week at First UCC

Sunday, June 30
10:30 a.m.  Worship Service
11:30 a.m.  Summer Social
12:00 p.m.  Yoga on the Lawn

Monday, July 1
Office Closed
3:30 p.m.  Men’s Group (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 3

Rev. David Lindsey
We welcome to our pulpit today the Reverend David Lindsey, who is the Transitional Conference Minister of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Lindsey has more than two decades of experience serving in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ. He has served as a pastor in UCC churches of diverse sizes in California, Minnesota, and Virginia.

In recent years, Rev. Lindsey’s ministry has been as an executive director in interfaith nonprofits in the Washington, D.C., area. He has also chaired various committees in the conferences where he has served, including a Committee on Ministry, a Global Partnerships Team, and a Worship Planning Committee for Annual Meeting.
In addition to ministry, Rev. Lindsey enjoys spending time with his wife, Carrie Dobmeier, their son Felix, and their two cats. He is also a prolific songwriter and musician.

**Worship at Valley Grove - July 7**
First UCC will gather for worship at Valley Grove Preservation Society on Sunday, July 7. Worship at Valley Grove is an annual First UCC tradition! There is no worship being held at the First UCC building on Sunday, July 7, and no online worship. Instead, the congregation is meeting in person only at Valley Grove. Gather on the lawn afterward for friendship and conversation, and bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy!

**What’s Next for Palestine? July 8 at 10:00 a.m.**
Save the date: Join a discussion with Jeff Halper on what is going on in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel on Monday, July 8 at 10:00 a.m. Jeff will open with some comments and then will reply to questions and comments. We will meet at First UCC in the Assembly Room. Coffee and refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public! This event is sponsored by Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel.

**A Note from BLA**
July 13 at 10:00 a.m: Join us on a trip to the Rochester Art Center to view the UMN exhibit “Dreaming Our Futures” which includes works in various media by 29 indigenous artists. Carpooling will leave from the church. Contact Margit Johnson at johnson.margit@gmail.com if you can drive or if you need a ride.

**Rest is Resistance Book Club starting July 14**
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 on Sundays, July 14 through August 11. We’ll meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Library. Scan the QR Code to sign up! 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.

**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. The office will also be closed on July 4. Please contact T. Michael Rock with any emergencies.

**A Note from ISAIAH**
All should have clean water. We helped make sure that $2.1 million went for nitrate treatment systems in the karst region, which begins in Rice County and spreads east. The karst region is
where the ill effects of agribusiness (fertilizing and large feedlots) damage water systems easiest because of the geology. Questions about legislation or voicing your views? Email isaiah@firstucc.org.
AN OPEN HAND, A WILLING HEART

Adam M. L. Tice

MONTICEL
Sally Ann Morris

1. An open hand, a willing heart, a
   gentle word, a challenge—
   risen body of Christ.

2. A stirring call, a narrow road, a
   living dream, a promise—
   risen body of Christ.

3. All worlds reborn, all deaths undone, all
   things in God united—
   Spirit, breathe into this church, the
   risen body of Christ.
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: Anne Meyer Ruppel
Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox
Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis
Interim Senior Minister: Rev. T. Michael Rock
Interim Associate 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