

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Rally Day

Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor

Kelly Meath, Lay Reader

September 13, 2020

Worship 10:30 AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Venite

John Leavitt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the midst of pandemic, anger and even despair, God's hope, forgiveness, and renewal never fail.

People: The God of hope empowers us to light a candle of hope. (*Light a candle.*)

Leader: The depth of love calls us to forgive one another.

People: The God of love inspires us to light a candle of forgiveness. (*Light a candle.*)

Leader: God's Spirit helps us to let go and refreshes us again and again.

People: The God of new life moves us to light a candle of renewal. (*Light a candle.*)

Leader: Come, let us worship God whose love forgives, renews, and heals.

HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other (Please listen but do not sing)

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;

teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.

Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe

we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

INVOCATION (in unison)

God of patience and forgiveness, we come before you in a time of confession.

Cleanse our hearts we pray, O God, for we seek to be one with your holy presence. We confess the times when we have held on to our grudges rather than letting them go. (*Silence.*) We confess those times when we have wanted to seek vengeance rather than seek peace and reconciliation. (*Silence.*) We confess those times when we let our anger get the best of our judgment and reason. (*Silence.*) We confess those times when we resist the call to walk in gentleness with your loving spirit. (*Silence.*) We confess those times when we do not trust your wisdom and your caring. (*Silence, during which the candles are extinguished briefly.*) Help us to let go of all that stands between us, O loving God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God weeps with us in sorrow, and rejoices with us in joy. God loves us and forgives us. God journeys with us in the deepest valley of our lives, and supports us through all our troubles.

God sees our sincere hearts and smiles at our desire for renewal. So we can go forth in the light of God, in the light of hope, forgiveness, and renewal. Thanks be to God. (*The candles are relit.*)

LORD'S PRAYER (Trespases)

*GLORIA PATRI

(Please listen but do not sing)

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON

Forgiving and Forgiven

Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERING OF SPECIAL MUSIC *God Is Here* First Congregational Church Choir; Steve Quance, Nick Moses, trumpet; Paul Burri, Matt Bond, trombone

*DOXOLOGY *(Please listen but do not sing)*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

God of our ancestors, whose laws are timeless and whose ways empower the church, we bring to you the results of our labors. We would recognize all our moments and days as precious gifts from you. We dedicate ourselves anew to fulfilling your purposes through all you entrust to us, not just through the portion we here return. Bless all that the church seeks to accomplish in Christ's name. Amen.

HYMN

Then I Shall Live (Please listen but do not sing)

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven. I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.

I know my name is clear before my Father; I am His child and I am not afraid.

So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother; the law of love I gladly will obey.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro

G. Handel

Call to Worship and Invocation adapted and reprinted from Seasons of the Spirit Congregational Life Pentecost 2: Unison Prayer of Dedication reprinted from Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2 by Lavon Bayler

***Please stand if you are able.**

Happy Birthday

Sept 13 Dorice Raw, Barb Hackel & Nancy Finkle

Sept 17 Emily Blaker

Sept 14 Ken Ogden

Sept 18 George Herren

Sept 15 Jan Waxman

Sept 19 John Gilbert

Prayer List

Muriel Allemand (Jim & Connie Malone's friend); **Steve Beck** (Heidi Schwarz's brother); **Keith Blaker**; **Brad Bliss**; **Ruth Bundy** (Cheryl Bootes' friend); **Marjorie Case**; **Cathy Coots**; **Peggy & Bob DeSantis** (Dorice & Don Raw, Sr.'s friends); **Julie English** (Janet & Kim Tenreiro's friend); **Family of Melanie** (Dennis & Jennifer Maxfield's niece); **Brian Fuscaldo** (Mara Huberlie's nephew); **Jerry Gomez** (Kathi Nacca's friend); **Gayle Henry**; **Carin Herren**; **Jeff Johnson** (Jim & John Johnson's brother); **Barb Kutner**; **Carol Kober** (Debbie Lyon's neighbor); **Jim Kolesar** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Sue Kotalik**; **Laura** (Karen DeMay's sister); **Michelle List** (JoAnn Reed's friend); **Loren** (Meg & Jack Radley's friend); **Lynn** (Joan Ryan's friend); **Scott Lyon** (Betty's son); **Eileen McCarthy** (Carla DeMeco & Betsy Dresser's friend); **Sally Mueller**; **Liz Nelson** (Kathy Ward's friend); **Claude Peters**; **Chris Pritchard** (Rick, Cindy Mullen & George Herren's friend); **Jack and Meg Radley**; **Sara** (Meg & Jack Radley's granddaughter); **Scott and Amanda** (nephew and niece of Don & Marilyn DeSmith); **John Paul and Pat Smith**; **Smith/Dworetsky Family** (Okke & Kathy Postma's friends); **Sally Stowell** (Alice Berry's mother); **Walker** (Don & Dorice Raw's friend); **Kathy Ward**; **Gordon Wenner** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Merle Winn** (Amy Ogden's friend); **Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend); **Jason Zeller** (Kathy Ward's son); **Linda Zeller** (Kathy Ward's daughter in law)

Rally Day!

Today, September 13 - Noon to 2 p.m.

Come to a Picnic in the Park at **Baker Park!** Bring the whole family, bring your own lunch!
Hope to see you there!

Sunday School Update:

The Christian Education Committee has decided that Sunday School and Youth will meet via Zoom on September 20 and 27. We will wait to see what happens with the school opening before we begin to consider meeting at the church. We will let you know when we are ready to come back to in-person classes. If you have any questions, please e-mail Debbie at ce@canandaiguachurch.org

Calendar

Sunday Sept. 13 – Worship **10:30**, Live Stream & in person, Rally Day picnic 12-2 **Baker Park**

Mon. Sept. 14 – Adult Ed zoom 2; Trustees 4:00

Tues Sept. 15 – Men’s Group 8 Gateway Grille; Adult Ed 2:30 Outside at Dawn’s; Council 7,
Weathervane deadline

Wed Sept. 16 - Small Group 10 am Mickey Ely’s

Thursday Sept. 17 - Adult Ed Inside - Social rooms 10

Sunday Sept. 20 – Worship 10:30 Live Streaming and in person, Celebration of Alicia’s 10 years, zoom
Sunday School

Mon. Sept. 21 – Adult Ed zoom 2;

Tues Sept. 22 – Men’s Group 8 Gateway Grille; Adult Ed 2:30 Outside at Dawn’s;

Thursday Sept. 24 - Adult Ed Inside - Social rooms 10, What Have We Learned during COVID 7 zoom