

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Earth Day Celebration
Debbie Wilbur, Lay Reader

April 25, 2021

Worship 10:30 AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Great is Thy Faithfulness* by William M. Runyan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the beginning, the Spirit of God moved over the waters,

People: and God said “Unbind creation and let her out!” and God said it was Good.

Leader: God said, “let there be light” and called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.”

People: God spoke the Word to call the land from the water, pulling oceans down to the depths and raising mountains high above the waters, and in God’s eyes they were Good.

Leader: God’s Word called to life the soybean and the milking cow, the robin and the earthworm,

People: the honeybee and the gray wolf, the microbe and the bald eagle, and God’s heart saw that they were Good.

Leader: Then God spoke a final time, making creatures who carry the divine image: us.

People: Forming humans by the Holy Word, male and female together, to tend and steward all that God had made.

Leader: And God saw that it was all very Good.

People: And God declared that it is all very Good.

Leader: On the seventh day, God rested.

People: And on this seventh day, we come to worship and remember our role as partners in creation. Amen.

*HYMN #73 *The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well*

INVOCATION (in unison)

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may

sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER (Trespases)

*GLORIA PATRI

EPISTLE BIBLE LESSON *1 John 3: 16-24*

*HYMN #372 *I Then Shall Live*

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON *John 10: 11-18*

SERMON *Behaving* Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERING OF SPECIAL MUSIC *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, arr. by Anne Krentz
Organ from Keys of the Kingdom; Elaine Hilton - Piano

*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

How can we express our thanks, O God, for the one who laid down life itself in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need, and we want to respond. Use what we offer to you to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN #559 *Here I Am, Lord*

BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE *Praise, My Soul the King of Heaven* by John Innes

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

*Hymn Leaders This Morning: Jim and Elaine Hilton
Greeters This Morning: Sue Hawkes and Jean Landes
Ushers This Morning: Bill Blaker, Barbara Iglewski & Guy Burns
Live Stream Team This Morning: Steve Brooks & John Maguire*

Call to Worship by Rev. David Huber and Kathy Bartilson; Invocation written by Pope Francis; Unison Prayer of Dedication reprinted from Led By Love by Lavon Bayler

Happy Birthday

26th – Doug Brown & Kathi Nacca
30th – Carol Ennis & Bob Ward

May 1 – Ian Schwab

Prayer List

Ancy & Kira (Fred Henry's friend); **Steve Beck** (Heidi Schwarz's brother); **Brad Bliss; Marjorie Case; Cheryl** (Jennifer Maxfield's sister-in-law); **Judy Clark** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' and Elaine Hilton's friend); **Cathy Coots; Bob DeSantis** (Dorice & Don Raw, Sr.'s friend); **Julie English** (Janet & Kim Tenreiro's friend); **Brian Fuscald** (Mara Huberlie's nephew); **Jerry Gomez** (Kathi Nacca's friend); **Carin Herren; Peter Ingalls** (Jean Ingall's son); **Jim and Carolyn** (Amy Ogden's friends); **Jim & Melody** (Don & Marilyn DeSmith's friends); **Jim Kolesar** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Sue Kotalik; Jan Larsen** (Dawn's mother); **Michelle List** (JoAnn Reed's friend); **Loren** (Jack Radley's friend); **Lynn** (Joan Ryan's friend); **Eileen McCarthy** (Carla DeMeco & Betsy Dresser's friend); **Sally Mueller; Liz Nelson** (Kathy Ward's friend); **Norman** (Jennifer Maxfield's uncle); **Pia** (Jim & Connie Malone's friend); **Chris Pritchard** (Rick, Cindy Mullen & George Herren's friend); **Jack Radley; Don Raw, Sr.; Sara** (Jack Radley's granddaughter); **Smith/Dworesky Family** (Okke & Kathy Postma's friends); **Pat Smith; Dr. Steven Smith & Family** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Sally Stowell** (Alice Berry's mother); **Walker** (Don & Dorice Raw's friend); **Tom Wallace** (Jackie Lowe's significant other); **Kathy Ward; Gordon Wenner** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Robin Wisniewski** (Alicia's mom); **Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend); **Jason Zeller** (Kathy Ward's son); **Linda Zeller** (Kathy Ward's daughter in law)

Calendar

Sunday April 25 - Worship 10:30 In Person & Live stream; hybrid Sunday School
Monday April 26 – Study Grp 9:00; Study Grp 5:00
Monday April 26 - Sun. May 2 - Dawn on Retreat at Silver Bay
Tues. April 27 - Men's Grp 8:00; Study Grp 9:00; Rughookers 10:00; SCR Grp A 10:30 Zoom; SCR Grp C 1:00 Zoom
Wed. April 28 - Study Grp 9:00; TOPS 10:00
Thurs. April 29 - SCR Grp B 10:30 Zoom; SCR Grp D 7:00 Zoom
Friday April 30 – Live Stream Practice 12:00; Prayer Shawl @ Sally Mueller's 2:00
Sunday May 2 – Supply Preacher: Rev. Ryan Henderson (Dawn on Retreat) Worship In Person & Live stream 10:30; hybrid Sunday School
Monday May 3 – Study Grp 9:00; Study Grp 5:30
Tues. May 4 – Men's Grp 8:00; Study Grp 9:00; Rughookers 10:00
Wed. May 5 - Study Grp 9:00; TOPS 10:00
Sunday May 9 – Mother's Day Yellow Roses, Worship In Person & Live stream 10:30; hybrid Sunday School

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

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We're a Different Kind of Church

- ❖ **We value and respect diversity in the ways we express our faith.**
- ❖ **We enjoy thoughtful dialogue about faith issues.**
- ❖ **We encourage each other to work for justice and to care for people in need in our community and in our world.**