

fa FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor
Genesee Valley Association
Spring Assembly

April 30, 2022

Worship 9:30 AM

PRELUDE *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* Rowland H. Pritchard

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time:

People: Be with us in this time.

Leader: Savior of the world, healer of the nations:

People: Be with us in this place.

Leader: Breath of all that lives, of people near and far:

People: Stir within our lives.

Leader: Maker-Spirit-Son, God of here and now:

People: Be present in our worship, that we may find new ways to be present in your world.

*HYMN # 391 *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

*INVOCATION

O God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, and our universe. Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

POEM *I, The God of Life* Rev. Gregory Rupright

*HYMN # 350 *The Summons*

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON *Leviticus 19: 33-34*

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 25: 34-40*

EPISTLE LESSON *Hebrews 13: 1-2*

MEDITATION *Welcoming the Foreigner* Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

PEOPLE'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father and Mother, we pray for the immigrant families, those who must build their lives outside of their homeland; those who had to run from their cities, leave their homes because of death threats, dangers, natural disasters, or war. We pray for those who flee because they could see no other possibility. Let us be the table that receives all ethnic groups, races, languages, cultures and families. Let us be the banquet that receives those who have been excluded, so we may all be invited to sit down and share with Jesus. Let us be a place of protection, a place of peace, of food, of fostering, of family, a place of refuge and care. Help us to be a place without borders, without stigmas, without xenophobia, prejudice or oppression. Create in our hearts, and in our churches, a place for everyone. Amen.

*HYMN # 581 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

*BENEDICTION

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

Call to Worship and Invocation adapted and reprinted from Ionia Abbey Worship Book by The Ionia Community; Poem and People's Prayer adapted and reprinted from Liturgies from Below by Claudio Carvalhaes.

REFUGEE

*A Poem by
14 Year old Rubimbo Bungwe
From Zimbabwe*

*“So I have a new name – refugee.
Strange that a name should take away from me
My past, personality and hope.
Strange refuge this.
So many seem to share this name – refugee
Yet we share so many differences.*

*I find no comfort in my new name.
I long to share my past, restore my pride,
To show, I too, in time will offer more
Than I have borrowed.
For now the comfort that I seek
Resides in the old yet new name.
I would choose – friend.”*

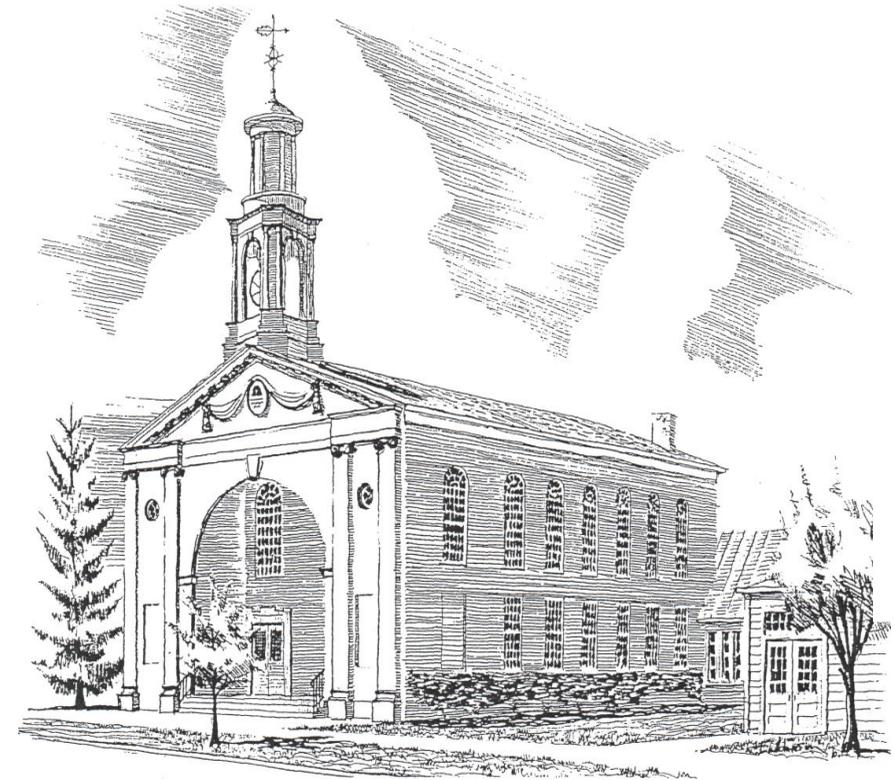
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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.