

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor
The Fourth Sunday in Lent and New Members
Don Oakleaf, Lay Reader**

March 19, 2023

Worship 10:30 AM

PRELUDE *O Humankind Bewail Thy Great Sin* J. S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is in the water that restores our soul.

People: And God is in the night when we lose our way.

Leader: God is in today and tomorrow, raising up leaders, prophets and dreamers.

People: And God is in the wilderness with us – every step of the way.

Leader: So with confidence we declare -

People: If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.

Leader: Let us worship the God of creation.

People: Let us worship the God of wilderness spaces.

*HYMN # 149 *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

*INVOCATION

Jesus of Nazareth, there are stories of you healing the blind all over scripture. You were constantly opening people's eyes. So today we confess that we often choose to keep our eyes closed. We turn away from injustice in our world, worried you might ask us to work for change. We close our eyes to our privilege because the truth is uncomfortable. We avoid eye contact with those who are suffering to avoid identifying with their pain. Forgive us for failing to be your Church in the world. Guide us from the depths of our wilderness into your light. 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.

*GLORIA PATRI # 734

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (insert)

ANTHEM *Pie Jesu* Andrew Lloyd Webber

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH *One Great Hour of Sharing*

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON *Psalms 23* Pg. 485

*HYMN # 638 *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come*

CALL TO PRAYER

**Come bring your burdens to God, Come bring your burdens to God
Come bring your burdens to God for Jesus will never say no. (3X)**

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON *John 9: 1-11* Pg. 95

SERMON *Restored in the Wilderness* Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERTORY *The Lord's My Shepherd* arr. Hal Hopson

*DOXOLOGY # 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For your goodness and mercy that overflow through our lives and equip us to share, we give thanks. No sacrifice can match your generosity; no offering is adequate to express our gratitude. We bring ourselves with our gifts, that all may be consecrated anew to your service. Amen.

*HYMN # 446 *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *O Humankind Bewail Thy Great Sin* J. S. Bach

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

*Call to Worship and Invocation adapted and reprinted from Sanctified Arts, Sarah Are;
Prayer of Dedication reprinted from Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2 by Lavon Bayler*

Greeters This Morning:

Ushers This Morning: Carla Demeco, Sue Hawkes, Dick Kotalik, Tim Schneider

Live Stream This Morning: Matt Berry

Coffee Hour Host: Hospitality/Special Events Committee



If you are visiting with us, welcome!

Please fill out a green card and place it in the offering plate.

If you would like to use our hearing assistance system please see an usher.

Happy Birthday

3/19	Katarina Schwarz
3/20	Jen Schneider
3/21	Gary Henehan ~ Peter Sarkis ~ Mike Parsons
3/23	Barbara Iglewski

Prayer List

Ancy & Family (Fred Henry's friend); **Carol Birx** (friend of the Casellas Family); **Marjorie Case**; **Cheryl** (Jennifer Maxfield's sister-in-law); **Judy Clark** (friend of the Casellas Family); **Abby Coons** (Carl & JoAnn Reed's friend); **Bob DeSantis** (Dorice & Don Raw, Sr.'s friend); **Marilyn DeSmith**; **Jerry Diver**; **Max Grossman** (George Herren's friend); **Carin Herren**; **Barb Iglewski**; **John** (Lin's nephew); **Sue Kotalik**; **Ron & Lu Krahl**; **Dennis Maxfield**; **Paul** (Dennis Maxfield's brother); **Frank McAlpin** (Patrick McAlpin's father); **Sally Mueller**, **Norine** (Marilyn DeSmith's friend); **Chris Pritchard** (Rick, Cindy Mullen & George Herren's friend); **Don Raw, Sr.**; **Pat Smith**; **Dr. Steven Smith & Family** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Robin Wisniewski** (Alicia Francis' mom); **Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend); **Jason Zeller** (Kathy Ward's son); **Jim Ziegler**

Calendar

Sun Mar 19	<i>Welcoming New Members ~ One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	
Tue Mar 21	8:00	Men's Group
	10:00	Rug Hookers/Hayes Room
	10:30	Literacy Volunteers/Social Room
	6:00	Congregational Life/Zoom
	7:00	Council/Zoom
Wed Mar 22	<i>Last Day to Order Easter Flowers</i>	
	10:00	TOPS/Downstairs Room
Thu Mar 23	10:00	Literacy Volunteers/Hayes Room
	10:00	Lent Adult Ed/Social Room
	12:00	Bridge
	12:30	Ladies Luncheon
	6:00	Soup Supper
Sun Mar 26	9:00	Choir
	10:30	Worship In-Person & Live Stream, Sunday School
	11:45	Palm Sunday Rehearsal

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.