

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor**

The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Jackie Lowe, Lay Reader

March 26, 2023

Worship 10:30 AM

PRELUDE *Jesu, Meine Freude – Aria* David M. Cherwien

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have been in the wilderness -

People: Discerning and working, seeking and dreaming.

Leader: We have been in the wilderness -

People: Grieving and wondering, praying and hoping.

Leader: We have been in the wilderness -

People: Longing and running, creating and waiting.

Leader: We have been in the wilderness, but we have not been alone;
for God walks with us, every step of the way.

People: So let us worship the God of our darkest nights and our brightest days.

*HYMN # 261 *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*

*INVOCATION

Gracious God; you invite us to plant a garden of love and harmony, but we grow weeds of prejudice and hatred. You invite us to sow joy and gratitude, but we scatter seeds of greed and envy. You call us to tend the soil of fear and denial, but instead we close our eyes and let the earth suffer. Forgive us. You invited us to plant a garden, and we lost ourselves in the wilderness. Clear our hearts. Breathe life into these weary bones and grant us a fresh start. Gratefully we pray, 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

ANTHEM *Ave Verum Corpus* W.A. Mozart
*Hail, true body born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood.
Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON *Ezekiel 37: 1-14* Pg. 761

*HYMN # 521 *Abide with Me*

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 11: 1-45* Pg. 97 Jackie Lowe, Lynne Peffley
and Dawn Garrett-Larsen

SERMON *The Wilderness of Grief* Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERTORY *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* arr. John G. Barr

*DOXOLOGY # 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We worship you, God of Life, with all we place in these offering plates. Even more, we want to devote our time to you, and all the talents you have entrusted to us. Accept us as a congregation presented for your use on the altar of life. Let us be menders of broken relationships, bearers of your healing Spirit, proclaimers of your active and inclusive love. In Christ's name. Amen.

*HYMN # 419 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Jesu, Meine Freude - Chorale* David M. Cherwien

***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*

Ushers This Morning: Fred Henry, Carl Jackson, Siu Schroeder, Tim Schneider
Live Stream This Morning: John Maguire
Coffee Hour Host: Congressional Life 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

3/27 Pat Hallett ~ Alicia Francis ~ Dan Casellas
 3/28 Kim Tenreiro
 3/31 Jennifer Maxfield ~ Abby Rice

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); **Connie Sunshine** (cousin of Cheryl
 Bootes); **Robin Wisniewski** (Alicia Francis' mom); **Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend);
Jason Zeller (Kathy Ward's son); **Jim Ziegler**

Calendar

Sun Mar 26	9:00	Choir
	10:30	Worship In-Person & Live Stream, Sunday School
	11:45	Palm Sunday Rehearsal
Tue Mar 28	8:00	Men's Group
	10:00	Rug Hookers/Hayes Room
	10:30	Literacy Volunteers/Social Room
Wed Mar 29	10:00	TOPS/Downstairs Room
Thu Mar 30	10:00	Literacy Volunteers/Hayes Room
	10:00	Lent Adult Ed/Social Room
Sun Apr 2		<i>Palm Sunday</i>
	9:00	Choir
	10:30	Worship In-Person & Live Stream, 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.**