



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“I Believe”
4th Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2020
10:30 a.m. Virtual Service**

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church’s Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor
Linda Gooley, Reflection
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator
Nicole Finney, Child Care
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Judy Nielsen, Organist
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

210 W. Saginaw Hwy • Grand Ledge, MI 48837 • grandledgeucc.org

• 517-627-2336 • office@grandledgeucc.org

Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text, and an asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, as you are able. Our hymns are not announced, but are printed in the bulletin, so feel free to locate them ahead of time.*

Helpful worship notes and information on the church can be found in the brochure by the hymnals.

Guests and visitors – a special welcome! Please fill out a “Welcome” card (in the pew pocket) and put it in the offering plate so we may send you a small gift.

GREETING

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come all who are wanting

Many: You are all welcome here!

One: Come all who are ill

Many: You are all welcome here!

One: Come all who are grieving

Many: You are all welcome here!

One: Come from your isolation

Many: You are all welcome here!

*OPENING HYMN #251

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

“I Greet You, Sure Redeemer”

*COLLECT PRAYER

One: Let us pray

Many: While here we sit in isolation we still gather as one through technology. Our great desire to continue as a community has helped to bring us together here today. We are grateful to the many who have helped us stay together through these trying times. Amen

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Remember Him”

Nancy Price/Don Besig

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23 (pg. 491)

GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-10 (pg. 977)

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

Many: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE #283

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

REFLECTION

“I Believe”

Linda Gooley

POEM & MUSICAL REFLECTION

“I Believe”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

(from YouVersion)

God, You alone are worthy of honor, glory, and praise. With You, we can overcome every storm-including the global impact COVID-19 is having on our world. Right now, we are asking You to:

*Heal those who are sick and protect those who are not.

*Give our leaders extra wisdom as they navigate this pandemic and economic uncertainty.

*Strengthen Your global Church. Reveal to us how we can partner together to reach the needs of those around us.

*Calm our fears. Fill us with Your hope, joy, and peace as we continue to trust in You.

*Use our fears. Fill us with Your hope, joy, and peace as we continue to trust in You,

*Use this pandemic to pave the way for spiritual renewal. We want Your glory, power, and healing to be on display.

This we pray as we pray the Lord’s Prayer in one voice in the language that speaks to each of our hearts:

OFFERING MOMENT

Please give what you can, by mail or through prayers.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com

*CLOSING HYMN #249

“Peace I Leave with You, My Friends”

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE.

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful”

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful
In the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“Happy Trails... Until We Meet Again”

- Unless otherwise listed all hymns and responses come from the New Century Hymnal

SUNDAY ROSTER

Reflection – Linda Gooley

Virtual Coordinator - Chad Frost

Music Coordinator - Brandon Frost

Piano/Keyboard - Chuck Byam

Liturgist - Troy Arient

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

*John 11:25-27**Anon., from Strasbourg Psalter, 1545
Transl. Elizabeth L. Smith, 1868; alt.*

1 I greet you, sure Re - deem - er, with my heart,
2 You are the source of mer - cy and of grace,
3 You are the life, by which a - lone we live,
4 You have the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,
5 Our hope is all in you and you a - lone;

glad for the sav - ing love that you im - part,
reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place;
and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive.
no harsh - ness have you and no bit - ter - ness;
we trust the prom - ise that your word makes known.

Who pain did un - der - go for my poor sake;
So rule in us and our whole be - ing sway.
Sus - tain us by your faith and by your power,
Grant us the grace that flows in you so free
O dear Re - deem - er, make us calm and sure,

I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.
Shine on us with the light of your pure day.
and give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
that we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.
that in your strength we ev - er - more en - dure.

Psalm 23

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

John 10:1-10

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

10 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

Refrain

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in



all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to



you so you can give to oth - ers, too.



1 To share God's love is why I came,
2 Take my hand and be at peace;
3 With this love now all will know



to show God's kind - ness with - out end.
the spir - it of our love I send.
that lone - li - ness is at an end.



Go now, my friends, and do the same,
And with this love you will be free,
Re-joice, my friends, al - though I go,



un - til I come a - gain.
un - til I come a - gain.
for I will come a - gain.