



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Uniting and Transforming”
23rd Sunday After Pentecost
November 15, 2020
10:30 a.m. Facebook Live 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. Phil Hart, Preacher	Judy Nielsen, Organist
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor	Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Anita Calcagno, Office Administrator	Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Nicole Finney, Child Care	Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist
Sue Sackett, Custodian	
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	

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• 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.*

MOMENT FOR CENTERING

GREETING

One: The grace of 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

((Used with permission from Rev. Kaji S. Douša, Senior Minister of Park Avenue Christian Church (DOC), New York City)

One: Sing the new day.

Many: Oh God, we come.

One: Sing a new song.

Many: Awakened, we come.

One: Sing to the light.

Many: Beckoned, we come.

OPENING HYMN #492 (verses 1-3)

"I Would be True"

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

GATHERING PRAYER

((Used with permission from Rev. Kaji S. Douša, Senior Minister of Park Avenue Christian Church (DOC), New York City)

One: Please join me in prayer:

**Many: There is a richness here –
that greets and grows and holds and challenges and keeps.
There is a richness here –
a richness that surrounds and brings and delivers and gives
The richness holds us in our weakness,
fills us in our hunger,
So here, richly blessed, we have come, and we have been found.
Let this time together inspire us in richness and grace. Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

"Think of Me"

(Brandon Frost and Chuck Byam)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Kings 19: 9b-13 NRSV (pg. 322)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:78-79 NRSV (pg. 933)

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE #478 (verse 2)

“Peace Like a River”

**I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.
I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.**

HOMILY

“Transitions”

(Rev. Phil Hart, Transitional Minister for the Michigan UCC Conference)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Brighten the Corner Where You Are”

(Chuck Byam)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)

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 # 581 (verses 1-3)

“Lead Us from Death to Life”

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

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

**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

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus - Adaptation”

(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist - Troy Arient

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Phil Hart

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Organist – Judy Nielsen

Pianist - Chuck Byam

- For information regarding the UCC’s response to the wildfires in the west, see:
 - <https://www.ucc.org/news/west-coast-fire-evacuations-take-toll-on-ucc-churches-camps-and-their-communities-09162020>
 - <https://www.ucc.org/2020-wildfires>
- If you’re struggling to find hope amidst all of the troubles of our world right now, one source that maybe be helpful is this: <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>

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- **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** - Adaptation
(Arranged by Chuck Byam, Jr)

Phil. 4:8-9

St. 1, 2, Howard Arnold Walter, 1917

St. 3, anon.; alt.

1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be
 2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be
 3 I would be prayer-ful through each bus - y mo - ment; I would be

pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for
 giv - ing, and for - get the gift; I would be hum - ble,
 con - stant - ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to

there is much to suf - fer; I would be brave, for
 for I know my weak - ness; I would look up, and
 sense God's slight - est whis - per; I would have faith to

there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
 laugh, and love, and live, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.
 keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

1 Kings 19:9-13**New Revised Standard Version**

⁹ At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Luke 1:78-79**New Revised Standard Version**

⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Lead Us from Death to Life

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man-y lone-ly hearts, so man-y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev-er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.