



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“It's Not Always Easy to Do the Right Thing”  
**July 18, 2021**  
**10:30 a.m. 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***

Lisa Reed, Preacher

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor

Angela Spialek, 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](http://grandledgeucc.org)

• 517-627-2336 • [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto: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

One: As God is our shepherd we need nothing else.

**Many: We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters, which renews and refreshes our spirits.**

One: God guides us along paths of righteousness.

**Many: And walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are not afraid. The shepherd's staff comforts us.**

One: God set the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies. There, we're anointed with oil and our cup overflows.

**Many: Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us as long as we dwell in the house of God.**

#### OPENING HYMN #584

"I Am the Light of the World"

*(We will remain seated during the hymns and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)*

#### GATHERING PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Many: Caring and Gracious God, you are the shepherd who gathers us together today to celebrate with grateful thanksgiving the community in which we live. We are nourished by its diversity, brought about by the unique gifts each person contributes. Be with us in this time of worship and encourage us to never cease welcoming the strangers we meet and accepting the gifts they bring. Grant that they will enrich our lives and will be a reminder of the joy that comes when all will be one in you. Amen.**

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Lisa Reed

FIRST OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Deuteronomy 24:12-14 NLV

<sup>12</sup> If he is a poor man, do not keep what he gives you through the night. <sup>13</sup> Return his coat to him when the sun goes down so he may sleep in it and be thankful for you. You will be doing what is right before the Lord your God.

<sup>14</sup> “Do not make it hard for a paid servant who is poor and in need, if he is one of your brothers or one of the strangers who is living in one of your towns.

SECOND OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Kings 9:3-5 NLV

<sup>3</sup> The Lord said to him, “I have heard your prayer which you have prayed to Me. I have set apart this house you have built by putting My name there forever. My eyes and My heart will be there always. <sup>4</sup> As for you, walk before Me as your father David walked, with a true heart doing what is right. Do all that I have told you. Obey My Laws. If you do, <sup>5</sup> then I will make the throne of your rule over Israel last forever. It will be just as I promised your father David, saying, ‘You will never be without a man on the throne of Israel.’”

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

“It's Not Always Easy to Do the Right Thing”

*(Lisa Reed)*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“The Lord is Blessing Me Right Now”

*(Chuck Byam)*

**The Lord is Blessing Me Right now, Oh, Right now!!  
The Lord is Blessing Me Right Now, Oh Right know!  
He woke me up this morning, And started me on my way;  
The Lord is Blessing Me Right Now!**

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

*(For those of us meeting in person, you are invited to place your offering in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. For those of you worshipping at home, please give what you can by mail or through prayers. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart [hartacre3@aol.com](mailto:hartacre3@aol.com))*

DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

**Many: Beloved God, accept the gifts we offer, and bless them to the fulfillment of our calling. 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. May it be so. Amen**

CLOSING HYMN #590

“Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor”

*(We will remain seated during the hymns and you are encouraged to quietly follow along and reflect on the verses printed in this bulletin while enjoying the music as it is being played.)*

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.**

POSTLUDE

“If You Live Right”

*(Chuck Byam)*

## CREDITS

- Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 732777-A. All rights reserved and from CCLI, License #2091058, and Streaming License #20709045
- The Whole World our Neighborhood: Service Prayers for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Quentin Chin, member of Church on the Hill in Lenox, MA. © 2021, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
- **In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful**  
*(#00118, One License #732777-A, Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taize, Tune: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: ©1986, 1991, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc.)*
- **I Am the Light of the World**  
*(#81294, One License, Text and music ©1978, 1979, Greg Hayakawa. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Contributors: Greg Hayakawa)*
- **The Lord is Blessing Me Right Now**  
*(#94946, One License, Contributors: Nolan Williams, Jr. Tune: arr. Nolan Williams, Jr. ©2000, GIA Publications, Inc.)*
- **Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor**  
*(#28614, One License, Contributors: Brian Wren, Text: ©1975, 1994, Hope Publishing Company)*
- **If You Live Right**  
*(#94947, One License, Contributors: Dr. James Abbington, Tune: arr. Dr. James Abbington, ©2000, GIA Publications, Inc.)*

---

### SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Rich Brown

**Fresh Perspective** – Lisa Reed

**Homily** – Lisa Reed

**Virtual Coordinator** – Kelly Stuitable-Clark

**Music Coordinator** – Brandon Frost

**Pianist** – Chuck Byam

**Usher** – Kim Dible

**Greeter** – Ben Banks

**Sound Board** – Karen Walker

---

# I Am the Light of the World



"I am the light of the world!



You peo-ple come and fol-low me!"

If you fol-low and love you'll



learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.



- |   |          |         |            |               |          |          |
|---|----------|---------|------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| 1 | When the | song    | of the an- | gels is       | stilled, | when the |
| 2 | 7        | To find | the lost   | and lone-ly   | one,     | 7 to     |
| 3 | 7        | To free | the pris-  | oner from all | chains,  | 7 to     |
| 4 | To bring | hope    | to ev-     | ery task you  | do,      | 7 to     |



star in the sky is gone,  
 heal the bro-ken soul with love,  
 make the pow-er-ful care,  
 dance at a ba-by's new birth,

When the  
 7 To  
 To re-  
 7 To



sag-es and the shep-herds have found their way home, the  
 feed the hun-gry chil-dren with warmth and good food, To  
 build the na-tions with strength of good will, to  
 make mu-sic in . . . . an old per-son's heart, and



work of Christ-mas is be-gun:  
 feel the earth be-low, the sky a-bove!  
 see all God's chil-dren ev-ery-where!  
 sing to the col-ors of the earth!

# Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor

590

Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1994

Rom. 13:8-14

Unison

D F#m Am7 Em

1 Spir - it of Je - sus, if I love my neigh - bor,  
2 And if, when I have an - swered need with kind - ness,  
3 If I am hug - ging safe - ty or pos - ses - sions,

Gm D G A7

out of my knowl - edge, lei - sure, power or wealth,  
my neigh - bor ris - es, wak - ened from de - spair,  
un - curl my spir - it, as your love pre - vails,

D F#m Am7 GM7 F#7

o - pen my mind to un - der - stand the an - ger of  
o - pen my heart to hear the cry for jus - tice that  
to join my neigh - bors, work for lib - er - a - tion, and

Bm Em/G F#m7 Bm Em7 A7 D

help - less - ness that hates my power to help.  
strug - gles for the chang - es that I fear.  
find . . . my free - dom at the mark of nails.