



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Bee Yourself”  
October 31, 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***

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor  
Volunteers, Office Administrator  
Ben Sackett, Custodian  
Demphna Krikorian, Christian Educator  
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director  
Chuck Byam, Organist  
Brandon Frost, Choir Director  
Nicole Finney, Child Care

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.  
As you enter the sanctuary, please share your offering in the offering plate by the door.  
We ask that you wear a mask and social distance from others not in your family or pod.*

*If you are new to our church or do not receive email updates from us, please share your name and contact information with us by contacting us: [office@grandledgeucc.org](mailto:office@grandledgeucc.org)*

### 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

INTROIT “What Brings Us Together”  
(Chancel Choir)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hear, O people of God: our God is one. Hear the commandments of our God.

**Many: First, love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

One: Hear, O people of God: our God is one. Recite the commandments to your children and hold them in your hearts.

**Many: Second, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these calls to love. Amen.**

#### OPENING HYMN #84

“This Is the Day”

*(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

**Many: O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love, we thank you for your love that never lets us go. Thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space with these your people – our neighbors – to worship you. We do not come merely to open the doors of the church, but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another. As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love– to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. May we be transformed from individuals to members of your one body. We pray for our nation that we be united as a people tied to a single garment of destiny. We pray for those elected officials who serve all citizens that they may be**

**guided not by ego, politics or money, but by compassion for all people. Guide us as families, as a community of faith, as a nation to follow the path of love. Amen.**

ANTHEM  
(In Sanctuary)

“Any Dream Will Do”  
(Chancel Choir)

ANTHEM  
(On-line)

“The Lord’s Prayer”  
(Sung by Ben Banks; played by Judy Nielsen)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Anita Calcagno

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ruth 1:1-18 NRSV

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;

where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.  
Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.  
May the LORD do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

#### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 12:28-34 NRSV

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

#### CHORAL RESPONSE (chorus)

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,  
Blow through the wilderness, calling and free.  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,  
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

#### HOMILY

“Bee Yourself”  
(Anita Calcagno)

#### MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Love Divine”  
(Chuck Byam)

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(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.)*

#### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Bil Turner

## 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: Thank you, O God, for the gifts of your people. Help us that we rely not on our own understanding in the use of these gifts, but to seek your wisdom. Knowing that as we do, your will be revealed and your people near and far will be blessed. Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN (#526)

“Siyahamb’ekukhanyen’kwenkos”

*(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

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

## 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

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

*(Chuck Byam)*

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## SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Anita Calcagno

**Fresh Perspective** – Anita Calcagno

**Homily** – Anita Calcagno

**Virtual Coordinator** – Thea Oatman & David Gruner

**Sound Board** - Mae Clark

**Choir Director** - Brandon Frost

**Pianist/Organist** – Chuck Byam

**Hymn Singer** – Choir

**Usher** – Leah Horn

**Greeter** – Marcia Kent

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MORNING

84

# This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.

St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

E♭ B♭7

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our  
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus  
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

God has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be  
 rose a - gain; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be  
 Spir - it came; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joice and be  
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joice and be  
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joice and be

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

E♭ E♭/B♭ B♭7 E♭

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.  
 Les Garrett, 1967

# Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos' (We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Ps. 89:15

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -  
march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -  
kha - nyen' kwen-khos', light of God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are  
light of God. the light of God.

ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'.  
march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

Oo, ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'.  
march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'.  
march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

This South African song and fourteen others were first recorded and published in 1980 by the Church of Sweden Mission and the singing group "Fjedur" after a visit they made to South Africa. The subsequent 1984 collection Freedom Is Coming brought the songs to a worldwide audience.

Tune: SIYAHAMBA Irr.  
South African song