



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Restart”

Rally Sunday and Congregational Meeting

September 19, 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
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

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

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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

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

Grand Ringers Bell Choir

INTROIT

"What Brings Us Together"
(Chancel Choir)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

Many: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

One: Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

Many: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

One: Our church school is this sacred space and our classroom is the world.

Many: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

One: Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together!

Many: We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

OPENING HYMN #497

"Guide My Feet"

(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

One: Please join me in prayer:

Many: Dear Jesus, our teacher and our guide, fill our hearts with the curiosity and wonder of a child, that we may look to our future with new eyes and with hope. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“What Brings Us Together”
(Chancel Choir)

RALLY SUNDAY POEM

Gary Burt

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 1: 4-8 NRSV

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 4:10-11 NRSV

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE #286

“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

“Restart”

(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Lord Let Me Serve”

(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

(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)

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 #177

“God of Change and Glory”

(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.

BELLS/CHIMES

Grand Ringers Bell Choir

POSTLUDE

“Oh Happy Day”

(Chuck Byam)

CREDITS

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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Marcia Kent

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – David Gruner

Sound Board – Mae Clark

Pianist/Organist – Chuck Byam

Hymn Singer –

Usher – Mary Lou Prevost

Greeter – Linda Gooley

Crucifer – Karen Walker

Guide My Feet

African-American traditional; alt.

Heb. 12:1-15

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
 2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
 3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
 4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
 while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
 while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
 while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

This stanza may be added following stanza 1:
 Wheel with me while I run this race . . .

The words and music of some African-American spirituals have been widely adapted during the twentieth century, especially in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The alternate words were suggested by a fifth-grade church school class to include those who must "run this race" in a wheelchair.

Tune: GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10.
African-American traditional
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

God of Change and Glory



1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
 3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,



when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
 you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
 you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.



In the midst of chang-ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
 As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
 This we see, as shad-ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.



In our dif - fer - ence is bless-ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise



one Giv-er, one Word, one Spir-it, one God known in man-y ways,



hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!