



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Hearing God’s Call”  
September 26, 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. Ellen Robinson, Preacher	
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor	Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Volunteers, Office Administrator	Chuck Byam, Organist
Ben Sackett, Custodian	Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus	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: I am the church; you are the church.

**Many: We are the church together.**

One: We depend on our seniors and long-time members to remember where we came from and where we have been.

**Many: We are the church together.**

One: We depend on our children to retell our sacred stories as they grow.

**Many: We are the church together.**

One: We depend on our youth and young adults to ask us why we do things this way and to suggest something new.

**Many: We are the church together.**

One: We need each other to be the church.

**Many: We are the church together.**

#### OPENING HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

*(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: Holy God, you call us into community to praise you, to listen to your voice, and to learn how we might best serve you and your people. Speak**

**into our hearts and minds today, we pray, that we may go back out into the world refreshed and ready for more service. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“We Are One Lord”  
*(Chancel Choir)*

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

“Horton Hears a Who”

Rev. Ellen Robinson

SECOND HYMN #591

“This is my Song”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 1:20-33 NRSV (pg. 591)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

James 1:17-20 NRSV (pg. 1100)

17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.[a] 18 In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. 19 You must understand this, my beloved:[b] let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

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

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Spirit of Gentleness” (chorus)

**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

“Hearing God’s Call”

*(Rev. Ellen Robinson)*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“It Is Good to Praise the Lord”

*(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.)*

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 #451

“Be Thou My Vision”

*(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. Ellen Robinson*

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

“His Name is Wonderful”

*(Chuck Byam)*

## CREDITS

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- **“Horton Hears a Who”** (by Dr. Seuss. Permission generously granted by Penguin Random House under their Penguin Random House Open License Online Story Time and Online Read Aloud Videos and Live Events, 2021)

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## SUNDAY ROSTER

**Liturgist** – Lisa Reed

**Fresh Perspective** – Rev. Ellen Robinson

**Homily** – Rev. Ellen Robinson

**Virtual Coordinator** – David Gruner

**Sound Board** – Charlynn Walker

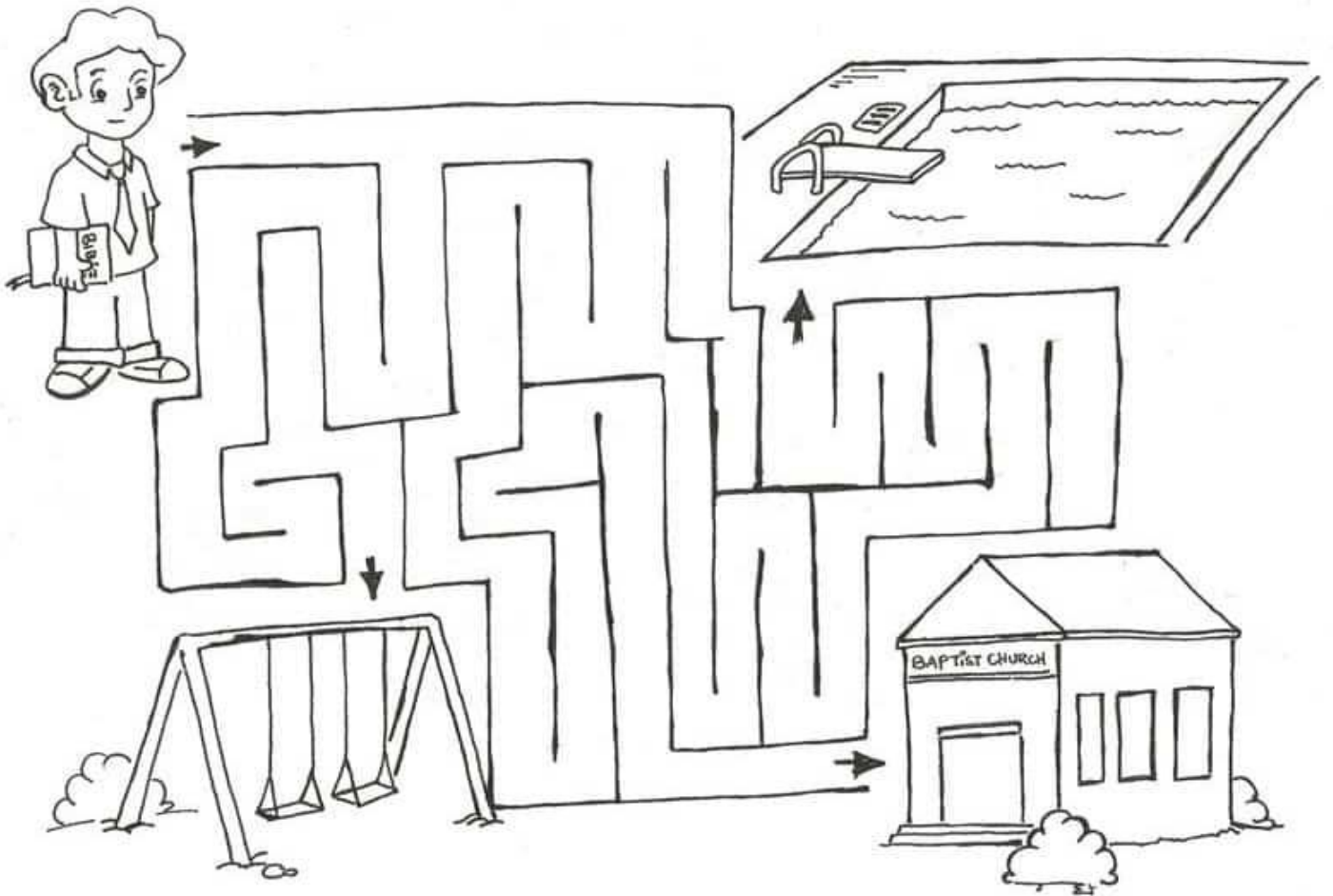
**Pianist/Organist** – Chuck Byam

**Choir Director** – Brandon Frost

**Hymn Singer** – Choir

**Usher** – Lisa Reed

**Greeter** – Pat Reed



Carlos Bautista | <http://ministry-to-children.com>

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## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joyfully ♩ = 92-112

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a -  
 2. Praise to the Lord! O - ver all things he glo - rious - ly reign -  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de - fend  
 4. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -  
 eth. Borne as on ea - gle wings, safe - ly his Saints he sus -  
 thee. Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall ev - er at -  
 him! All that hath breath, join with A - bra - ham's seed to a -

va - tion! Join the great throng, Psal - ter - y,  
 tain - eth. Hast thou not seen How all thou  
 tend thee. Pon - der a - new What the Al -  
 dore him! Let the "a - men" Sum all our

or - gan and song, Sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 need - est hath been Grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 might - y can do, Who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
 prais - es a - gain, Now as we wor - ship be - fore him.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878

Music: From *Stralsund Gesangbuch*, 1665;

arr. by William S. Bennett, 1816-1875, and Otto Goldschmidt, 1829-1907

Psalm 150

Psalm 23:6



# Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

*Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—  
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.*

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.  
*Traditional Irish melody  
 Harm. David Evans, 1927*

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