

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

August 28, 2022



Photo by Local Person

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Karina Roth

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Sandy Stover

Liturgist: Jenny Delfs

**Gathering Music**

**Words of Welcome**

## **Words to Enter Worship (Based on Matthew 5:1-14)**

*People who like salads:* **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

*People who like soups:* **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

*People who like hot dishes:* **Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.**

*People who like deserts:* **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.**

## **Opening Hymn #495 Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

1. Called as partners in Christ's service  
Called to ministries of grace  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace  
May we learn the art of sharing  
Side by side and friend with friend  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God's chosen end
2. Christ's example Christ's inspiring  
Christ's clear call to work and worth  
Let us follow never faltering  
Reconciling folk on earth  
Men and women richer poorer  
All God's people young and old  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold
3. Thus new patterns for Christ's mission  
In a small or global sense  
Help us bear each other's burdens  
Breaking down each wall or fence  
Words of comfort words of vision  
Words of challenge said with care  
Bring new power and strength for action  
Make us colleagues free and fair
4. So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife  
Make us partners in our living  
Our compassion to increase  
Messengers of faith thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace

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(Contributors: Jane Parker Huber) (Lic#738474-A)

## Words of Lament

**Almighty God, there are those who force themselves into places of honor, of leadership, that seek only to benefit themselves. There are those who seek favor and riches only to shut out those who really need help. There are those who believe themselves to be separate, to be better than some of your children, refusing to break bread with them, share your abundance, and belittle them any chance they get. Rise up, O God of Justice, rise up to fill those whose stomachs are empty, those who live in polluted places, and those whose justice is denied because their zip code isn't the right one. Move us that we may also stand for the least of these, that we might invite your children to our tables, and that we may not turn our heads away from injustice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 103)

**One:** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all the blessings -

**Many:** Who forgives all you iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

**All:** Who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your strength is renewed like the eagles. The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

**One:** The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on all, and righteousness to children's children, to those who keep the covenant and remember to love God and neighbor.

**Many:** Bless the LORD, O you angels, you mighty ones who do God's bidding, obedient to the spoken word.

**All:** Bless the LORD, all the hosts, ministers who are faithful. Bless the LORD, all God's creation, in all places of God's presence. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

## Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

### ***Good Bones by Maggie Smith***

*Life is short, though I keep this from my children.*

*Life is short, and I've shortened mine  
in a thousand delicious, ill-advised ways,  
a thousand deliciously ill-advised ways*

*I'll keep from my children. The world is at least  
fifty percent terrible, and that's a conservative  
estimate, though I keep this from my children.*

*For every bird there is a stone thrown at a bird.  
For every loved child, a child broken, bagged,  
sunk in a lake. Life is short and the world  
is at least half terrible, and for every kind  
stranger, there is one who would break you,  
though I keep this from my children. I am trying  
to sell them the world. Any decent realtor,  
walking you through a real shithole, chirps on  
about good bones: This place could be beautiful,  
right? You could make this place beautiful.*

## **Passing of the Peace**

### **Hymn #50 I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty**

1. I sing the praise of Love almighty  
which shines revealed in Jesus' face.  
I offer up all that delights me,  
All mean desires, each fond embrace,  
Turn from myself, in pure devotion,  
and eager plunge in love's vast ocean.
2. How loving kind you are how gentle  
how your heart reaches after mine  
My heart responds in elemental  
sympathy, beating perfect time.  
This mutual love, this strong attraction,  
I know no other satisfaction.
3. Secure my heart and all my being  
In you my Savior crucified.  
You gave your life to work my healing  
bleeding for me, you groaned and died.  
Beloved Jesus, my salvation  
you have through love, restored creation

4. May my heart bear the deep impression  
of love that Jesus shares with me,  
My life become a pure expression  
Of all that Christian love can be;  
Each word, each act, a bright reflection  
of joy in Love's own resurrection.

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## Scripture Readings

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture** Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 (Common English Bible)

**13** Keep loving each other like family. <sup>2</sup> Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. <sup>4</sup> Marriage must be honored in every respect, with no cheating on the relationship, because God will judge the sexually immoral person and the person who commits adultery. <sup>5</sup> Your way of life should be free from the love of money, and you should be content with what you have. After all, he has said, *I will never leave you or abandon you.* <sup>6</sup> This is why we can confidently say,

*The Lord is my helper,  
and I won't be afraid.*

*What can people do to me?*

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

<sup>15</sup> So let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him, which is the fruit from our lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture** Luke 14:1-14 (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition)

**14** On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

## **Children's Message** Who gets to sit where??

## **Choir Anthem**

**Message**            Open Table

## **Musical Reflections**

### **Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, Mother God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

### **Our Time of Giving – Slips of Faith**

#### **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

## **News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

### **Closing Hymn #584 I am the Light of the World**

#### **Refrain:**

I am the Light of the World  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled.  
When the star in the sky is gone.  
When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home.  
The work of Christmas is begun!  
(refrain)
2. To find the lost and lonely one,  
To heal that broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
To feel the earth below the sky above!  
(refrain)
3. To free the prisoner from his chains,  
To make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,  
To see all God's children everywhere.  
(refrain)
4. To bring hope to every task you do,  
To dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in an old person's heart,  
And sing to the colors of the earth!  
(refrain)

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## Benediction

## Sending Music

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRAYER LIST:** Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Kris Baxter, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Sally Dunn, Community of Uvalde and Highland Park, People of Ukraine,  
Shut-ins and Care Center: Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes.

### MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS:

The First Congregational UCC Budget adopted in January 2022 shows a need for a yearly income of \$151,756.

After 33 weeks the Budget Donations and Income should be \$96,182.02

The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$96,306.02

Thank You for all your support.  
Kevin R Le Voir, Treasurer

**DONATE ONLINE!** We now have a Donation button on our church website as another option to give your pledges and offerings. Simply go to [grandmaraisucc.org](http://grandmaraisucc.org), and click the Donation button in the top right corner.

### THIS WEEK

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

7:00 AM AA (FS)

8:00 AM Harbor Watch

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

9:30 AM – CHOIR PRACTICE

10:30 AM – **Outside** AND ON **ZOOM** **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**, Jesus is once again around a table that is filled with those who are his opponents and frenemy's. Just before in the story, he heals another person after they disapprove of his 'work.' So he turns the table on them in remarking about how this table is concerned about who is at the table and what place they have in relation to the others. Jesus then goes further to speak that to truly be blessed and have a place of honor, invite those who cannot repay your hospitality.

#### MONDAY, August 29

7:00AM - AA (FS)

3:00-5:00PM - Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL)

5:00 PM – Cleaning up the rain gardens in front of the Library.

7:00 PM - ALANON

Pastor Enno's Day off

#### TUESDAY, August 30

7:00PM Zen Meditation (LL)

#### WEDNESDAY, August 31

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

6:30 PM - Sing-a-Long & Music Jam

## THURSDAY, September 1

10:00 AM – Tai Chi

12:00 AM - Women's AA (FS)

3:00 PM – Building and Grounds

## FRIDAY, September 2

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

## SUNDAY, September 4

9:30 AM – Pick-up Choir

10:30 AM – **Outside** AND ON [ZOOM](#) **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**, on this Labor Day weekend we will explore Paul's short letter to Philemon who had a slave that with Paul for a while and now is being returned to hopefully be freed. Back in Jesus' and Paul's time there was robust slave trading, but not quite like we experienced here in the United States. But there was economic exploitation by one group of another.

This still happens today in our world and in our country. What would Paul say about this and what did Jesus say about this?

**OUR CHURCH OFFICE CONTINUES TO BE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:** Pastor Enno and Office Manager, Nancy Backlund, are in the building at unscheduled times. For pastoral emergencies, please contact our new Settled Pastor, Rev. Enno Limvere at (605) 460-0330.

### FOLLOW US ON:

Facebook – First Congregational UCC Grand Marais.

Instagram - Grandmaraisucc

Website - [grandmaraisucc.org](http://grandmaraisucc.org)

**FOOD SHELF:** The Food Shelf is distributing food each Monday, from 3:00-5:00 pm, also on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, 4:30-6:30 pm, downstairs in our church building. You can support their work by sending your checks to Food Shelf, P.O. Box 51, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

**GIVING DURING THIS TIME OF SUSPENDED SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:** It is tremendously heartening, for both your church staff and church lay leaders, to see such generous giving continuing during this time. Your on-going support of our ministries are especially important now. We encourage each of you to find ways to continue to support our ministries. continuing to give to our church by:

1. Download the "VANCO" mobile app on your smartphone, to give with your credit card on-line. Enter our church name or 55604 zip code, then choose our church account. This is a program of VANCO, with whom we already have a contract for such transactions.
2. Contact Kevin LeVoir, our Treasurer, about automatic deposit from your personal bank account, at [krlevoir@aol.com](mailto:krlevoir@aol.com).
3. Send a check in the US mail! P.O. Box 95, Grand Marais, MN 55604.

We extend a warm welcome to all who may be worshipping with us for the first time. If you would like more information about our ministries, contact Pastor Enno at [ennotherev@gmail.com](mailto:ennotherev@gmail.com) or 605-460-0330.

We are a progressive Christian congregation, with roots in the New England Congregational tradition and now are part of the wider denomination of the United Church of Christ. As a Just Peace Church, and welcoming of the LGBTQIA2+ community, we seek to provide a spiritual home for seekers of all ages and backgrounds. Please know that wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you in our congregation.



**Purpose and Mission** First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open, inclusive church that exists to worship God and practice the gospel of Jesus Christ. We welcome all people of goodwill who seek to share the love of God and honor the diversity of creation in a spirit of tolerance and flexibility. As a Just Peace Church, we invite all who seek the reign of God to join us in reaching out in healing ministry, working for justice, witnessing for peace and striving to overcome all forms of oppression. We recognize two sacraments: Baptism and Communion