

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

June 26, 2022

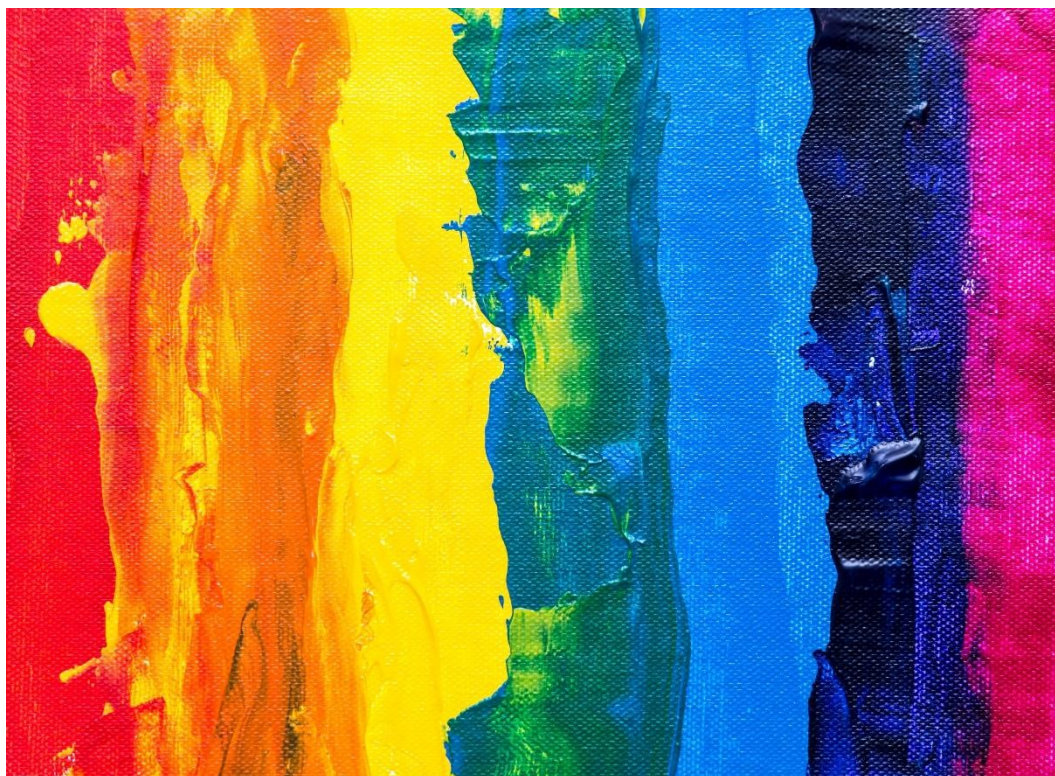


Photo by Steve Johnson

## **Outdoor Worship**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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: Nancy Starr

Liturgist: Bruce Tyler

### **Gathering Music**

### **Words of Welcome**

### **Prelude**

## **Words to Enter Worship (Based on Galatians 5:1, 13-25)**

*People who love our church: **For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm therefore, and do not submit to the yoke of fear.***

*People who love our community: **For you were called to freedom, siblings, but through love serve one another.***

*People who love our county: **For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”***

*People who love the land and water: **The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.***

## **Opening Hymn— The Body of Christ**

### **CHORUS:**

If we grow together, if we move with each other,  
A body of Christ are we.  
We each have a part, we each are a member,  
The body of Christ are we.

### **VERSE 1:**

We are born to hear, born to see, born to be a child of God.  
We are born to touch, born to walk, upon God’s path we all will trod.

### **VERSE 2:**

There are different gifts, different works, but given by the Spirit from above.  
Toward one goal, one... common purpose, to serve our God with all our love.

### **VERSE 3:**

God has arranged us in, one body, indispensable all are we.  
If one is honored, or...one suffers, we share it together, a family.

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## **Words of Lament**

**Almighty and Merciful God, we watch on television about a group of people who tried to overturn our democracy and seize power for themselves. We watch how state governments are rolling back protections and even the mentioning of our LGBTQA+ siblings. We are waiting for the Supreme Court ruling that will take away a woman’s right to have control over her health and her body. Remove the fear of people wanting to go back to a nostalgic time. Remove the hate of people who attack anyone that is different. Remove our hesitation in speaking up, organizing, and reclaiming the rights of our BIPOC siblings and all who lose under this white nationalism. Move us, O God, to stand up for justice for the least of these. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

## **Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 16)**

**One:** Protect me, O God, for in you I take my refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my God, I have no good apart from you.” As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is my delight.

**Many:** The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundaries have fallen for me in pleasant places, I have a goodly heritage. I will bless the LORD.

**All:** I keep the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand is beauty forevermore.

## **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.

### *Steps*

*by Bernice Baker (reflecting on Ukraine)*

*These steps, burdened  
With unthinkable load;  
Heavy, weary,  
Crimson tears  
Overflowing,  
Longing to  
Smile without fear.  
These steps  
Do leave marks  
Forevermore,  
Of deepest  
Compassion, most  
Unfaltering and pure,  
Despite their most unthinkable load.*

## **Passing of the Peace**

### **Scripture Readings**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Luke 9:51-62 (New Revised Standard Edition Updated Edition 2021)**

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered

a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival,<sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem.<sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”<sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them.<sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”<sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”<sup>59</sup> To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”<sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”<sup>61</sup> Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”<sup>62</sup> And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

## **Children’s Message: Following the Right Way**

### **Message “The Kingdom of God”**

### **Musical Reflections**

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

**Source of Sound: in the roar and the whisper, in the breeze and the whirlwind, we hear your name. Help us to breathe one holy breath feeling only you – this creates a shrine inside, in wholeness. Desire with and through us the rule of universal fruitfulness onto the earth. As we find your love in ours, let heaven and nature form a new creation. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Compost our inner, stolen fruit as we forgive others the spoils of their trespassing. But break the hold of unripeness, the inner stagnation that prevents good fruit. To you belongs each fertile function: ideals, energy, glorious harmony – during every cosmic cycle. Amen \***

#### **Our Time of Giving**

#### **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 #376 - God, We Thank You for Our People

1. God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil  
hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.  
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:  
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.
2. Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told  
Hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,  
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.  
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.
3. Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we failed:  
Though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.  
Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame  
You transform us by ways for giving. Grace amazing! Grace, you name!
4. By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,  
Eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.  
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,  
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

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Contributors: Ruth Duck

### Benediction

### Sending Music

- **Lord's Prayer is taken from the translations of "Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramic Words of Jesus." By Neil Douglas-Koltz**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRAYER LIST:** Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Larry (Jenny Delfs' father), Kris Baxter, Mike Carlson, Family and friends of John Mianowski, Gwen Dornfeld, Tom Yuhasey, Family of Alice Jane Starr, Community of Uvalde, 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 23 weeks the Budget Donations and Income should be \$67,122.82

The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$76,061.73

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, JUNE 24

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

### SUNDAY, JUNE 26

10:30 AM – **Outside** AND ON ZOOM **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**, on this Sunday, we will look at the gospel of Luke and a story of the disciples of Jesus believing they had the power to call down fire from heaven to destroy the villages who did not receive Jesus. More important than their ability to do so, what was Jesus' response to those who wanted to use violence and destruction in his name? How is this in contrast to Fruits of the Spirit found in Paul's letter to the Galatians?

11:00 AM – Summer Annual Meeting

12:00 PM – Discipleship Group– Hybrid

### MONDAY, June 27

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

7:00 PM—ALANON

Pastor Enno's Day off

### TUESDAY, JUNE 28

**NEWS ARTICLES DUE FOR JULY NEWSLETTER!!**

8:30 AM– 4:30 PM– Explorer's Club

11:45 AM-1:00 PM—Round Table

3:00 PM – Ministerial Lectionary Study

7:00 PM—Movie "Ahead of the Curve" at the Playhouse

7:00 PM– ZEN Meditation

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

1:30 PM—Rooted and Rising Group

7:00 PM - Sing-a-Long & Music Jam

### THURSDAY, JUNE 30

8:30 AM– 4:30 PM– Explorer's Club

10:00 AM – Tai Chi

12:00 PM - Women's AA

### FRIDAY, JULY 1

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

SUNDAY, JULY 3

9:30 AM—Pick-up Choir

10:30 AM—**Outside** and on ZOOM - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

**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

### **Our Open and Affirming Covenant**

We covenant to be an accessible, open and affirming community of faith, committed to peace and justice, reaching out in healing love to all of creation. We exist to worship God and practice the gospel. We welcome all persons, including those of all races, ethnicities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities and economic circumstances to fully share and participate in leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

**Board of Directors:**

Jenny Delfs, Moderator [jendelfs@boreal.org](mailto:jendelfs@boreal.org)  
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