



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 15, 2023

[grandmaraisucc.org](http://grandmaraisucc.org) // (218) 387-2113



Photo by Larm Rmah

**“The Peace  
that  
Passes  
all Under-  
standing”**

## 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church.

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Ben Nichols    Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Linda Noble    Liturgist: Carol Winter

Greeter: Byron Aldrich    Usher: Byron Aldrich

Coffee-Hour Host:

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**Gathering Music**  
**Words of Welcome**  
**Prelude**

**Words to Enter Worship** (Based on Psalm 106:1-5)

People who are poor in spirit: Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, for steadfast love endures forever.

People who mourn: Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD, or declare all God's praise?

People who hunger and thirst for righteousness: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

People who are the peacemakers: Remember, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help us when you deliver them. That we may see the prosperity of your people, that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nations. That we may glory in your heritage.

**Opening Hymn #84** This is the Day ([click here](#))

**Words of Lament**

God! There is too much violence, vitriol, and vengeance in our world. Even one murder, one terrorist attack, one civilian killed, one assault, or one denied clean water, food, medical care is one too many. What can we do when nations make war against each other? What can we do??? God! God! Help humanity find a way forward without guns, bombs, and hatred in our hearts. Help us and help those who fight against one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Time of Silence**

**Blessing of the Earth** – John Soos

One: To be of the Earth is to know

Many: The restlessness of being a seed  
The darkness of being planted

All: The struggle toward the light  
The pain of growth into the light

One: The joy of bursting and bearing fruit  
The love of being food for someone

Many: The scattering of your seeds  
The decay of the seasons

All: The mystery of death  
And the miracle of birth.

**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 peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

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## Passing of the Peace

**Hymn #488** Be Still, My Soul ([click here](#))

**Scripture Reading** Philippians 4:1-9

4 1 Therefore, my siblings, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, my siblings, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Children's Message** Rejoice in the LORD Always!

**Choir Anthem**

**Message** The Peace that Passes all Understanding

**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**

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

**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*

**Closing Hymn #249** Peace, I Leave with You, My Friends ([click here](#))

**Benediction**

**Sending Music**



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## Opening Hymn #84 This is the Day

1. This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it;  
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
2. This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day Jesus rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it;  
This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.
3. This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day when the Spirit came, we will rejoice and be glad in it;  
This is the day when the Spirit came.

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

*Tune, Less Garrett, 1967*

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## Hymn #488 Be Still, My Soul

1. Be Still, my soul: for God is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
in every change God faithful will remain;  
Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
2. Be still, my soul: for God will undertake  
to guide in future days as in the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.  
Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know  
how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.
3. Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here  
when we shall be with God whom we adore,  
with disappointment gone, no grief nor fear,  
sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.  
Be still my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*Words, Katharina von Schlegel, 1752, Transl. Jane Laurie  
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## Closing Hymn #249 Peace, I Leave with You, My Friends

*Refrain:* Peace I leave with you, my friends,  
shalom, my peace, in all you do.  
Peace I leave with you, my friends.  
I give to you so you can give to others too.

1. To share God's love is why I came,  
to show God's kindness without end.  
Go now, my friends, and do the same,  
until I come again.

2. Take my hand and be at peace;  
the spirit of our love I send.  
And with this love you will be free,  
until I come again.

3. With this love now all will know  
that loneliness is at an end.  
Rejoice, my friends, although I go,  
for I will come again.

Words and Music, Ray Repp, 1967.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: Rhonda Silence, Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Sally Dunn, The Family of Pat Backlund, The Family of Denny Pechacek, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Ukraine, Sudan, Israel/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

At home and Care Center: Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, Nancy Cihlar, and Tom Hedstrom.

### MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2023 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2023, showing a need for a yearly income of \$164,110.00.

After forty-one weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$126,490.51. The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$123,432.52.

-Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

### THIS WEEK

#### THURSDAY, October 12

9:00 AM – Cook County Chaplaincy  
10:00 AM – Tai Chi  
12:00 PM – Women's AA  
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

#### FRIDAY, October 13

7:00 AM – AA  
8:00 AM – Harbor Watch  
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons  
7:30 PM - AA

#### SATURDAY, October 14

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons

#### SUNDAY, October 15

9:30 AM – Pick-up Choir Practice  
10:30 AM Worship Service – Inside AND ON ZOOM 20th Sunday of Pentecost, we will be exploring Paul's letter to the Philippians in his closing, lifting up the highest ideals and goals for any Christian community. These are a little different that the Fruits of the Spirit, but they still lift up the goals of our faith.

2:30 PM – Orchestra practice for Borealis at Bethlehem Lutheran  
4:00 PM – Choir practice for Borealis at Bethlehem Lutheran

#### MONDAY October 16

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons  
5:00 PM – Rooted and Rising  
7:00 PM – Al-Anon

#### TUESDAY, October 17

12:00 PM – Clergy Cluster  
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

#### WEDNESDAY, October 18

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons  
3:00 PM – Exploring Process Theology  
6:00 PM – Confirmation  
6:00 PM – Sing-Along

#### THURSDAY, October 19

10:00 AM – Tai Chi  
12:00 PM – Women's AA  
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

#### FRIDAY, October 20

7:00 AM – AA  
8:00 AM – Harbor Watch  
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

#### SATURDAY, October 21

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons  
10:30 AM – Surely Discipleship Group

#### SUNDAY, October 22

9:30 AM – Choir Practice  
10:30 AM – Worship Service – Inside AND ON ZOOM 21st Sunday of Pentecost, on this Sunday we are switching from the Revised Common Lectionary which we have been following the past three years and work our way into the Narrative Lectionary. This year's Lectionary focuses on the Gospel of Mark. However, we don't start the gospel story until the birth of Christ. So, we will be walking through some Hebrew Testament scriptures, stories, and prophets. This Sunday is the story of King David bringing the Ark of the Covenant into the capital city and how he dances with joy! Let's get ready to move in our sanctuary this Sunday.

11:30 AM – Harvest Potluck  
12:15 PM – Building and Grounds Presentation  
1:00 PM – Journey Discipleship Group  
2:30 PM – Orchestra Practice for Borealis at Bethlehem Lutheran  
4:00 PM – Choir Practice for Borealis at Bethlehem Lutheran