

September 10, 2023

"How Does a Community Become Fully Alive?"

Let's welcome one another!

Name tags (permanent & one-time use) are in the Narthex/entry area Welcome forms in pews: request a prayer, update contact info, join email list

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

We greet those around us or sit quietly, settling into sacred time and space

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude and Candle Lighting "God Has Done Great Things for Us" Hamm Acknowledging the light of Christ among us

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

NCH = The New Century Hymnal

* = Sitting or standing

*Call to Worship (responsive)

We have gathered here this morning to worship God. We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, and insight.

We open ourselves to the power of God's presence in our midst. We offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, seeking God's help in our learning and in our growing. May it be so!

*Opening Song

"Come, Let Us Worship God" one side leads, the other side echoes

Come, Let Us Worship God



- 2. Food for the hungry...
- 3. Rest for the weary...
- 4. Hope for the children...
- 5. Come, let us worship God...

Acknowledging Our Need for God's Grace

Prayer of Confession and Longing | from Psalm 119 (responsive)

Help me to know, O Teacher, the path to follow; lead the way and I will come.

In your love is the power to calm the storms of adversity; show me the power of your forgiving Love.

Oh that I might learn to bless others selflessly, to be a silent benediction!

Incline my heart to Love Consciousness, and not to gain!

Turn my eyes from the world's temptations, and birth me into new Life.

Let me enter into the realm where the aspirations of my soul may become manifest.

Clothe me with compassion that I may answer the cries of those in need.

Do You see how I long to serve, to co-create with You? In your mercy, hear my prayer! Amen.

...the singing bowl welcomes us into silence as our longings quietly emerge

Assurance of Grace (responsive)

One: The peace of Christ be with you! All: And also with you!

*Passing the Peace

We share signs of peace (smiles, handshakes, hands at heart center)
We extend the peace later by phone or email

A Time With Children and Youth

Sung Invitation

...as our young people come forward

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

Singing "Happy Birthday"

Claire Spilseth (11th), Dale Shaller (14th)

Blessing One Another

Seated, we open our arms to the children and youth

Children: God be with you All: And also with you

Sung Affirmation

...as young people depart or return to families

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

Youngest children (infant - age 3) | downstairs Nursery Older children (age 3 - gr. 10)* | downstairs Sunday School Room We welcome sounds and movements of children who stay in worship. *Sunday School will expand into 4 age groups beginning Oct. 8: infants & toddlers, age 3-gr. 1, gr. 2-4, gr. 5-12

Proclaiming God's Love

A Reading from Epistles | The Inclusive Bible A Reading from the Gospels | The Inclusive Bible Romans 13: 8-14

Matthew 18: 15-20

Morning Message

"How Does a Community Become Fully Alive?"

Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #393)

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

Prayers of the People

We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world We'll add them to our printed and electronic Prayer Corner Please let Pastor Clare know if you don't want yours added to the Prayer Corner

One: God, in your love All: Hear our prayer

Prayer of Jesus (unison)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Greeters pass offering plates at this time We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code) Blue electronic Giving Cards and Welcome Forms also go in the offering plates



Offertory "Our Peace" Groves

*Offertory Response

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

God of all, your importance in our lives is reflected in our gifts. Through the ministry and outreach of this church, we return to you a portion of all you entrust to us. Along with our financial gifts; we also promise to invest our time and abilities in your work of proclaiming good news through welcome, worship, nurture, and doing justice. Bless these gifts and multiply the good to be done through our time, talents, and treasure. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*Closing Hymn (NCH #377)

"Forward through the Ages"

*Benediction

*Sending Song

...forming a circle around the perimeter of the worship space

Irish Blessing sung twice

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
Till we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand

We carry the light of Christ with us in all times and spaces.

*Postlude

"La Paz Sea Contigo"

Carlson

After-Worship Fellowship

All are welcome to join us for treats, beverages, and good company!

Special Congregational Meeting /11 am

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

For persons known to us...

- *For Mary Ann Litfin's fiancé, **Jon Kingstad**, who is having surgery on September 15th.
- *For **Eli** (friend of Rebecca, a newer friend among us), who recently had a life-altering surgery that has resulted in infection. Prayers for healing energy.
- *We pray healing energy for **Rebecca Voelkel** (former pastor to Mary Maren and colleague of Pastor Clare), her spouse **Maggie**, and **siblings**; who were in a bad car accident last weekend.
- *For those of us rooted in **St. Peter's UCC**, may love abound during these final weeks of leave-taking from their church building in Stillwater; which has provided sacred space for worship, faith formation, justice and community.
- *Celebrating Anniversaries: **Adam and Kaira** Bettin (10th)



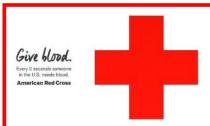
Backyard Potlucks

September 12th at Sharri Kinkead's in Hudson. Bring a side dish to share (salad, savory, or sweet)

"Party in the Park" | Our Derby Days Refreshment Stand

September 15th on the church lawn Come serve refreshments on the church lawn 4:30-6:30pm or 6:30-8:30pm (contact Pastor Clare or Megan to help)





Blood Drive

Sept. 21st | 9am—3pm See Mid-Week News to register OR call 1-800-733-2767

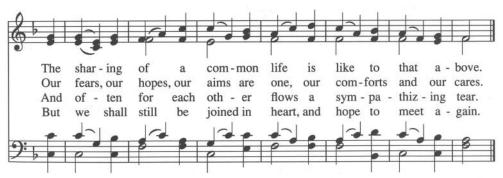
Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15





An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.

Tune: DENNIS S.M. Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768–1836) Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

377

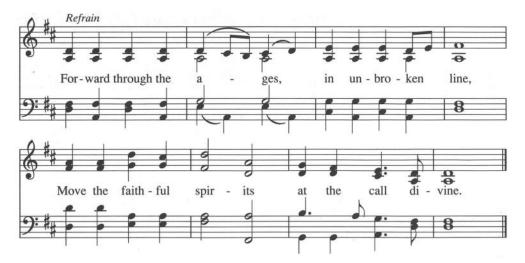
Forward through the Ages



Frederick Hosmer, educated at Harvard and ordained to the Unitarian ministry, served Congregational and Unitarian churches throughout the country. He was known for his concern for social issues, his service book for Sunday schools, and his lectures on hymnology.

Tune: ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. with refrain Arthur S. Sullivan, 1871

COMMUNION OF SAINTS



Special Congregational Meeting

TODAY 11 am @ Fellowship Hall (and Zoomed)

Please join us as we vote on several merger-related items:

- 1) Plan of Merger
- 2) Bridge Plan (Leadership, Budget, Bylaws)

We will also hear and discuss an update about our People's Park land.

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Sharri Kinkead (liturgist), Bob and Kathy Iverson (greeters), Choir (cantors), Lori Mildon (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (outdoor sign), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)



A Merging Congregation...



with roots in People's Congregational Church & St. Peter's United Church of Christ

People's Congregational Church

St Peter's United Church of Christ

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