

First Congregational United Church of Christ

September 4, 2022



13th Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Ann Russ

Liturgist: Bob Carter

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

People who worked with their hands: For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

People who worked with their hearts: ³ a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance;

People who worked with their heads: ⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away;

People who took time for sabbath and rest: ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

Opening Hymn #283 Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me

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Words of Lament

Merciful and Mighty God, there has been throughout human history the injustice of slavery, of exploitation, and of those who have much having too much. There has also been a calling throughout your history found in our Bible for justice, freeing the slaves and oppressed, and the forgiveness of debts. Arise, O LORD, and remind those in power, once again, of what it means to do justice. Remind those who are oppressed that you are on their side. Remind us, Jesus of Nazareth, of our responsibilities to the least of these, to the poor, and to the world as its resources are being exploited. Amen.

Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18)

One: O LORD(YHWH), you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

Many: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD(YHWH), you know it completely.

All: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

One: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my

mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Many: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

All: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

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.

I Hear America Singing

by Walt Whitman

*I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deckhand singing on the
steamboat deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,
The woodcutter's song, the ploughboy's on his way in the morning, or at noon
intermission or at sundown,
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing
or washing,
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,
The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious*

Passing of the Peace

Hymn #570 We Shall Overcome

1. We shall overcome, we shall overcome
We shall overcome someday

[Refrain]

Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

2. We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand someday

[Refrain]

Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

3. We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace
We shall live in peace someday

[Refrain]

Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

4. We shall brothers be, we shall brothers be
We shall brothers be someday

[Refrain]

Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

5. The truth shall make us free, truth shall make us free
The truth shall make us free someday

[Refrain]

Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

6. We are not afraid, we are not afraid
We are not afraid today

[Refrain]

Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

(Traditional-public domain)

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Luke 14:25-33 (Common English Bible)

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and doesn’t hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one’s own life—cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever doesn’t carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn’t you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn’t finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. ³⁰ They will say, ‘Here’s the person who began construction and couldn’t complete it!’ ³¹ Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? ³² And if he didn’t think he could win, he would

send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. ³³ In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

2nd Scripture Philemon 1:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version Update Version)

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you

Children's Message

Friendship

Choir Anthem

Message

Choosing Life

Musical Reflections

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

Our Father, Mother God, who are 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 – Prayer of the Month

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 #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 ad 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 missin, 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 in to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

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Contributors: Jane Parker Huber

Benediction

Sending Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Kris Baxter, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Tom Yuhasey, Sally Dunn, Arlene Cleberg and The Community of Uvalde and Highland Park, The 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 34 weeks the Budget Donations and Income should be \$99,225.00

The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$97,556.95

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, and click the Donation button in the top right corner.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

7:00AM AA (FS)

8:00 AM Harbor Watch

SUNDAY, SEPTMBER 4

9:30 AM - Pick-up CHOIR

10:30 AM – **Outside** AND ON [ZOOM](#) **13th 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?

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

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

7:00 PM - ALANON

Pastor Enno's Day off

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

7:00 PM - Zen Meditation

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

4:30PM-6:30 PM Food Shelf open to all (LL)

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

THURSDAY, September 8

10:00 AM – Tai Chi

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

FRIDAY, September 9

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

SUNDAY, September 11

9:30 AM – Pick-up Choir

10:30 AM – **Outside** AND ON [ZOOM](#) 1st Sunday of Creation, we join together with Spirit of the Wilderness Church to lift up God's creation, the beauty, blessings, and fragility of it. We explore the stories of Jeremiah, the early church, and Jesus sharing the parables of the lost sheep and coin to see what it can tell us about our current global climate crisis.

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

FOOD SHELF: The Food Shelf is distributing food each Monday, from 3:00-5:00 pm, also on the

1st 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.
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 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:

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