

First Congregational United Church of Christ
July 24, 2022



Photo by Tehzeeb Kazmi

7th 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:

Liturgist: Linda Noble

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 23)

People who pray in the morning: ***The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. God makes me lie down in green pastures; leads me beside still waters; God restores my soul.***

People who pray in the evening: ***They lead me in right paths for God's names sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me, your rod and your staff – they comfort me.***

People who pray when it pops up: ***You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies, you anoint me head with oil, my cup overflows.***

People who pray by being silent: ***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.***

Opening Hymn #519 Standing in the Need of Prayer

1. Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

Refrain:

It's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

2. Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]
3. Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain]
4. Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer. [Refrain] (public domain)

Words of Lament:

Merciful God, information and facts overflow our world and our brains, and we lack wisdom to discern what is right. Noise and distractions constantly surround us, bombard us, and we lack times and spaces of silence and contemplation. Ugliness and apathy flood our media, and we lack the good news. Violence and disease constantly wage war on us, and we lack the will to

heal each other and our own brokenness. Rise up, O LORD, rise up to fill our cups with wisdom, silence, good news, and healing. Wake us up, O LORD, so that we may fill each other's cups, the world's cup, as well. Amen.

Words of Blessing (Based on Psalm 138)

One: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down to your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and faithfulness.

Many: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. All the leaders of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

All: For they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of God.

One: For though the LORD is high, God regards the lowly, but the haughty are perceived from far away.

Many: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies, you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

All: The LORD's purpose will be fulfilled for us; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

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.

Our Prayers

Poet: Unknown

*Art Thou not weary of our selfish prayers,
Forever crying, "Help me! Save me, Lord!"
We stay fenced in by petty fears and cares,
Nor hear the song outside, nor join its vast accord.
Is not the need of other souls our need?
After desire, the helpful act must go,
As the strong wind bears on the winged seed
To some bare spot of earth, and leaves it there to grow.*

*Still are we saying, "Teach us how to pray!"
Oh, teach us how to love, and then our prayer
Through other lives will find its upward way,
As plants together seek and find sweet light and air.*

Passing of the Peace

Hymn #506 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

(public domain)

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Colossians 2:6-15

⁶⁻⁷ My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live him*. *You're deeply rooted in him. You're well-constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.*

⁸⁻¹⁰ Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ. Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything.

¹¹⁻¹⁵ Entering into this fullness is not something you figure out or achieve. It's not a matter of being circumcised or keeping a long list of laws. No, you're already *in—insiders—not through some secretive initiation rite but rather through what Christ has already gone through for you, destroying the power of sin. If it's an initiation ritual*

you're after, you've already been through it by submitting to baptism. Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

2nd Scripture Luke 11:1-13 (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition)

11 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Children’s Message: Always in all ways

Choir Anthem

Message: Let us Pray

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 – Heart Exercises

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.*

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Closing Hymn - Let Us Pray

Chorus:

How do we pray to the Lord, Our God?
Always in all ways.
How do we pray to the Lord our God?
Always in all ways.

1st verse:

We pray when we wake, when we eat, when we rest,
We pray when we work, when we play, it's the best.
God's our creator, we give God our praise.
We're silent, we're singing, through all of our days.

2nd verse:

The church is the body through which we all pray;
We cherish each other and gather Sunday.
As the Body of Christ, we live out our faith.
Each day of the week, we carry God's grace.

3rd verse:

The Spirit intercedes when it's too deep for words;
Our prayers carry us forward, beyond what is heard.
We live in God's presence, each moment we breathe;
So let us be thankful, for what we believe.

4th verse:

We're joyful, we're mournful, we're angry, we're glad;
Jesus is with us the best friend we have.
We open our minds, God does plant the seed,
To nourish our hearts, it's prayer that we need.

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Benediction

Sending Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Larry (Jenny Delfs' father), Kris Baxter, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Tom Yuhasey, Rhonda Silence, 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 28 weeks the Budget Donations and Income should be \$81,714.72

The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$90,226.69

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, JULY 22

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

8:00 AM - Harbor Watch

SUNDAY, JULY 24

9:30 AM – CHOIR PRACTICE

10:30 AM – **Outside** AND ON [ZOOM](#) **7th Sunday after Pentecost**, in the gospel story, Jesus is asked by the disciples how to pray. This Sunday we will look at the Lord's Prayer and talk about other ways we can pray, what is prayer, and how much we should pray. Come and join us as we pray and worship together.

MONDAY, JULY 25

7:00am - AA (FS)

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

5:00PM - Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light Cleaning of the Rain Garden

TUESDAY, JULY 26

8:30AM-4:30PM– Explorer's Club

7:00 PM - Zen Meditation

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

7:00 AM - AA (FS)

8:30AM-4:30PM– Explorer's Club

1:30 PM - Rooted and Rising Meeting

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

THURSDAY, JULY 28

10:00AM – Tai Chi

12:00 PM—Women's AA (FS)

5:00PM - Grand Marais Public Library Board

FRIDAY, JULY 29

7:00AM - AA (FS)

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

SUNDAY, JULY 31

9:30 AM – Pick-up Choir

10:30 AM – **Outside** AND ON [ZOOM](#) 8th Sunday after Pentecost, in Luke we hear Jesus being asked to settle a dispute about inheritance and he turns that around to talk about where we, as humans, invest our resources and where is the best way to do it. This is a 5th Sunday, so you get to ask Pastor Enno a question or two in Pester the Pastor.

12:00 PM—Retirement Celebration for Pastor Mark Ditmason

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. Please consider 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.

