

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 23, 2020
Transfiguration Sunday
Noisy Offering Sunday**



Every member is a minister in the community

*Greg Briggs, Interim Pastor Leah Dice, Office Manager
Roger Waters, Music Minister Shelley Fisher, Music Minister
Lynette Webb, Childcare Supervisor Larry Minch, Custodian*

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Office Hours 9 a.m.— 3:30 p. m. Mon—Thurs

Welcome to our church family!

You are invited to join us today for refreshments in our Fellowship Hall following the worship service. If you are a guest, please feel free to use the welcome cards available in the pew and place in the offering plate.

(indicates that all who would like and are able are invited to stand. **Bolded** text is to be read by the entire congregation. Traditional unison prayers are in italics and are also read in unison.)*

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Words of Welcome, Announcements, and Signing of the Fellowship Pads
Ringing of the Steeple Bell and the Lighting of the Candles

PRELUDE

INTROIT Choral Introit

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It is good to be here in this sacred space,

All: in the shelter of God's love and hope.

One: It is good to be here with folks we know well, as well as with new friends,

All: joining with all of God's beloved, sisters and brothers of Jesus.

One: It is good to be here, where we can hear God's voice,

All: calling us to be eyewitnesses to the Spirit's presence.

* GATHERING HYMN # 248. I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

We could build grand edifices crafted out of our opinions of how you should act and be, God of mountains, or we could gather up all the broken dreams of the most vulnerable to build a more just world.

We could join the denigrating chorus which ridicules all who have been pushed aside by those climbing to the top, Dawn of Hope, or we could hear songs of reconciliation and hope in the *lingua franca* of all who seek peace.

We could avert our gaze from those who have fingers pointed at them because of where they come from and not who they are, Spirit of love, or we could catch a glimpse of you coming down from the closet shelf where we put you so you can be with us.

**When we wish to stay on the mountaintop, God in Community, take us by the hand to lead us into service, and help us find you there as well.
Amen.**

WE PRAISE GOD AND GIVE THANKS THROUGH OUR GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

* 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.*

CHORAL ANTHEM “Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me” K. Lee Scott

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 17:1-9

Page 1524

Matthew 5:38-48

Page 1503

The word of God, for the People of God. **Thanks be to God**

THE MESSAGE

Interim Pastor Greg Briggs

* **HYMN OF REFLECTION** # 502. Be Thou My Vision

NOISY OFFERING—SOUTH SUDAN HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATION

GOD’S PEOPLE IN PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Epiphany Prayer—The Work of Christmas - See Insert

Prayer of our Savior

Our Father, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

* **HYMN OF PARTING** # 557 Pass It On

* **BENEDICTION**

* **CHORAL RESPONSE**

WORSHIP RESOURCES USED TODAY:

- Cover Art— Moyers, Mike. Be Thou My Vision, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/ink.pl?RC=57145> [retrieved February 18, 2020]
- Call to worship & Prayer of the Day—Rev. Thom Shuman—<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Today we welcome Ellen Kendall as our guest artist. Thank you, Ellen!

The Work of Christmas

*A Call For Prayer & Fasting For Peace During
Epiphany*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their
flocks,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman

Northern Michigan Brass Band Concert
Sunday, March 1st- 3:00pm
First Congregational Church, Charlevoix



-\$10.00 General Admission-
Students Admitted Free

Tickets available at the door and online at
MyNorthTickets.com

www.northernmichiganbrassband.org

Abuse Prevention Working Group

The United Church of Christ recommends that every church have an Abuse Prevention policy. The Church Council voted at their January meeting to form a working group to help this church develop its policy. This group will be meeting regularly for the next couple of months educating itself, and preparing to engage the church in discussions in April. The hope is to have a policy to present to Church Council by the end of May, then hold a congregational meeting shortly thereafter.

The Working Group is co-chaired by Ron Moore and Interim Pastor Greg Briggs, Anna Young, Ellen Hess, Julia Heddle, and Scott Beatty.

You can learn more at: https://www.ucc.org/abuse_prevention_resources. The working group is following "The TIME IS NOW!" guide. You can also talk to any of the working group members.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Ash Wednesday—Worship and Ashes To Go

Ash Wednesday is a holy day of prayer and fasting that marks the beginning of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. Many people choose to have ashes placed on them as a symbol of entering into this sacred time.

We will have a worship service at 6:30p.m on February 26th.

Pastor Greg will also be available to impose ashes during the day, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm as “Ashes To Go,” if you are unable to join us for worship or wish to receive ashes at the beginning of your day.



Walking the Labyrinth- During Lent, there will be a labyrinth in the fellowship Hall. Labyrinth walking is an ancient practice used by many different faiths for spiritual centering, contemplation, and prayer. Entering the path of a labyrinth, you walk slowly while quieting your mind and focusing on a spiritual question or prayer.

The labyrinth will be available whenever the church is open, and it is open to the community as well. It is free to use, but we are asking for a food item donation for the Charlevoix Food Pantry. There will be instructions on how to use the labyrinth, in the Fellowship Hall

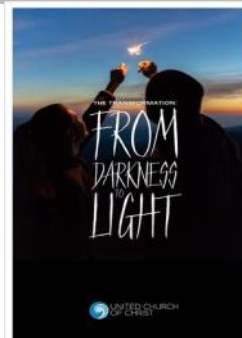
Finding our Blind Spots—Lenten Discussion

For Lent this year, we will focus on the flipside of trying to see God’s epiphanies—our own blind spots. We will be meeting on Thursdays for weekly discussions and explorations of our individual and collective blind-spots. We will meet 5:30pm - 7:00pm starting 02/27 and will include a simple supper. Please sign up if you intend to join us and if you are interested in providing dinner.

Daily Devotional

We are also offering the daily Lenten devotional, *The Transformation: From Darkness to Light*, which was written by youth and young adults, two populations that are under-represented in the church.

If you would like a copy of this Lenten devotional, please sign up sheet located in the Fellowship Hall. A donation of \$10 will cover the costs.



Sunday 02/23	Mon 02/24	Tues. 02/25	Wed. 02/26	Thurs. 02/27	Fri. 02/28	Sat. 02/29	Sunday 03/01
9:00 am First Light Service 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Noisy Offering Transfiguration Sunday	5:15pm Church Council 6:00pm Baby Diaper Pantry & Personal Care Pantry	10:00 am Bible Study	Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm Worship Book Group Moved to Next Week	5:30pm Weight Watchers Meeting 5:30pm Lenten- Study & Dinner 7:00 pm Church Choir Practice		9:30am Jongleurs Recorder Rehearsal	Pastor Greg Away 9:00 am First Light Service 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship 3:00pm Northern MI Brass Band Concert
<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ccc; display: inline-block;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">This Week's Schedule</h2> </div>							

Noisy Offering Sunday

02-23-2020

Monies Collected will benefit the South Sudan Health Care Organization.

The SSHCO is a non-profit organization founded by Jacob Atem and Lual Deng Awan, who both are "Lost Boys of Sudan". Together they drive the organization's vision and message of a safer Southern Sudan through health care and education. Part of that vision includes a medical clinic to serve the people in South Sudan.

www.sshco.org

Gifts of Serving

THIS WEEK

FEBRUARY 23RD

NEXT WEEK

MARCH 1ST

GREETERS/USHER:	Julia Heddle, Lois Lewis & Sharon Snyder	Deb Smith and Emma Buday
COFFEE HOUR:	Greta Gappy & Ingrid Nedwick	Kathy Libert & Carolyn Klender
LAY READER:	Hugh Hansen	Alice Pletz-Miller
Altar Flowers:	_____	_____
Bulletin Sponsorship:	John & Ellen Hess	John & Ellen Hess

Praise and Prayer Request List

Healing Diagnosed with Cancer	Nikki Kurchinski Rev. Ginny Titus Loretta Hasley (Julia Heddle) Jack Lehmkuhl Robert Rowe Ruby Hayward Tina Bowen	Michelle James Evelyn Schwartz (continued healing) Ann Chappelle Olsen (Alice P.M.) Donna Waters Jill Ostrum (Alice P.M.) Brody Roberts
Healing	Roland Garvin (Sara Smith) Jane Piccard Marilyn Knapp (Lani Ochs) Delores Cain Jesse Wilcox Rev. Leroy Sutfin Betsy Teeuwissen Anne Banfield Verna Truman Robin Messing	Caitlyn Cruzak (John Young) John McKown Judy Willey Aurora Sargent Brook Bixby (Gay Kiteley) Connie Doan (Chris Gengle) Chris Kenney (Betty Renton) John Peterman Amy Meyer (Alice P.M.)
Prayer	First Responders Immigrants and Refugees Faith Leaders and World Leaders	Victims of Natural Disasters Those living with Mental Illness Roger & Donna Waters Susan Denomy (Betty Wadland)
Prayer	U.C.C. Church of the Month	First Congregational UCC—Harrison, MI
Grieving	Family of Louis Heyward Family of Naomi Kruse	Family of Jerry Corley
Military	Nate Powell Joshua Wojan Wesley Moulden SFC Alex Weller	SGT Adam Soldan Captain David Knowles Jr. EMN3 Cary Tompkins

Please be sure to sign any Care Letters in the vestibule outside the Sanctuary. This is a tangible way to share our care, concern, and love with those who could use it.

Worship Attendance February 16 First Light Service: 03 Sanctuary Service: 55
Bible Study, February 18: 10

