

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 08, 2020
Second Sunday of Lent — Jesus and Nicodemus
Communion 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: Christ of the comfortable,
you would call us from our security and sameness,
down that unknown path which leads to God's heart:

All: with trust, we would place our hands in yours, and follow.

One: Companion of our sleepless nights,
you would beckon us out of the shadows of our fears,
calling us to bring our doubts and questioning hearts along:

**All: with humility, we would listen to those answers we do not expect,
or even understand.**

One: Word which creates out of nothingness,
you would fill us with life where we see only emptiness,
you would keep your promises when all ours lie littered on the ground:

All: we would let your grace transform us into faithful disciples.

* GATHERING HYMN # 426. Blessed Assurance

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, may we quiet our minds for a moment. May we remember to breathe for a moment. May we simply be for a moment.

You are with us, now. In the vastness of the universe, You created us, on this one little planet. You are with us, and You are calling us by name to do something different. You are calling us to breathe, to be still, to know that You are God, that this planet is the one You made for us and all of creation that we know.

May we remember. May we feel the pull of gravity. May we trust in the air

we breathe. May we be renewed in our passion to care for what You have given us.

Holy One, breathe into us Your spirit. Holy One, be in our heartbeat to move us to Your work. Holy One, may we remember Your presence is with us, always. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM — Psalm 121 (see insert)

WE PRAISE GOD AND GIVE THANKS THROUGH OUR GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

*** Lenten Doxology**

Praise God throughout these forty days; Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the spirit who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM “Every Valley Needs A Lily” Martin Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING John 3:1-17 Page 1649

One: The word of God, for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God**

THE MESSAGE Interim Pastor Greg Briggs

*** HYMN OF REFLECTION** # 593. Lord, Speak to Me

GOD'S PEOPLE IN PRAYER

Lenten Prayer — Church's Mission Statement

The First Congregational United Church of Christ in Charlevoix, Michigan is a community of believers who seek to serve God by providing opportunities for meaningful Christian worship and spiritual growth, loving God and others, equipping us for ministry in our local church, and our church's wider mission, building community through fellowship and love.

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Christ's Table - *All are welcome, no exceptions*

Call to Reconciliation

When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust, calling us to follow, calling us to set aside our foolish lives, for the grace-full ones which are offered to us. Let us confess how often we choose not to follow, as we pray together saying,

Prayer of Reconciliation

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus. We look for an answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives. Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

Keeper of our souls, be with us;

Watcher of our days, lead us;

Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.

Communion Prayer

May the God of great adventures be with you!

And also with you!

It is God who is able to keep our hearts filled with hope and peace.

We will offer our hearts to the One who is our Keeper.

Trust in the promises whose fulfillment we cannot see.

We lift our songs to the One who is always with us.

Telling the Story

Sharing of Bread and Cup

(Communion will be served by intinction, where the congregation comes forward and dips the bread into the cups of wine. The wine is non-alcoholic and gluten free bread is available, upon request. If you are not able to come forward for communion let an usher know or raise your hand at the end of communion, and we will come to you.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Prayer of our Savior

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** # 51. How Great Thou Art

* **BENEDICTION**

* **CHORAL RESPONSE**

Walking the Labyrinth

During Lent, a labyrinth has been set up 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 and the Rayder Den. There will be instructions on how to use the labyrinth, in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are not familiar with the labyrinth, Pastor Greg will lead a labyrinth walk this Sunday, March 8th.

Sunday 03/08	Mon 03/09	Tues. 03/10	Wed. 03/11	Thurs. 03/12	Fri. 03/13	Sat. 03/14	Sunday 03/15
9:00am First Light Service 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Communion Sunday Pastor Lead Labyrinth Walk Music Committee Meeting	6:00pm Baby Diaper Pantry & Personal Care Pantry	10:00 am Bible Study	6:30pm Holy Envy: Book Group	5:30pm Weight Watchers Meeting 5:30pm Lenten- Study & Dinner 7:00 pm Church Choir Practice		9:30am Jongleurs Recorder Rehearsal	9:00 am First Light Service 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship 1:00pm Christian Ed Meeting
<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid white; display: inline-block;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">This Week's Schedule</h2> </div>							

<i>Gifts of Serving</i>	THIS WEEK MARCH 8TH	NEXT WEEK MARCH 15TH
GREETERS/USHER:	Julia Heddle & Lois Lewis	Greg & Meg Kitson
COFFEE HOUR:	Kathie Libert & Carolyn Klender	Archie Wyatt & Jan Wyatt
LAY READER:	Julia Heddle Betty and Bill Wadland	Archie Wyatt
Altar Flowers:	Dedicated to our Congregation in this season of reflection and preparation for Easter	_____
Bulletin Sponsorship:	John & Ellen Hess	Could be you!

WORSHIP RESOURCES USED TODAY:

- Cover Art— Tanner, Henry Ossawa, 1859-1937. Nicodemus and Jesus on a Rooftop, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55253> [retrieved March 3, 2020]. Call to worship & Prayer of the Day—Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell — <http://rev-o-lution.org>
- Prayer of the Day—Mindi Welton Mitchell—<http://rev-o-lution.org>
- Responsive Psalm—New Century Hymnal
- Call to Worship & Communion Liturgy—Thom Shuman—<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Praise and Prayer Request List

<p>Healing</p> <p>Diagnosed with Cancer</p>	<p>Nikki Kurchinski Rev. Ginny Titus Loretta Hasley (Julia Heddle) Jack Lehmkuhl Robert Rowe Ruby Hayward Tina Bowen</p>	<p>Michelle James Evelyn Schwartz (continued healing) Ann Chappelle Olsen (Alice P.M.) Donna Waters Jill Ostrum (Alice P.M.) Brody Roberts</p>
<p>Healing</p>	<p>Those with coronavirus 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</p>	<p>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.)</p>
<p>Prayer</p>	<p>First Responders Immigrants and Refugees Faith Leaders and World Leaders</p>	<p>Victims of Natural Disasters Those living with Mental Illness Roger & Donna Waters Susan Denomy (Betty Wadland)</p>
<p>Prayer</p>	<p>U.C.C. Church of the Month</p>	<p>Ironton Congregational UCC- Charlevoix</p>
<p>Grieving</p>	<p>Family of Louis Heyward Family of Naomi Kruse</p>	<p>Family of Jerry Corley</p>
<p>Military</p>	<p>Nate Powell Joshua Wojan Wesley Moulden SFC Alex Weller</p>	<p>SGT Adam Soldan Captain David Knowles Jr. EMN3 Cary Tompkins</p>

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 March 1 First Light Service: n/a Sanctuary Service: 36
 Bible Study, March 03: 11**

from Your
COUNTRY...

to a

LAND

that I will show you

