

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday February 7, 2021**



“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?”
says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the
heavens; Who created all these? He who brings out the
starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.”

- Isaiah 40:25-26

Welcome To Our Church Family!

Prelude- “This Is My Father’s World” arr. Mark Thewes, offered by Shelley Fisher

Tolling of the Bell

Welcome

Opening Hymn - #51 “How Great Thou Art” (vs 1-2)

(1) O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art! (2) When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!

First Reading – Psalm 147:1-11

Reflective Music offered by Shelley Fisher

Second Reading – Isaiah 40:21-31

Hymn - #438 “On Eagles Wings”

(1) You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in his shadow for life, say to the Lord, “My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust” And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of his hand (2) The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear, under his wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield. And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of his hand (3) You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of his hand

Third Reading – Mark 1:29-35

Morning Message – “Human Humility in the Face of God’s Grandeur”

offered by Toby Jones, pastor

Sermon Hymn - #383 “If My People’s Hearts Are Humbled”

(1) If my people’s hearts are humbled, if they pray and seek my face, if they turn away

from evil, I will not withhold my grace. I will hear their prayers from heaven; I will pardon every sin. If my people's hearts are humbled, I will surely heal their land. (2) Then my eyes will see their sorrow, then my ears will hear their plea; if my people's heart are humbled, I will set their nation free. If my people's hearts are humbled, if they pray and seek my face; if they turn away from evil, I will not withhold my grace.

Offering

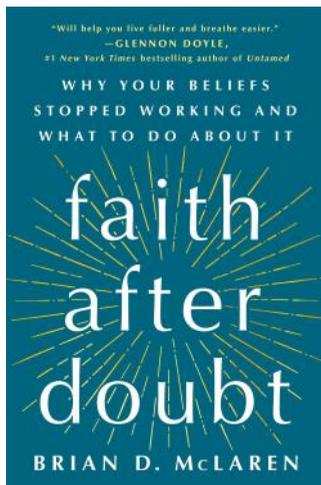
**Offertory Music- "For the Beauty of the Earth" arr. Jeanne Cotter
The Doxology**

Morning Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

Special Music – "May Our Lives Speak of Your Love" – by Ian Coates

Charge and Benediction

Postlude- "Sing Out, Earth and Skies" by Marty Haugen, arr. Jeanne Cotter



An Invitation to a 40-Day Book Study **February 17 - March 23**

The Book – Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About it by Brian McLaren

Target Audience – According to the inside cover of the book, “*Faith After Doubt* is for the millions of people around the world who feel that their faith is falling apart...Using his own story and the stories of a diverse group of struggling believers, Brian D. McLaren, a former pastor, proposes a model of faith development in which questions and doubt are not the enemies of faith, but rather portals to a more mature and fruitful kind of faith.”

In other words, this study is not for everyone. If you feel strong in your beliefs and don't doubt much or wrestle with perplexing faith questions that have no satisfying answers, this study is probably not for you. But if you've found yourself increasingly bothered by some aspects of traditional Christianity and have begun to question some of the beliefs and doctrines you grew up with, this book and study group may be just what the doctor ordered.

Course Approach – Toby will lead us on a journey toward this “more mature and fruitful kind of faith,” where doubts and questions are engaged as important portals, rather than criticized as unfaithful or heretical.

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Participants will need to purchase McLaren’s book and have the first 55 pages read prior to the initial meeting on Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 pm. This class will be available as a Zoom event for all 6 weeks. If Covid restrictions lift, participants who are in town may be able to meet in person at the church on these Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm. But the in-person dimension will not affect Zoom participation.

Remember, this will be a book study rather than a Bible study, and again, since this class is designed to nurture and engage those with significant questions and doubts, it will not be a good fit for those looking to defend or convince others of their own position or approach to faith.

If You Are Interested in Participating – Get yourself a copy of *Faith After Doubt* and email Toby at toby@chxucc.org indicating your interest in the course. You may also direct any questions you have to Toby at this email address. Thank you!

Sunday 02/07	Mon 02/08	Tues. 02/09	Wed. 02/10	Thurs. 02/11	Fri. 02/12	Sat. 02/13	Sunday 02/14
10:30 am In-Person & live-streamed Worship Annual Meeting	6:00 pm Pantry 7:15 pm Diaconate Mtg	10:00 am Bible Study Zoom	10:00 am By-laws meeting				10:30 am In-Person & live-streamed Worship Valentines Day

Prayer Requests

Healing	Charlie Johnson-stroke (Joyce & Bruce Herbert’s grandson)	Kirk Gunderson- Heart attack Anne Carey Stanley- Covid-19
Prayers	Covid-19 Patients	Essential Workers Teachers and Students
Grieving	Bob Dominic and Molly Tate on the death of Bob’s son, Doug.	

To view the 2020 Annual Report- [Click Here](#)