

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday February 14, 2021**



“Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth you have for me
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unlock and set me free
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine.”

Welcome To Our Church Family

Pre-Service Music – Love songs for Valentine’s Day

**Prelude- The Heart of Worship, With Brethren, We Have Met To Worship,
Holy, Holy, Holy. Medley arr. by Lloyd Larson. Offered by Shelley Fisher**

Tolling of the Bell

Welcome

Opening Hymn #330 – “Come Down, O Love Divine”

(1) Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine, and visit it with thine own ardor glowing; O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it, thy holy flames bestowing. (2) O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn to dust and ashes in its heat consuming; and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming. (3) And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long, shall far out pass the power of human telling; for none can guess its grace, till love create a place where in the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

First Reading – Mark 9:2-9

Reflective Music

Second Reading – II Corinthians 4:3-7

**Morning Message – “Learning to See in the Thin Places”
offered by Toby Jones, Pastor**

Sermon Hymn #480 – “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

(1) Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth you have for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unlock and set me free. Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see; open my eyes, illumine me, Sprit divine! (2) Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth you send so clear; and while the message sounds in my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see; open my ears, illumine me, Sprit divine! (3) Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart, and let me prepare love with your children thus to share. Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see; open my heart, illumine me, Sprit divine!

Morning Offering

A Message from the Outreach Team- Jack Weber

Offertory Music- Be Thou My Vision, arr. By Cindy Berry

The Doxology

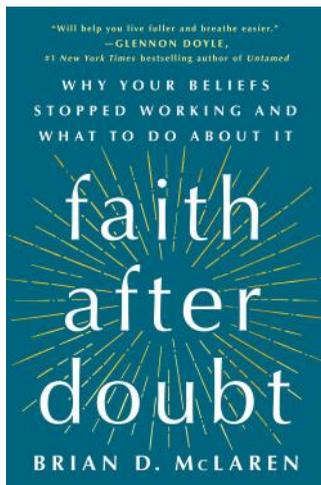
Morning Prayers & The Lord’s Prayer

Final Hymn #231 – “Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

(1) Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today. (2) Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor (3) Arise, your light is come! All your in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn. (4) Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God’s power will make us strong.

Charge & Benediction

Postlude- Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee with Jesus, Joy of Man’s Desiring
arr. By Phillip Keveren. Offered by Shelley Fisher



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 02/14	Mon 02/15	Tues. 02/16	Wed. 02/17	Thurs. 02/18	Fri. 02/19	Sat. 02/20	Sunday 02/21
10:30 am In-Person & live-streamed Worship Valentines Day 	5:15pm Trustee Mtg In-person & Zoom 6:00 pm Pantry Presidents' Day	10:00 am Bible Study Zoom & In-Person	10:00 am By-laws meeting 7:00pm Lent Book Study				10:30 am In-Person & live-streamed Worship

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
Joys	Roger and Cynthia Postmus on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Lottie Rose	
Grieving	Bob Dominic and Molly Tate on the death of Bob’s son, Doug.	