



1st Congregational UCC

Opening the Doors of Possibility

An Open & Affirming Church



Sunday, May 24, 2026

(May/June Reaching Out Focus: Community Youth)



**“If only I had known the cost of human greed,
Perhaps I would have reached out more to those in need.
But now I see the truth across the great divide!
If only I had known and changed,” the rich man cried.**

Welcome to our church family!

Gathering Music

Tolling of the Bell - our reminder to quiet ourselves inside *and* out for worship

Special Musical Offering - “500 Miles,” *offered by Eloise Jones & Lilly Bott*

Welcome

Opening Hymn - #14 “Now Thank We All Our God”

1st Scripture Readings - Jeremiah 22:13-17 & Micah 3:9-12
Offered by Darlene Heine

Music for Reflection

2nd Scripture Reading - James 5:1-6, *offered by Darlene Heine*

Morning Message -

“Broadening Our Concept of Sin to Include Its Systemic and Collective Forms”
Offered by Toby Jones

Message Hymn - “If I Had Only Known,” *by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (next page)*
Sung to the tune of #16 “The God of Abraham Praise”

Offering

Offertory

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Her above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Amen*

Morning Prayers

Closing Hymn - #626 “O God of Every Nation”

Benediction

Postlude

69: "If Only I Had Known

Lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(sung to the tune of #16 "The God of Abraham Praise")


"If only I had known the cost of human greed,
Perhaps I would have reached out more to those in need.
But now I see the truth across the great divide!
If only I had known and changed," the rich man cried.

If only we could see which bargains in the store
Are made in dismal sweatshops that oppress the poor.
For each subsistence wage – each tiny, crippling stitch –
Makes wider the divide between the poor and rich.

And, too, if we could hear a mother's lullaby;
She's singing now to calm her hungry toddler's cry.
For rich ones came one day, took land and water rights,
And led the poor with hopeless days and hungry nights.

If we could learn what keeps us wanting more:
We build our bigger barns, so we'll feel more secure.
But you alone, O God, give true security;
Possessed by our possessions, we cannot be free.

O Christ, if we could know God's will for all the earth!
And yet, your own Spirit, you have shown God's truth:
"Do justice, help the poor, share life and love and land,
And when you see the hungry, open wide your hand."

Sunday 5/24	Mon 5/25	Tues 5/26	Wed 5/27	Thurs 5/28	Fri 5/29	Sat 5/30	Sunday 5/31
10:30a Worship 11:30a Coffee & Conversation <i>Hosted by Bud & Teri Stout</i>	* MEMORIAL DAY *  NO Personal Pantry due to holiday	11a-2p CMA Hours 10a Prayer Group	5:30p Uke Group Rehearsal 7p Theo of Golden Book Group- ZOOM Only	11a-2p CMA Hours 6:30p Choir Rehearsal			9a Trustees Meeting 10:30a Worship 11:30a Coffee & Conversation Hour <i>Hosted by Potluck Collaboration</i>

**Prayer Requests/
Celebrations: To submit a
Prayer Request
please visit our website at
chxucc.org or call the office
at 231-547-9122**

**Please be sure to get
permission from the person
needing prayers.**

Please pray for Tim & Murphy Watts after Murphy broke her hip in a fall and is recovering from surgery.

Please pray for Vance Wood who fell and broke his arm on Monday.

Please pray for Stacey Luoma's cousin, Neil Jariett, who was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor and is undergoing treatment in Indiana.


Please continue to pray for the family of Jack Bergmann as they mourn his passing.

Please continue to pray for John Howard as he goes through a difficult time in his ongoing adjustment reintegrating into society.



Hosted by: Bud & Teri Stout

As part of our ongoing efforts to prepare the shelter space in our church building, we are considering purchasing a small supply of freeze-dried food. During Coffee & Conversation on Sunday, May 31, 2026, we will be offering samples of reconstituted food for a fun taste test. Please join us!



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*Toby Jones, Pastor * Shelley Fisher, Music Minister
Stacey Luoma, Office Manager
Lynette Webb, Childcare Supervisor*

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14 Now Thank We All Our God

F C/E F Bb F Gm F/A C F C7sus C7 F

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

F C/Eb F/Eb Bb/D Bb F Bb/D F/C Bb/A Gm/Bb C7 F

who won-drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,

C G/B C F C C/E F C/E Dm7 E Am

who, from our moth - er's arms, has blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God whom earth and heaven a - dore;

Am D/F# Gm D Gm F/A Gm/Bb Dm F/C C F

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

O God of Every Nation

N.C. $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Cm6 D Gm $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{Cm}{Eb}$ Cm Gm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ D

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

D7 Eb Cm6 F $\frac{Bb}{D}$ Eb Bb Cm $\frac{Bb}{D}$ Eb Cm6 D Gm

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Gm Bb Cm6 $\frac{Cm}{Eb}$ $\frac{Bb}{D}$ F $\frac{Cm}{Eb}$ D $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{D7}{A}$ Gm Dsus D

where hate and fear di - vide us, and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign,

N.C. $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Cm6 D Gm Cm $\frac{Bb}{D}$ Eb Cm6 D Gm

in love and mer - cy guide us, and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.