



# 1st Congregational UCC

*Opening the Doors of Possibility*

*An Open & Affirming Church*



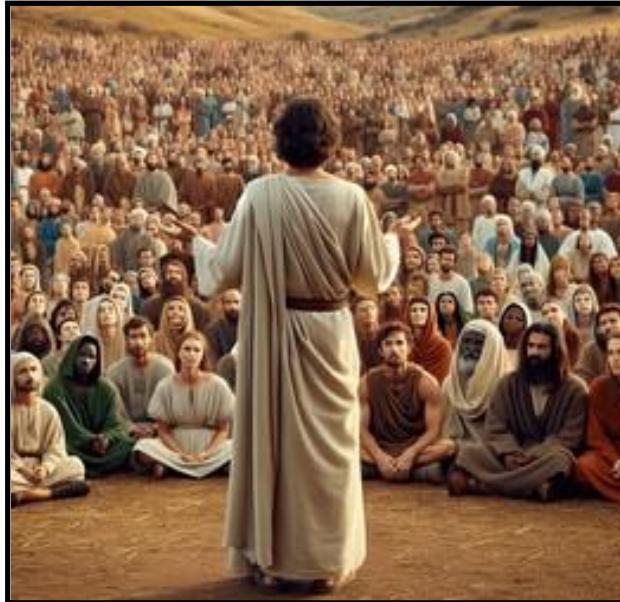
**Sunday, January 18, 2026**

*(Jan/Feb Reaching Out Focus: Affordable Housing Initiative)*

**FAN**

**or**

**FOLLOWER**



**"If any of you wants to be my follower,  
you must give up your own way,  
take up your cross daily, and follow Me."**

*- Luke 9:23*

# Welcome to our church family!

## Gathering Music

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

## Welcome

**Opening Hymn** - #552 "We Are All One in Mission" (*v. 1, 2, & 4*)

**1st Scripture Readings** - John 3:1-15 & Mark 14:32-50

## Music for Reflection

**2nd Scripture Reading** - Mark 15:33-16:8

**Morning Message** - "Living the Story as Followers"  
*Offered by Toby Jones*

**Message Hymn** - #551 "As a Fire is Meant for Burning"

## Offering

**Choral Offertory** - "Here I Am, Lord"

**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

**Congregational Response:** "*God, help us live this dream into being*"

**Closing Hymn** - #574 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

## Choral Benediction

## Postlude



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## CharleVOICES: “In a Pickle”

February 20, 2026  
1<sup>st</sup> Congregational UCC

### Call for Storytellers

Have you ever found yourself stuck, cornered, or caught in a situation with no easy way out?

“In A Pickle” invites true, personal stories about those moments when life left you brined in uncertainty - emotionally, morally, relationally, or hilariously.

#### **What We’re Looking For:**

- True, personal stories (no fiction)
- Honest moments of tension, humor, insight, or growth
- Stories that reveal something human and relatable

#### **What to Know:**

- Stories are told live on stage
- Five storytellers will be chosen
- Stories will be chosen to include a variety of tales
- Story length should be 8-10 minutes and told, not read from a page.

You don’t need to be a performer - if you’ve lived it, you can tell it. Contact Betty Wadland at (231) 330-5441 to submit a story idea, or for more information. Please be sure to leave a message.

Sunday 1/18	Mon 1/19	Tues 1/20	Wed 1/21	Thurs 1/22	Fri 1/23	Sat 1/24	Sunday 1/25
10:30a Worship  11:30a Coffee & Conversation <i>Hosted by Suzanne Balter</i>  11:45a Church Council Meeting	6p Personal Pantry	10a Prayer Group	12p Lunch n Learn	6:30p Choir Rehearsal		12p GLCO Auditions	10:30a Worship  11:30a Coffee & Conversation <i>Potluck Collaboration</i>  11:45a Trustees Meeting

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

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

Please pray for the peaceful resolution of the division in this country, and the respectful and dignified treatment of all people in America.

Please pray for the peaceful resolution of the crisis in Iran.

Please continue to pray for Linda Weller and her family as they cope with the passing of her father, Earl Bennett.

Please continue to pray for Ron & Linda Moore as Linda recovers from surgery due to a broken arm.



*Hosted by:*  
**Suzanne Balter**



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

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