



1st Congregational UCC

Opening the Doors of Possibility

An Open & Affirming Church



Sunday, January 4, 2026

(Jan/Feb Reaching Out Focus: Housing Initiatives)

Communion



"The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

~ John 1:35-39a



Welcome to our church family!

Gathering Music

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

Welcome

Opening Hymn - #560 “I Love to Tell the Story”

1st Scripture Reading - John 1:35-51, *offered by Suzanne Balter*

Music for Reflection

2nd Scripture Reading - Acts 3:1-16, *offered by Suzanne Balter*

Morning Message - “The Story We’re Invited Into”
Offered by Toby Jones

Message Hymn - #560 “I Love to Tell the Story” *alternative verse*

Offering

Offering Music

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*

The Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Communion Music

Communion Prayer

Closing Hymn - #559 “Here I Am, Lord”

Benediction

Postlude



CharleVOICES: “In a Pickle”

February 20, 2026
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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.

Alternative Verse:

Verse - “I love to hear the story of all that God has done,
 Of all the ways She loves us, and, most of all, Her son.
 I love that God’s great story, includes a part for me,
 If I but dare to enter, true miracles I’ll see

Chorus - I love to live the story, to share in God’s new glory,
 To live the unfolding story, of Jesus and his love.”

Sunday 1/4	Mon 1/5	Tues 1/6	Wed 1/7	Thurs 1/8	Fri 1/9	Sat 1/10	Sunday 1/11
<i>Communion</i> 10:30a Worship 11:30a Coffee Hour <i>Hosted by</i> <i>Bruce & Joyce</i> <i>Herbert</i>	6p Personal Pantry	10a Prayer Group 11a-2p CMA Hours <i>By Appt Only</i>	12p Lunch n Learn	9a Reaching In Meeting 11a-2p CMA Hours <i>By Appt Only</i> 6:30p Choir Rehearsal			10:30a Worship 11:30a Coffee Hour <i>Hosted by</i> <i>Colin Morris,</i> <i>Lisa Copass &</i> <i>Susan Warner</i>

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

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

Please continue to pray for Archie Wyatt who is recovering at Boulder Park from surgery. Visitors are welcome, T-Th-F, after 1 p.m.

Please continue to pray for Hudson Shail who at 1.5 years old has lost both kidneys and is on dialysis. Prayers that his targets are met to qualify for a kidney transplant.

Please continue to pray for the victims of gun violence, especially at Brown University in Rhode Island and at Bondi Beach in Australia.

Please continue to pray for all victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse.

Please continue to pray for Toby Jones for quick healing from his ankle surgery.



Hosted by:

Bruce & Joyce Herbert

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

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