



# 1st Congregational UCC

Opening the Doors of Possibility

An Open & Affirming Church



Sunday, April 19, 2026

*(March/April Reaching Out Focus: Guatemala Partnership)*



**“Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same they Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

*-American Prayer Book*

# Welcome to our church family!

**Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tom Cook**

## Gathering Music

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

## Call to Worship - Psalm 29 “The Message”

*Minister: Bravo, God, bravo! All the heavenly hosts shout, “Encore!”*

***People: In awe before the glory, in awe before God’s visible power.***

*Minister: Stand at attention! Dress your best to honor the Creator.*

***People: God makes his people strong. God gives his people peace.***

*Minister: This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

## Opening Hymn - #480 “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

**1st Scripture Reading** - Acts 5:12-16, *offered by Suzanne Balter*

## Music for Reflection

**2nd Scripture Reading** - John 20:18-31, *offered by Suzanne Balter*

**Morning Message** - “Shoulda’ Been Here Yesterday!”  
*Offered by Rev. Dr. Tom Cook*

**Message Hymn** - #293 “Christ is Risen, Shout Hosanna!”

## Offering

### Offertory

### Doxology

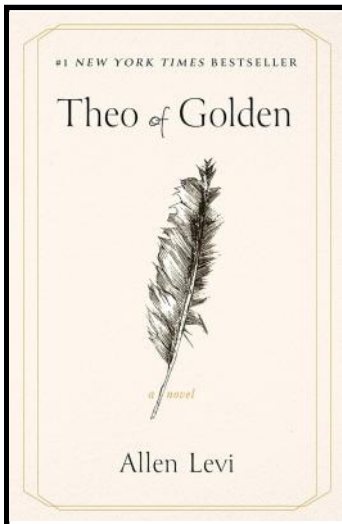
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Her above ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Amen*

## Morning Prayers

**Closing Hymn** - #16 “The God of Abraham Praise”

## Benediction

## Postlude



### **An Incredible Book Group Opportunity from Your Reaching In Team...**

On the four Wednesdays in May, from 7 – 8:15 pm, we are hosting a discussion of one of the very best books of 2025. *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi is a highly acclaimed 2025 breakout novel, recognized as a top 20 book of the year by Book Browse and winner of their Best Debut Award. The novel, which highlights themes of kindness, stillness, and loving attention offered to others, has been a #1 New York Times bestseller and is praised for its optimistic, "most huggable" storytelling.

Toby, a voracious reader, has called *Theo of Golden* "the most powerful, thoughtful, and inspiring book I've read in over a decade – it's exactly what we need during this era of unprecedented violence, anxiety, and despair."

To participate in this uplifting journey, all you need to do is call or email Stacey at [office@chxuucc.org](mailto:office@chxuucc.org) to sign up, get yourself a copy of the book from Dockside Books or Amazon (paperback is \$14.98, Kindle is \$11.99), and have the first 94 pages (the Prologue thru Chapter 16) read by our first session on Wednesday, May 6 at 7 pm. This experience will be hosted online on Zoom, and Stacey will send you the link once you've signed up.

Don't miss this incredible experience. It might just change your life!



### **Emergency Shelter Update from the Reaching Out Team...**

Curious why there's a cot set up in Ransom Hall? Are committee meetings getting so long that naps are now part of the agenda? Thankfully, no!

The cot is actually a sample from a generous donation we recently received—part of our efforts to be prepared in case we're called upon to open our building as an emergency shelter. It's one small but important step in helping us serve our community when it matters most.

A sincere thank you to John Campbell for securing this wonderful donation of cots, sheets, and blankets. As you can see, the cots are sturdy yet compact for easy storage, and the blankets even come in familiar team colors. Go blue!

We're grateful for the ways our church continues to live out its mission of care, compassion, and readiness.

Sunday 4/19	Mon 4/20	Tues 4/21	Wed 4/22	Thurs 4/23	Fri 4/24	Sat 4/25	Sunday 4/26
<p><i>Guest Pastor:</i> <i>Rev. Dr. Tom Cook</i></p> <p>10:30a Worship</p> <p>11:30a Coffee &amp; Conversation</p> <p>11:45a Council Meeting</p>	<p>6p Personal Pantry</p>	<p>11a-2p CMA Hours</p> <p>10a Prayer Group</p>	<p>5:30p Uke Group Rehearsal</p>	<p>11a-2p CMA Hours</p>			<p>9a Trustees Mtg</p> <p>10:30a Worship</p> <p>11:30a Coffee &amp; Conversation <i>Hosted by:</i> <i>Potluck Collaboration</i></p>

**Toby Out Until 4/25/26**

**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 pray for Charlotte Koger who is recovering from surgery for lung cancer. She appreciates all prayers.

Please pray for Wanda and Bret Stopher on the passing of Wanda's mother and for Bret's recovery from shoulder surgery.

Please continue to pray for the current trip participants to Guatemala: Hagen Manker, Jeff Kloiber, and Toby Jones.



**Please join us for  
Coffee and Conversation in  
Ransom Hall  
immediately after  
the service.**

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*Toby Jones, Pastor \* Shelley Fisher, Music Minister  
Stacey Luoma, Office Manager  
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