

Welcome! The mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is to: **Live by faith, embody love, proclaim hope, and seek justice**. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. When the Friendship Folder is passed during the announcements, please sign in and then pass it back across the pew to the inside aisle.

All are welcome. Jesus called us to welcome all into the family of God. We welcome you to our Fellowship Hour after worship in the Community Room where everyone is invited to enjoy conversation and refreshments. A bathroom for all genders is located off the kitchen connected to the Community Room.

Children are welcome in worship! Activity bags are available in the narthex. There is an area for parents and children at the front of the nave which allows children to be close to the action in worship. Our staffed nursery (downstairs) is an option as well. Our kids are invited to go to their classrooms after the kids' message.



Please ask an usher if you would like a large print bulletin, or if you need directions or any other assistance. A Hearing Loop system is available. Turn your hearing device to the "T" setting.

Serving in Worship Today

Preaching & Leading Worship	Laura Wright
Co-Leading Worship	Mary Runyon
Choir Director, Organist, & Pianist	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture	Scott Brouwer
Head Usher	
Ushers	Tom Nyre
Greeters	Bette Stiers, Cam Roberts
Nursery	Zali Stanton
Fellowship Hour	Creation Care

^{*} In the order of service indicates all who are able, please stand.

Gathering Music

"Just As I Am"

Gordon Young

Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us this Sunday where all are welcome. You are invited to pass the Friendship Folder through your row and share your name. Pass the folder back down the row and take note of those worshipping with you.

Prelude Music

"It Is Well With My Soul"

Robert Lau

*Call to Worship

One: Friends, come as you are, whether you are strong and productive or

struggling and weary - or both.

Many: We come just as we are. For our weakness and vulnerability are our

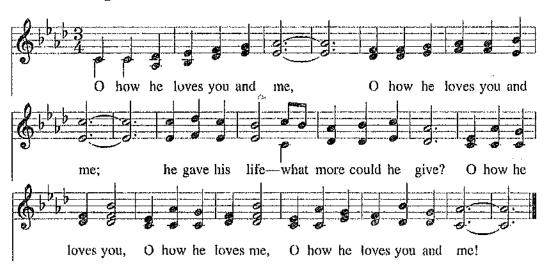
strength.

One: The gardener did not abandon the fig tree that languished.

Many: Nor does our God abandon us.

One: Let us sing to the God who nurtures and tends our souls:

All:



Moment of Silence

Take this moment of silence to be still and listen for God.

Ar Hyd y Nos

*Sharing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Please greet those near you with a wave or bow and with words such as:

"Peace be with you. / And also with you."

& Listening

for the Still-speaking God

The Word for Children

Children will join the pastor in the center aisle as we walk forward for the Word for Children. Kids will go to their JAM classrooms after the kids' message concludes and the congregation sings.

All:



The First Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-9

Scott Brouwer

The Psalter

Psalm 63:1-8 (Read Responsively)

One: O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;

Many: my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,

as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

One: Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,

that I might behold you power and your glory.

Many: For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;

One: my lips shall give you praise.

Many: So will I bless you as long as I live

One: and I will lift up my hands in your name.

Many: My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,

One: and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

when I remember you upon my bed,

and meditate on you in the night watches.

Many: For you have been my helper,

One: and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

Many: My soul clings to you;

your right hand holds me fast.

The Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Sermon

"The Gardener's Patience"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

80 Responding

with the voice of hope

*Anthem

"King of the Wounds"

The Sanctuary Choir Arr. by Craig Courtney

The Community Invited into Prayer

Prayers of the Church

The petitions end with: God, in our stillness,

The people respond: hear our prayers.

The Prayer of Jesus (Said by all. Use language that reflects your view of God.)

Our (Father / Mother / Creator) who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

20 Thanksgiving

for the gifts of God

Stories of Generosity

Music at the Offertory

*As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of Old 100th (Hymn 34).

(All who are able are invited to stand and sing.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Praise God, for all that love has done, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

80 Going

to be messengers of good news

*Hymn 61 (All join in singing the hymns.)

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Wellesley

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Douglas Wagner

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Cover Image: This image of a fig tree bearing abundant fruit as Jesus urged us to produce. The image was produced by Valeniker for Getty Images, and it was used with permission through our subscription to canva.com.

Today's flowers are given in memory of John and Nettie Mooney by Nancy Mooney Davis and Family.

First Congregational UCC Ministry Team			
All the Members			
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright	Senior Pastor		
Rev. Mary Runyon	Associate Minister of Faith Formation		
Nancy Allen			
Sue Retzlaff	Bell Choir Director		
Michelle Logan	Office Manager		
Contact Information: First Congregational Constant of the congregation of the congrega	isit us on the web at www.firstcongolax.org.		
What gifts did you give God th			

Do you mind if we share your gift to God with the congregation? Yes____ No____

This Week in our Church:	<u>armania de la Particio de La Companyo de la Compan</u>	enter en la completa de la completa	and the second of the second o
Sunday, March 23		Friday, March 28	
Faith Forums: A Just Peace betwe	en Israel	Office Closed	
and Palestine (C)	9:00 am	Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)	10:30 am
Worship w/JAM & Nursery	10:00 am	Parents Night Out/Kids Night In	5:30 pm
MS/HS JAM Donuts & Discussions(L) Fellowship (CR)	10:45 am 11:00 am	Sunday, March 30 Noisy Offering	. '
Monday, March 24		One Great Hour Of Sharing	
Woman's Book Club (L)	1:30 pm	Faith Forums: A Just Peace between	en Israel
Tuesday, March 25		and Palestine (C)	9:00 am
Coffee Klatch at Havenwood	2:00 pm	JAM Breakfast (CR)	9:00 am
187 1		Worship w/JAM & Nursery	10:00 am
Wednesday, March 26 Sip & Scripture (Javo Vino)	10:00 am	Fellowship (CR)	11:00 am
Thursday, March 27		CALENDAD VEV	
Visitation Team (CR)	12:00 pm	CALENDAR KEY	
Sanctuary Choir	7:00 pm	CR = Community Room, C = Chapel, L = Lounge, N = Narthex, S = Sanctuary, J = JAM Rooms	

Creation Care Team is hosting Fellowship Hour!

Join us as we explore how the food we eat impacts the world around us. There's plenty of insightful information available in the Community Room—come learn with us!

The Conversation Continues Faith Forum: A Just Peace between Israel and Palestine.

On Sunday, March 30th, at 9 am in the Chapel we will continue our conversations about the history of the conflict between Israel and Palestine and the Just Peace Resolution passed in 2021 by the General Synod of the UCC, and under consideration by the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC this coming June. Pastor Laura will lead this session. Preparatory materials are on the table in the Narthex.

Stay Up to Date with Our Church Calendar!

The church calendar is now available on our website under the Events tab. You can also sync it with your Google Calendar for easy access. If you have any questions, or would like to add a church event. please contact Michelle in the church office (608) 784-8137 or office@firstcongolax.org

Strategic Plan Draft Now Available for Review

The Strategic Plan Team has completed the final draft of our Strategic Plan. You can find it on our website under the Our Story tab in the Our Vision section. We welcome your feedback! Please send any comments to Carole McQueen at carolemcqueen@charter.net by April 9th.

Online Sign-Up for Worship Participants

Worship participants play a vital role in our mission of hospitality. Each week, we need at least 5 volunteers to warmly welcome everyone into our worship. Signing up is easier than ever! Visit our website under the SERVE tab in the Worship Participant section to access our Sign-Up Genius. If you have any questions, stop by the Visitors Table, where someone will be happy to assist you. Thank you for being part of this meaningful ministry!