

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Twentieth-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: This is God's Day, the day of wonder and grace.

Many: This is the day to worship the One who calls us here.

One: This is God's Day, the day we are given joy and peace.

Many: This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.

One: This is God's Day, and it has come just in time!

Many: This is the day we gather with hope, with faith, with love!

One: Let's worship God!

*Opening Song:

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

#48

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Generous God, you pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward you now seeking to receive your message, to give you honor, and to commune in your presence. Make yourself known among us, God, make yourself known to us.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Again we must confess, Master of the Universe, our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they make. Have mercy, Journeying God, have mercy on us. Once again, open our eyes to your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Sovereign Savior.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Servant.

Many: The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness, but the fullness of grace and hope in our God. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 123

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

You, God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God. You are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God. You are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25: 14-40

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

“Risky Business”

Pastor Chris

Prayers of The People/The Lord's Prayer (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

#34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Now, in these moments of gratitude, we would offer you a portion of all which you have given to us, Gracious God. We do so, trusting that you will take them, multiplying them in your kingdom, so all might be blessed by your love, your peace, and your hope.

***Closing Song:** "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" #575

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

POSTLUDE

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-12, 1 Thess. 5:1-11

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. from *Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is from a *New Zealand Prayer Book*.

Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
November Radio Sponsor:	Connie Schwab

Birthdays: November 19-Christian Grindberg; 20-Pat Bilsborough, Phil Heath

Sunday, November 19: 10:00am- Worship
Sunday School
Coffee
Congregational Meeting to adopt the 2024 budget.
Thanksgiving Potluck

Tuesday, November 21: 9:30-11am.-Pastor at Feed Mill

Thursday, November 23: Happy Thanksgiving

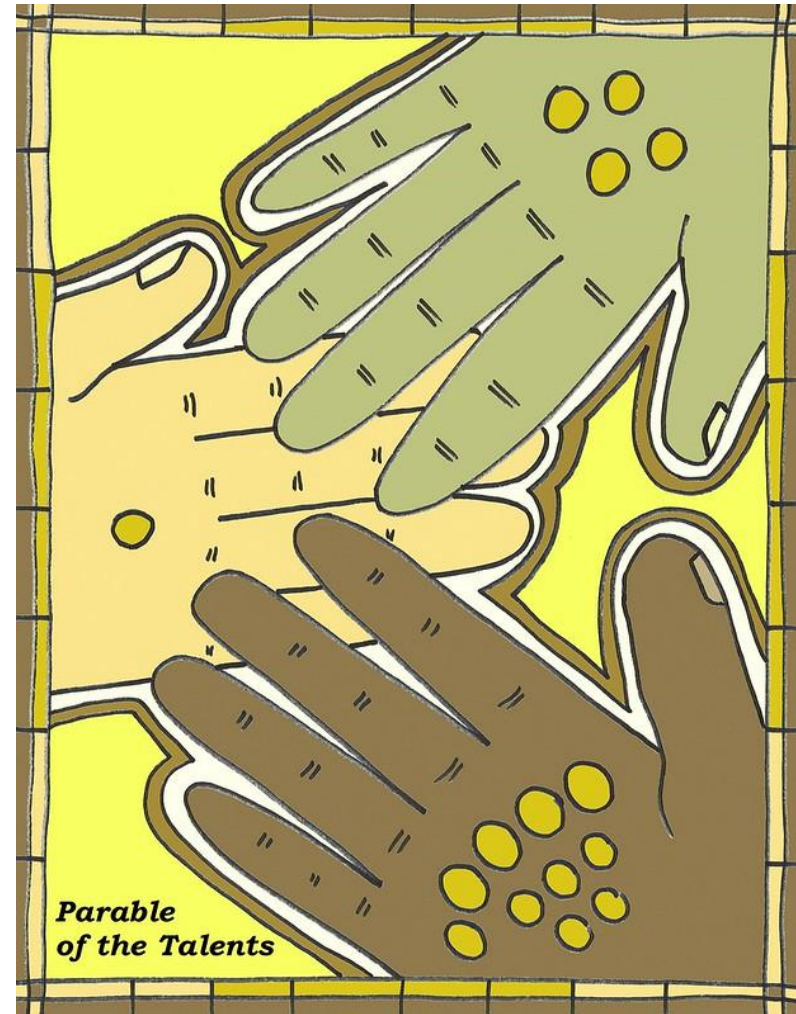
Sunday, November 26: 10:00am- Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

Pledge Cards are available in the office and in the back of the sanctuary, please return them to the church office by December 3, attention Sandy Harmes-Buchanan.

Tuesday, November 28: December/January Newsletter deadline

November 27- Tacos for Tots at First United Methodist Church by the Kossuth County C.A.R.E Team and Loving Hands

The December, January, February issue of "Our Daily Bread" may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
165 Years*

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