

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, "You are my beloved, and I love you."

Many: We, too, are God's beloved children, loved and embraced.

One: With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don't belong, it is tempting to forget our place in God's Kingdom.

Many: With the waters of baptism and the voice of God's promises, we can face the temptations of any wilderness or desert that would draw us away from the Source of our hope.

One: Embrace your belovedness.

Many: We rejoice in God's unending love for us!

*Opening Song:

"Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

#11

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

God of waters and deserts, God of hope and horizons, we celebrate your presence among us and among all your people. You have proclaimed that Jesus was beloved and, tenderly, you have claimed us as your own. Open the skies. Break through the clouds.

Fall softly upon our shoulders and say our names with joy. For this day and each day, no matter what the other voices may say, we are your beloved and we rejoice in your inbreaking Kingdom. Amen and Amen!

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

Compassionate God, forgive the silly sins of childhood, the exuberant sins of adolescence, the faded sins of aging; forgive the sins we shout in the streets, the sins we whisper to ourselves; forgive the sins we didn't give a second thought to, the sins we plot

in the middle of the night; forgive the flood of sins which threaten us, the wilderness of sin which we offer to others, the sin which seeks to imprison us.

Forgive us, Good and Gentle God, forgive us and have mercy on us, so we might walk the path of faithfulness with Jesus, to Jerusalem and beyond, so we might know your steadfast love in our lives.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: What can sustain us in the days to come, what will nourish us on our Lenten journey? Look, here is all the food we need: God's Love, God's Word, God's Hope.

Many: Through the wilderness and into the kingdom of life, we are given daily bread for every day of the journey. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:9-15

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(prayed together)

We are God's. We belong to The One who creates all things, in whose image all people are made.

We are Christ's. He has loved us, healed us, called us and anointed us with his Spirit.

We belong to his death and resurrection and ministry.

We are the Spirit's. We belong to the church, the Body of Christ. God gives us the gifts of forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life, and the gift of participating in the healing of the world by God's grace.

As God's beloved, we devote ourselves to God and to God's will, wholly, joyfully and with the help of Jesus. Amen.

*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

Genesis 9:8-17

read from *The Message*

MESSAGE:

"Everything Alive"

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**

Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Kindom of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.

***Closing Song:** "This Is My Father's World" #21

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

POSTLUDE

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

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, and Prayer of Dedication (adapted) were written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbot, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ from Worship Ways-Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are by Thom M. Shuman from Lectionary Liturgies. The Affirmation of Faith (adapted) is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
February Radio Sponsor:	David Burrow

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Birthdays: February-18-Karen Dearchs; 20-Kris Schlievert

Sunday, February 18: 10:30am - Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

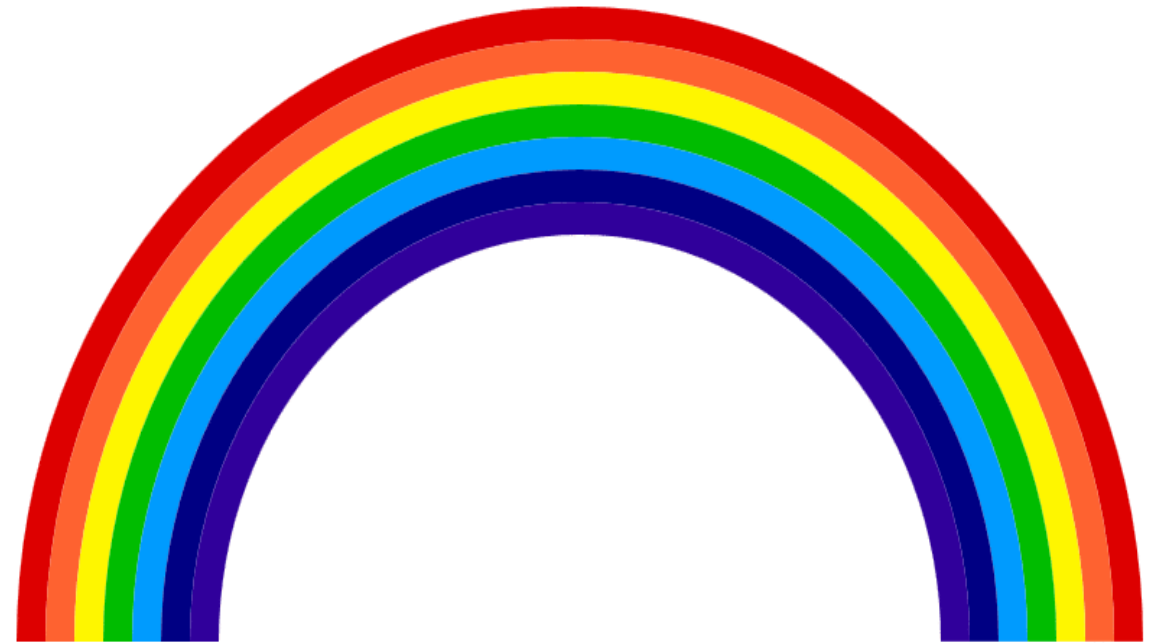
Tuesday, February 20: 9:30-11am.-Pastor at Feed Mill
1:15pm – Delphians Meeting in the Parlor

Wednesday, February 21: 1:30pm.-Mission & Memorial Committee Meeting at VBT
7pm.- Board Meeting

Thursday, February 22: 10am.- Clergy Cluster at Humboldt

Sunday, February 25: 10:30am – Worship
Sunday School
Coffee

The March, April, May issue of "Our Daily Bread" may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



GOD'S COVENANT

*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
165 Years*

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