

Welcome, All Worshipers

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

"The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ~*Jesus (John 3:8)*

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand.)  
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Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYNN BORKE, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

*OPENING HYMN: # 286 SPIRIT, SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS VERSES 1-4

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*Call to Worship

Leader: Like the disciples, we gather in this space, united by our relationship with the Risen Christ.

All: We come ready to receive what God has to give.

Leader: Just as tongues of fire descended on the disciples.

All: We receive the gift of the Spirit's power and inspiration.

Leader: Just as the resurrected Christ breathed the Spirit onto the disciples,

All: We receive the gift of the Spirit's peace and wisdom.

Leader: As the life-giving and peacemaking Holy Spirit blazes through us today,

All: We receive the gift of the Spirit's fire that unites us as the Body of Christ. Amen.

*Opening Prayer

All: Open Your Hand to us, O God. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all. Open your hand to us, O God, give of good things. Do not hide your face from us. Should you remove your Spirit from us, we shall surely return to the dust. Send forth your Spirit in this worship service today and let us be re-created. Renew us, O God, with your spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*The Gloria Patri (sung)

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 without end. Amen. Words: Anonymous, 4th Century.

Music: Henry Greatorex. This selection is in the public domain.

FIRST READING: JOHN 20:19-23

ANTHEM

CHOIR

SECOND READING: ACTS 2:1-21

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LYNN BORKE

SERMON: DIVINE SPEECH

REVEREND EUGEN BACON

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

*HYMN: #290 SPIRIT OF GOD DESCEND UPON MY HEART VERSES 1, 3, 5

THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING (PLEASE BE SEATED)

MINISTER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.
WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.

*CLOSING HYMN: #282 EVERY TIME I FEEL THE SPIRIT VERSES 1 & 2

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*Minister: Let us join together and read responsively:

*All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

*BENEDICTION

Minister: So now we leave this space of worship. And while so much of the road ahead is uncertain, the path constantly changing, we know some things that are as solid and sure as the ground beneath our feet, and the sky above our heads. We know God is love. We know Christ's light endures. We know the Holy Spirit is there, found in the space between all things, closer to us than our next breath, binding us to each other, until we meet again, go in peace. Amen.

*UNISON RESPONSE: And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand. Amen. Words/music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream obtained from One License #A-739847.

Postlude

**OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY**

Lay Reader: Lynn Borke
 Ushers: Ashley Wedge and Nancy Wedge
 Counter: Boris Gerber
 Guest Minister: Reverend Eugene Bacon
 Altar Guild: Nancy Wedge
 Greeters: Bill & Debbie Dempsey
 Fellowship Hosts: Curt & Shari Davis

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	May 28	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service and Fellowship Time
Monday	May 29	9:00 a.m.	Office Closed - Happy Memorial Day!
Thursday	June 1	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Announcements

- ❖ Donations for the Church World Service Blanket Appeal will gladly be accepted throughout the month of May.
- ❖ Calling all members - If you are interested in serving on one of the following committees, please call the church office (989-356-1795), Deborah Butler (989-255-2812) or Sandy Jarmuzewski (989-354-4542):
 Budget/Finance, Comstock, Counters, Investment, Missions, Personnel, Property, Stewardship, Worship
- ❖ Feed A Family needs for May - Hamburger/Tuna Helper, flavored rice or noodles packages, kids' cereals, kids' pudding or jello four packs, kids' crackers/cheese or crackers/peanut butter, Cheeze-Its, cookies etc. from Dollar Tree. Extra senior citizens' commodities are always welcome. *"Our sincerest gratitude for your continued support!" ~Kathy, Salvation Army*
- ❖ Please remember to check for care letters and cards in the middle hall.

*Please join us for Fellowship Time following the service.
We would love to get to know you better!*

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVE-STREAMED AND RECORDED -- Our Sunday worship services are live-streamed, shown on the Internet, as they are happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday services may be seen as part of the live-stream and recording.

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 A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies' room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men's room is in the middle hallway.  
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 28, 2023

*We welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*



Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case, Pastor Emeritus
 Part-Time Interim Pastor: *Reverend Jon Gougeon*
 Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*
 Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*
 Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*
 Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

Office hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Thursday
 Phone: (989) 356-1795

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