

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself
endlessly." ~*Henri Bergson*

"A lot of people resist transition and therefore never allow themselves to enjoy who
they are." ~*Nikki Giovanni*

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

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DOTTIE HAASE, LAY READER

***OPENING HYMN: #451 BE NOW MY VISION** ALL VERSES

*Call to Worship (Based on Isaiah 43 selections) :

Leader: Holy and Gracious God, we remember that we are yours and you know us
by name.

All: Through the words of the prophet Isaiah, we are told that all in your creation are
precious, honored, and loved by you.

Leader: You call to us not to be trapped by our past and simply live lives of being
safe, because you have called us on a journey and an adventure to live in your light.

All: Isaiah calls us to look and see that you are doing a new thing in our midst.

Leader: Because you love us and honor us, we can move boldly into this time of
transition knowing that you are leading us into your future.

All: Let us all then sing with joy and hope that the future is filled with your presence.

*Opening Prayer (Original prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr):

Leader: Let us gather before the God of Peace and Hope and pray together a
prayer of serenity given to us by a fellow traveler who has found his supreme
happiness in the Risen Christ.

All: "God give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,
courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to

distinguish one from the other. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a
time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful
world as it is, not as I would have it, trusting that You will make things right, if I
surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely
happy with You forever in the next. 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.

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 34:1-9, MATTHEW 17:1-9

***HYMN: #182 WE HAVE COME AT CHRIST'S OWN BIDDING** ALL VERSES

SERMON: TRANSITION

REV. CHERYL BURKE

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***CLOSING HYMN: #82 GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING** VERSES 1 & 2

*BENEDICTION

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.

Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with
us, be with you now and forever. 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.

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Postlude

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

Lay Reader: **Dottie Haase**
Altar Guild: **Jackie Bell**
Ushers: **Max & Vicky Lindsay**
Counter: **Joan Chrzan**

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**
and **Lynn Borke**
Fellowship Hosts: **Bill & Dottie Haase**
and **Penny Anderson**

A special THANK YOU to **Reverend Cheryl Burke** for leading us in worship today.

Reverend Cheryl Burke, Associate Conference Minister, has a primary responsibility with all church vitality efforts, the Vital Growth Mission Area Team, and the Center for Progressive Renewal coaching. She assists local churches in the search and call process and serves as a representative to the United Northern Association Church & Ministry, and Executive Committees.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday July 31 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Announcements:

- ❖ Fellowship hosts are needed for the month of August. Please complete the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or call Bill Haase at 989-916-4104 for more information.
- ❖ Our Feed A Family program is in need of pudding, jello and fruit cups, packages of cheese and peanut butter crackers, and chicken noodle soup. The Salvation Army sends along their sincere appreciation for the continuing support provided by First Congregational Church.

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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

July 31, 2022

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



Transitional Ministers: *Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case (Pastor Emeritus)*
and *Reverend Eugene Bacon*

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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Scripture Readings 7/31/22

Exodus 34:1-9

34The LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets, which you broke. ²Be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai and present yourself there to me, on the top of the mountain. ³No one shall come up with you, and do not let anyone be seen throughout all the mountain; and do not let flocks or herds graze in front of that mountain." ⁴So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the former ones; and he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

⁵The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name, "The LORD." ⁶The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. ⁹He said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

Matthew 17:1-9

17Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."