

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

Sunday, January 19, 2025

1201 Jefferson Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49441
231-726-3254

www.fccmuskegon.org

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 19, 2025**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

Aria, by Flor Peeters

GATHERING PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God, in times of distrust and division
open our minds to your truth.**

**Remind us that we are
all created by you in love,
and teach us to show that
love to one another.**

**Led by your Spirit, may we
work together to build communities
of justice, freedom and peace.**

This we pray in Christ's name.

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Forward through the Ages

Those who wish may stand



For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;



move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.



Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,



man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for it died.



For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,



Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Jesus, Seeing What Was Needed, by Delores Duffner

Jesus, seeing what was needed
when your mother interceded,
to her kindness you conceded,
changing water into wine.

Though at first you seemed unwilling,
yet, a human hope fulfilling
and the Gospel thus distilling,
you performed a wondrous sign.

When, with friends in festive setting
you attended Cana's wedding,
news of God's compassion spreading,
your intent was there expressed:

To the table you invite us,
to a feast that will unite us.
There you welcome and delight us,
calling each a cherished guest.

To the table you invite us,
alleluia, alleluia!
Here you welcome and delight us,
alleluia, alleluia!

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MESSAGE

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

They'll Know We Are Christians

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, 3/2 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The text is as follows:

We are one in the Spir - it, we are
We will walk with each oth - er, we will
one in the Lord, We are one in the
walk hand in hand, We will walk with each
Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that all
oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to - geth - er we'll
u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our
Love, Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

Text: Peter Scholtes, b. 1938, Tune: ST. BRENDAN'S, Peter Scholtes, © 1966, F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

. . . ending with the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, 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 debts as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Come, Join in Cana's Feast, by Sally Ann Morris

Come join in Cana's feast Where Christ is honored guest.
He welcomes all who come to taste The wine his hands have blessed.

The old wine now is gone From jars that stand apart.
No longer can it satisfy The yearning, thirsting heart.

But Christ, the Word made flesh, Bids water turn to wine.
He fills our empty cups again With grace and truth divine.

Come, friends, and share the feast; Here drink the wine supplied
By him who is both guest and host; For us, the crucified, For us, the crucified.

For now he lives and reigns Through all eternity
With Father, Spirit, three in one, The glorious Trinity.

Text by Herman Stuempfle © 1993, Tune by Sally Ann Morris ©1998 by GIA Publications, Inc.

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (Creator), Son (Christ), and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Lift Every Voice and Sing



Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and hea - ven
God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent



ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
tears, God who has brought us thus far on the



ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the lis - tening
way; God who by your might, led us in - to the



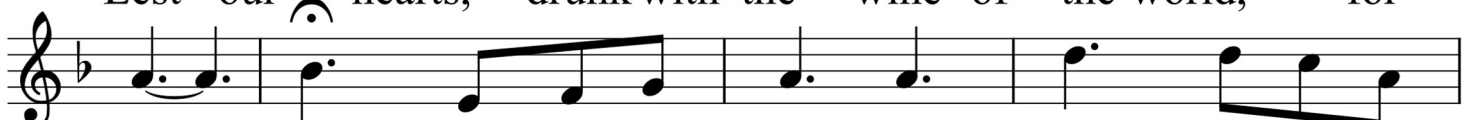
skies, let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea. Sing a
light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray. Lest our



song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we met you,



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, for -



brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new
get you; Shad - owed be - neath your hand, may we for -



day be - gun, let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
ev - er stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

GELOBT SEI GOTT, by Healey Willan

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar
Dr. Michael Match
John Mattson
The Motet Choir
Jane Clingman-Scott
Blake Filius

Pastor
Music Director
Organist
Song Leaders
Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Audio and Video

Westshore GSA Youth Group will be meeting on Monday, from 7 to 8 pm.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters K-N please bring cookies or treats during the month of January. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated as are homemade cookies or bars.

Just a reminder our church office winter hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10—2.

Popcorn, Treats, And Trivia: Join the Outreach Task Force in Fellowship Hall after Worship today, for some fellowship, food, and fun On International Popcorn Day!

Sunday, Jan. 19 the community is invited to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative March & Legacy Celebration. Meet at 4:30 pm at the Central United Methodist parking lot at 1011 Second St. to march in unity to the Mount Zion COGIC at 188 W. Muskegon Ave. for the celebration program from 5-6 pm.

Sunday, Jan. 26th you are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall at 11:45 am for the Progressive Christianity Faith Journey titled How We Behave. This will be a short presentation with snacks!

*January 25th FCC hosts the **Saturday Breakfast** (free buffet meal) from 9-10:30 am. Please contact Donna Lachniet or just show up by 8:30 am to volunteer. "Cowboy" Tom Hardy offers a chapel service for all who wish to attend at 10:45 a.m.*

FCC Single Women Group will meet at the Early Owl on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 1:00 pm. Please sign up at Welcome Center or contact Judy Dewall.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love."

Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21