

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

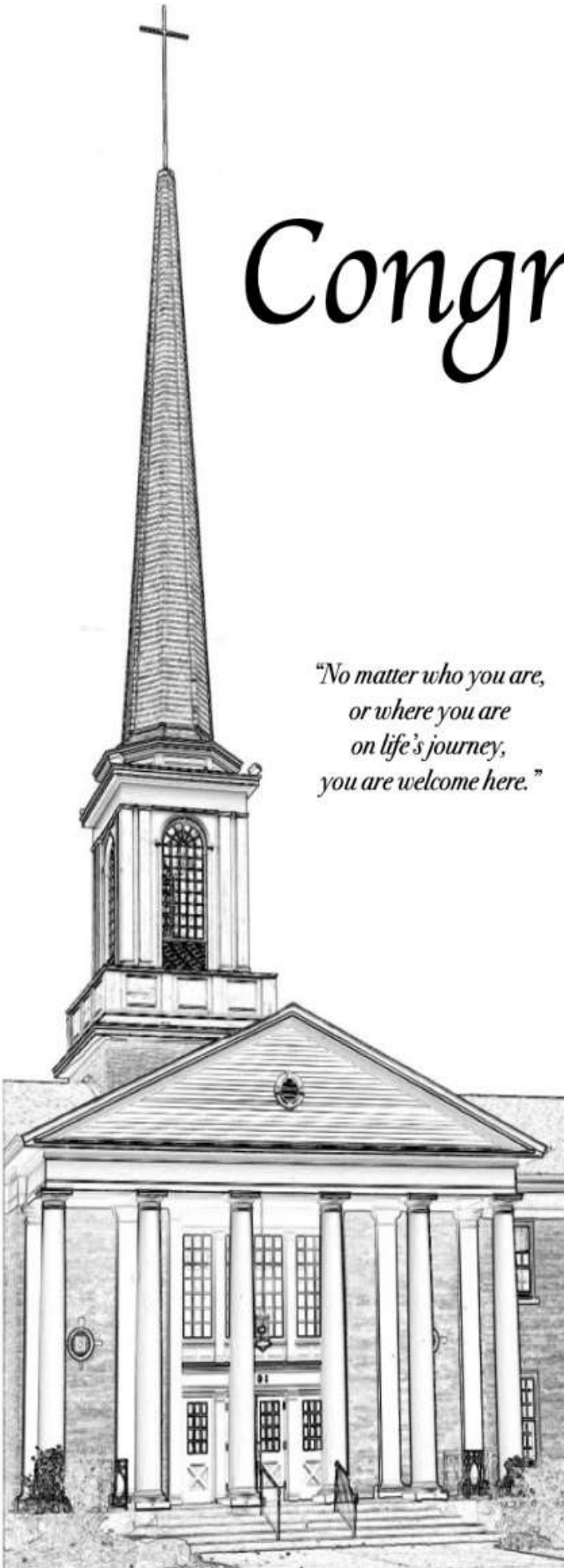
*"No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

Sunday, March 17, 2024

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

www.fccmuskegon.org



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 17, 2024

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

Sharing the peace of Christ

PRELUDE

Jesu Priceless Treasure, by Paul Manz

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.

To remind ourselves that St. Patrick's Day is not
just about green beer and parades, let us
offer as our prayer today these words
from the Breastplate of St. Patrick,
as paraphrased by the Cecil Frances Alexander

**I bind unto myself the Name, The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same.**

**The Three in One and One in three by whom all
nature have creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, word:**

**Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.**

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.**

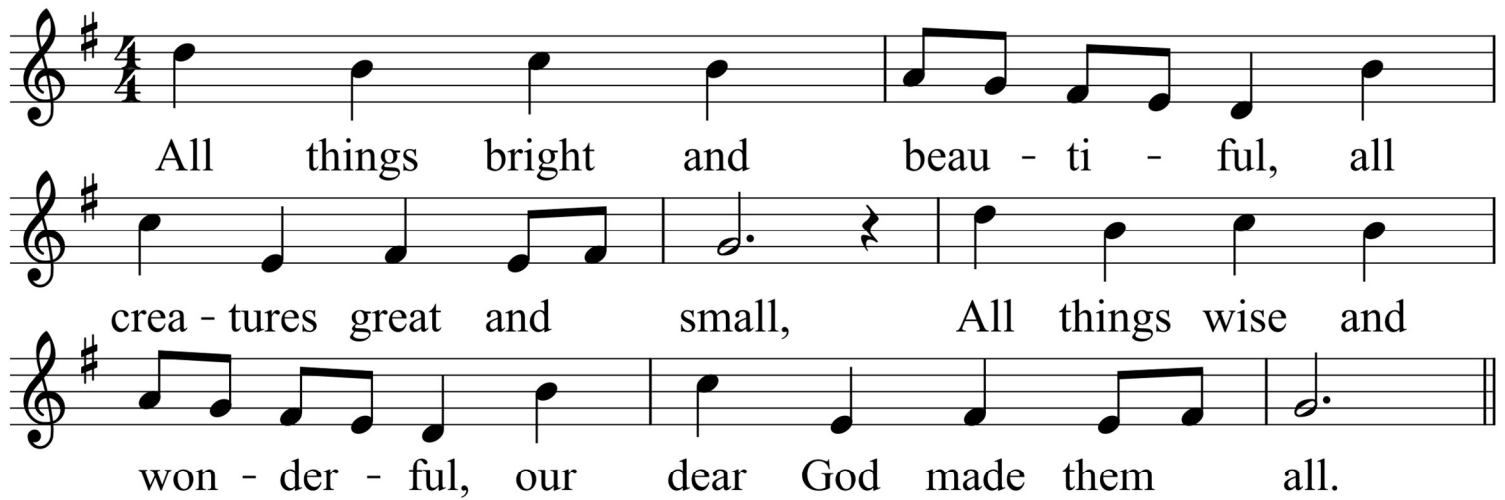
**Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

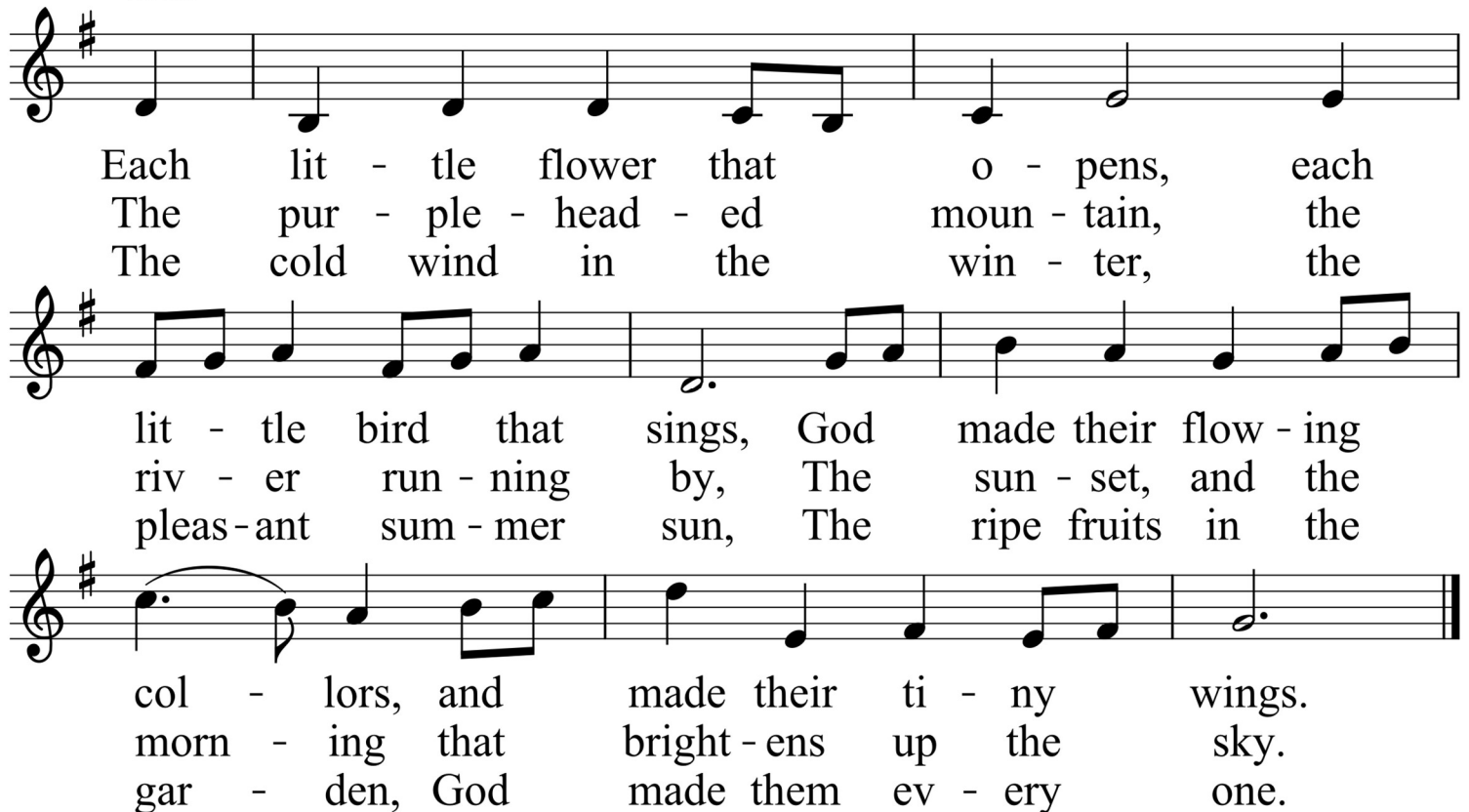
Those who wish may stand

All Things Bright and Beautiful



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all
crea - tures great and small, All things wise and
won - der - ful, our dear God made them all.

Verses



Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each
The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tain, the
The cold wind in the win - ter, the
lit - tle bird that sings, God made their flow - ing
riv - er run - ning by, The sun - set, and the
pleas - ant sum - mer sun, The ripe fruits in the
col - lours, and made their ti - ny wings.
morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky.
gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, alt, Tune: ROYAL OAK, *English Melody*, Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Christ be Near at Either Hand, by Andrew Wright

GREYSTONES, *Traditional Irish Melody*

Kendyl White, Soloist

Christ be near at either hand, Christ behind, before me stand.
Christ with me wher-e'er I go, Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in my head and mind, Christ within my soul enshrined,
Christ control my wayward heart; Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ my life and only way, Christ my lantern night and day;
Christ be my unchanging friend, Guide and shepherd to the end.

Christ the King and Lord of all find me ready at his call;
Christ receive my service whole. Hand and body, heart and soul.

Christ the King of Kings descend and of tyrants make an end;
Christ on us and all below concord, love, and peace bestow.

Arrangement © 2006, Andrew Wright; Published by OCP

MESSAGE

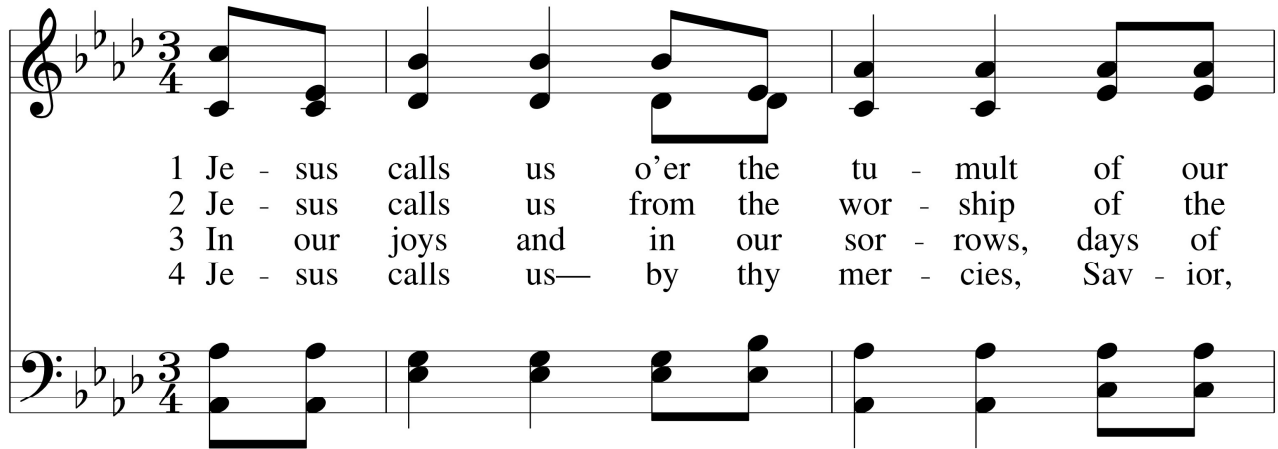
THE TIME IS COMING! WHEN EXACTLY MIGHT THAT BE?

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Jesus Calls Us



1 Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
4 Je - sus calls us— by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine o -



sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
pleas - ures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

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

We Adore you, O Christ, by Steven Van Wye

*Choir first, then **ALL***



We a - dore you, O Christ, and we bless you.



You have re - deemed the world!

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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.**

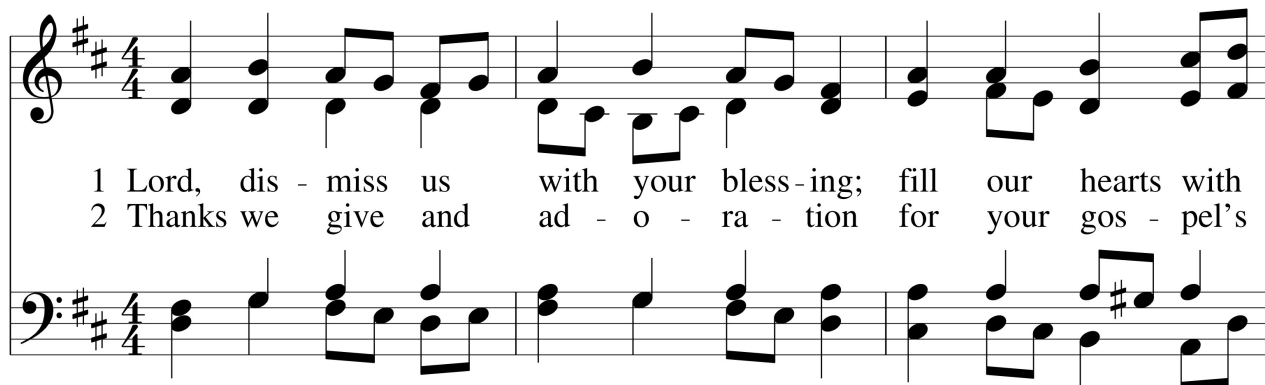
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

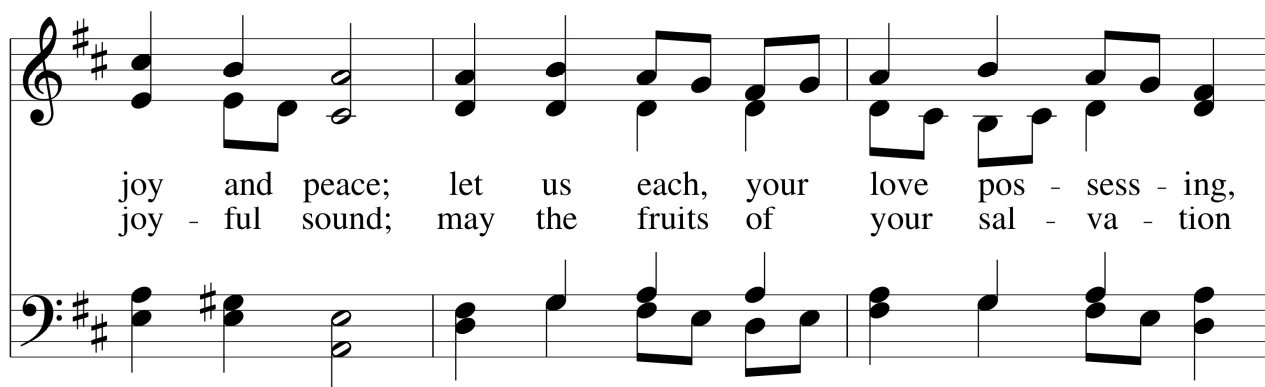
CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

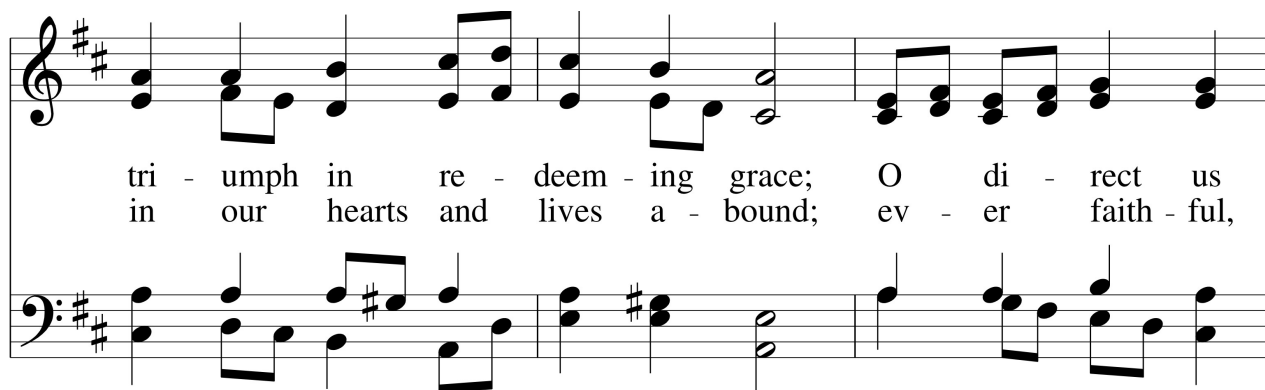
Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



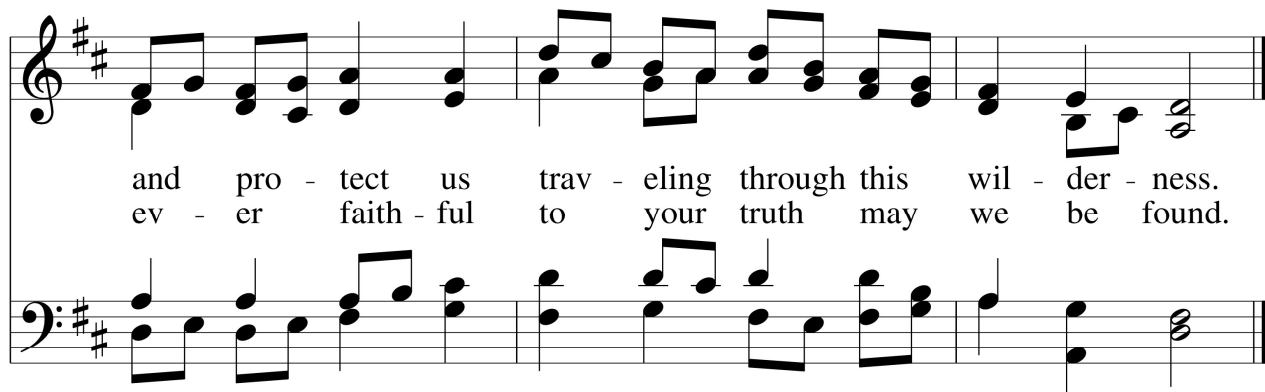
1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's



joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace; O di - rect us
in our hearts and lives a - bound; ev - er faith - ful,



and pro - tect us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross, by Donald Busarow

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
Carol Beatty	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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Altar Flowers are sponsored by Tom Linacre in honor of Amalina Linacre's 2nd birthday.

Westshore GSA Youth Group meet on Mondays, from 7 to 8 pm at FCC.

*Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters
T through Z please bring cookies or treats during the month of March.
Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated.*

*Come One! Come All to the "Roamin in the Gloamin" St .Patrick's Day Talent Show today
in the Fellowship Hall following worship service. Donations to cover the cost of
refreshments are welcome. Thank you to our performers!
Sponsored by Congregational Life Department.*

*Acrylic Paint Class Wednesday, March 20th
at 1:00 PM. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.*

Concerts TODAY:

Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys—3:00PM Basilica of St. Adalbert (GR)

AGO Young Artist Recital (Nico Tjoelker)—4:00 PM First Presbyterian (GH)

Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 PM—Embellish Handbells at Trinity United Methodist (GR)

First Congregational Church, UCC is an 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