

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 21st, 2024

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

LIGHTING THE UNITY CANDLE

PRELUDE Christ for the World We Sing

Lani Smith

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

For God alone our souls wait in silence.

Our hope is from God, our fortress.

God is our rock and our salvation.

God is our refuge and our deliverance.

Trust in God at all times, in all places.

Pour out your hearts to the One who hears.

All people are valuable in God's sight.

No one is more important than another.

Worship God, who is ready to speak to us.

Open your lives to God's steadfast love.

All power in the universe belongs to God.

Yet God depends on our faithful service.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

We await your message, God of all places and times. Sometimes we do not like what we hear, but we know we need to listen. Your message is inclusive and fair, while we like to make distinctions that favor us and our friends. You call us out of our comfort zones to do new things and try better ways. You direct us to reach out to people with whom we seem to have little in common. Speak your truth to us in this service so we can carry it to the places where you want us to go, to the people you are eager to reach. Amen.

***HYMN** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#486

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Sovereign God, we reluctantly confess that we have installed our own gods in our lives. They take our time. They use our resources. They exact from us care and devotion. We do not like to hear that our way of life is endangered. Yet we sometimes realize that innocent steps into self-indulgence are really deliberate strides away from you. We hear distant echoes of warning and judgment.

O God, we want to return to you before it is too late. We repent of everything in our lives that cuts us off from you. Hear our prayer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The people of wicked Nineveh proclaimed a fast and put on the garments of repentance. They begged God to turn around what seemed so inevitable - their own destruction. God listened, and they were saved. The present form of our world is passing away. God has better things in store for us than we have yet known. Our lives, enlisted in God's realm, can count for something good. Forgiven and forgiving people make a difference.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S CHAT Rev. James Deters

***HYMN** Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine

#514

SCRIPTURE Romans 8:18-30 (p. 1030)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

On insert

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY Arioso

David Paxton

Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it on.

***DOXOLOGY**

#809

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

God of steadfast love, we pray that you will love the world through the moneys we dedicate today. We pray that your work of transformation will be carried forward by our gifts. As a church, we seek to follow where Jesus leads. As individuals, we heed the call to discipleship. Bless our efforts to fish for people - for their sakes, not our own. Amen.

***HYMN** God Moves in a Mysterious Way

#73

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

God sends us out into the world with good news.

God directs us to warn and to give assurance.

We are disciples of Jesus Christ.

We have been commissioned and blessed.

We go out as people who know our own weakness.

We rise above our shortcomings in the strength Christ gives.

We will trust in God at all times.

We will speak God's truth in love.

The reign of God is drawing near to us.

It can be realized in our lives here and now.

We accept God's rule among us.

We are citizens of God's realm.

Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** God Be With You

POSTLUDE Praise!

*All those who are able, please stand.

#840

Gilbert Martin

A WORD ON THE OFFERING

For your convenience, during cold and flu season, plates are placed at each entrance. You are welcome to place your offering in the plate as you enter or during a hymn. The ushers will bring your offering forward later in the service.

Large print bulletins, children's bulletins, and aids for the hearing impaired are available. All people are welcome in the sanctuary; however, a nursery is available for kindergarten and younger children needing a place to invest their excitement. There is also a children's room for families who need a quiet space for babies and young children. Please ask an usher for assistance.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

VMIX Lynn Adams **STREAMING AUDIO** Rob Sanders

SANCTUARY SOUND Becky Deters

PRODUCTION Pat Hammond

TECH SUPPORT Ernie Bliss

LAY READER Russ Fish

USHERS Mahnke family

COFFEE HOSTS Judi Holevatz

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Susan Sanders, Administrative Assistant upcc.office214@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

Website: <https://upccchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 am

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Illustration by Ben Cogger



Calendar of Events

ACTIVITIES

- 1/24 Noon: AA meeting in lower lounge
- 1/27 10:00 am Set up for Stone Soup in the dining room
11:00 am Stone Soup Cafe in dining room
- 1/28 9:00 am Sunday school classes
9:15 am Adult Bible study
10:30 am Worship service
Annual Meeting and potluck following service
- 1/29 1:00 pm Women's Circle meeting

BIRTHDAYS

- 25 Nancy Bissell
26 Dorothy Whiting
27 Wendy Hudak
28 Carol Eder

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next **Choir rehearsal** will be on Thursday February 1st. There will be no choir rehearsal the week of Jan 21-27.

You are invited to join in **Stone Soup Cafe's** first community lunch in its new home, 509 Main Street West this Saturday, 1/27 from 11 am to 2 pm. For those who have participated before, we expect it to feel pretty familiar. Stone Soup Cafe's mission is to "increase access to healthy food in a space that is safe and welcoming for all, regardless of ability to pay." For the past year, UPCC has provided that space and we are grateful. Meals at Stone Soup Cafe are offered by "pay-as-you-can" donation. We offer menu options, featuring local ingredients and lots of vegetables. We serve guests at their table and encourage sharing table with others. Please join us for lunch. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Jocelyn 715-209-8297 or Joel 715-209-0009. We have lots of opportunities to get involved.

Sunday, January 28th — Potluck Lunch and Annual Meeting

Come and enjoy a potluck luncheon on Sunday, Jan. 28, in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. The luncheon will be held following the worship service and before the congregation's annual meeting. Please bring a dish to share. We could also use some help setting up before the meeting and cleaning up afterwards. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Cheryl Drevlow, Tenlee Lund, or Susan Sanders in the church office.

Mark Your Calendars: Sunday, February 4th at 5pm the Mission, Peace, and Social Justice Committee is hosting a second peace-making supper at UPCC. Come early to walk the labyrinth. More details soon.



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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
for in him all things in heaven and earth were created,
things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or powers—
all things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the first-born from the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased
to reconcile to himself all things,
by making peace through the blood of his cross.
Col. 1:15-20**

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Col. 1:15-20**

486. There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.

2 There is welcome for the sinner
and more graces for the good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.

3 For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

4 If our love were but more simple,
we would take him at his word,
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine 514

Is anyone happy? . . . Sing songs of praise. Jan. 5:13

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of
 2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now
 3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
 burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove
 hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

Refrain

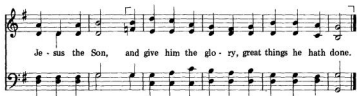
born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry,
 filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; this is my

sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



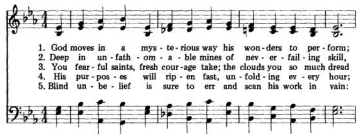
Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther through



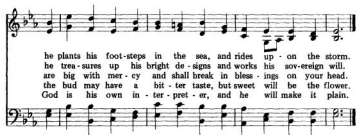
Je - sus the Son, and give him the glo - ry, great things he hath done.

God Moves in a Mysterious Way 73

"You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Jn. 13/7



1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way his won - ders to per - form;
 2. Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
 3. You fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; the clouds you so much dread
 4. His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, un - fold - ing ev - ery hour;
 5. Blind un - be - lief is sure to err and scan his work in vain:



he plants his foot-steps in the sea, and rides up - on the storm.
 he trea - sures up his bright de - signs and works his sov - ereign will.
 are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
 the bud may have a bit - ter taste, but sweet will be the flower.
 God is his own in - ter - pret - er, and he will make it plain.