

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE UNITY CANDLE

PRELUDE O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

Franklin Ritter

CHORAL INTROIT Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come near to one another and to our God.

Be still before the one who fulfills our hearts' desires.

This is a time for meeting and greeting.

This is the hour for quieting life's stresses and worries.

Wait patiently, for God will be revealed to us.

God is our refuge in whom we trust.

We believe God is here and will be known by us.

Our faith nourishes us as we rest in God's care.

We are here to receive life in all its abundance.

God is providing for us and has a purpose for us.

God raises us up and sends us forth.

Surely God will help us wherever we go.

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

Loving God, you bring light to our days and hope to our hearts. We draw near to you as survivors of another week, grateful for your care. You have provided for us, preserved our lives, and invited us once more to this time of prayer. Now we would be still before you, leaving behind our distress and anger, entrusting our weaknesses to your empowering spirit. Raise us up to embrace your way of love. Amen.

***HYMN** The Church's One Foundation

#689

Verses: 1 All 2 Women 3 Choir 4 Men 5 All

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Kind God, we have sinned against you. We have judged and condemned those whose actions offend us. We hesitate to forgive our enemies or make allowances for the behavior of those less fortunate than ourselves. We confess that we do not pray regularly for our friends, much less for our enemies. Our giving is motivated

by self-interest as much as by thankfulness and compassion. We admit our failures and ask once more for pardon and renewal, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is merciful and calls on us to offer mercy to those who have wronged us. God forgives and bids us to forgive others. God's love is always available to us, and we are to pass it on. God provides for us; and out of that bounty, we minister to our sisters and brothers. Let us live as people who recognize and appreciate God's gifts.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

CHORAL ANTHEM Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

Arr. John Carter

CHILDREN'S CHAT Rev. James Deters

***HYMN** There Is A Balm in Gilead

#611

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 5:11–21 (p. 1053)

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 Where Charity and Love Prevail

Robert Hobby

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

***DOXOLOGY**

#809

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

Receive our joy, O God, along with our gifts. We reach out with this offering to do good in and through our church. May any who have harmed others be helped. Heal us of unjust anger, jealousy, and strife. Through our shared life in this community of faith, create in us the image of one who dwells in heaven. Let us share with the whole world the blessings we receive from your hand. Amen.

***HYMN** A Charge to Keep I Have

#659

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Love your enemies and do good.

Lend to others, expecting nothing in return.

As we want people to treat us,

we commit ourselves to treat them.

Judge not, and you will not be judged.

Condemn not, and you will not be condemned.

We want to forgive as God forgives us.

We would be merciful as God is merciful.

God will raise you up to new life.

Be still before God and wait patiently each day.

God is our refuge and our salvation.

We recommit our ways to God. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** God Be With You **verse 3** **#840**

POSTLUDE Spirituoso *A. Scarlatti/Arr. Kevin Norris*

*All those who are able, please stand.

A WORD ON THE OFFERING

For your convenience, collection 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 play room 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 Rob Sanders & Joseph Deters **STREAMING AUDIO** Susan Sanders

SANCTUARY SOUND OPEN

PRODUCTION Rob Sanders & Joseph Deters

TECH SUPPORT Ernie Bliss

LAY READER Julia Waggoner

USHERS Peggy Hoffman and Jack & Julie Coy

COFFEE HOSTS Anne-Marie Itzin and Diana Mann

BAKERS Susan Sanders and Laurel Harnisch

PLAYROOM Alissa Hulstrand

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Laurel Harnisch, Director of Family Ministry upcc.familyministry@gmail.com

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

Church office phone 715-682-3093

Lots of upcoming events. See the bulletin inserts.

Also look at the **UPCC website**: <https://upccchurch.org/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianCongregationalChurch>

Join our **Facebook group** at UPCC Connection



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Illustration by Ben Cogger



Calendar of Events

ACTIVITIES

- 2/26 Noon: AA meeting in lower lounge
5:30 pm Middle school youth group
7:00 pm Choir practice
- 3/2 9:15 am Sunday school (Pre-K -High school)
9:15 am Adult Sunday school
10:30 am Worship service

BIRTHDAYS

- 23 Alex Whiting
- 27 Katie Swanson, Sarah Yankee
- 29 Roxanna Turner, Thomas Sanders
- 2 Nancy Dufek, Chuck Gottschall

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Affirmation

We do see Jesus,
who for a little while was made lower than the angels,
now crowned with glory and honor
because of the suffering of death,
so that by the grace of God
he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God,
for whom and through whom all things exist,
in bringing many children to glory,
should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect
through sufferings.

For the one who sanctifies
and those who are sanctified
all have one Father.

For this reason Jesus is not ashamed
to call them brothers and sisters, saying,
“I will proclaim your name
to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation
I will praise you.”

Heb. 2:9-12

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Middle School

TRIVIA NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH
5:30-7:00 PM

Join us for a night of trivia on a variety of topics, from video games to the Bible! Bring a friend and create a team. Dinner and dessert provided.

214 VAUGHN AVE ENTRANCE #5

FOR MORE INFO:

UPCC.FAMILYMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM 715-682-3093

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2 Corinthians 5:11–21 (p. 1053)

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have died. And he died for all so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.