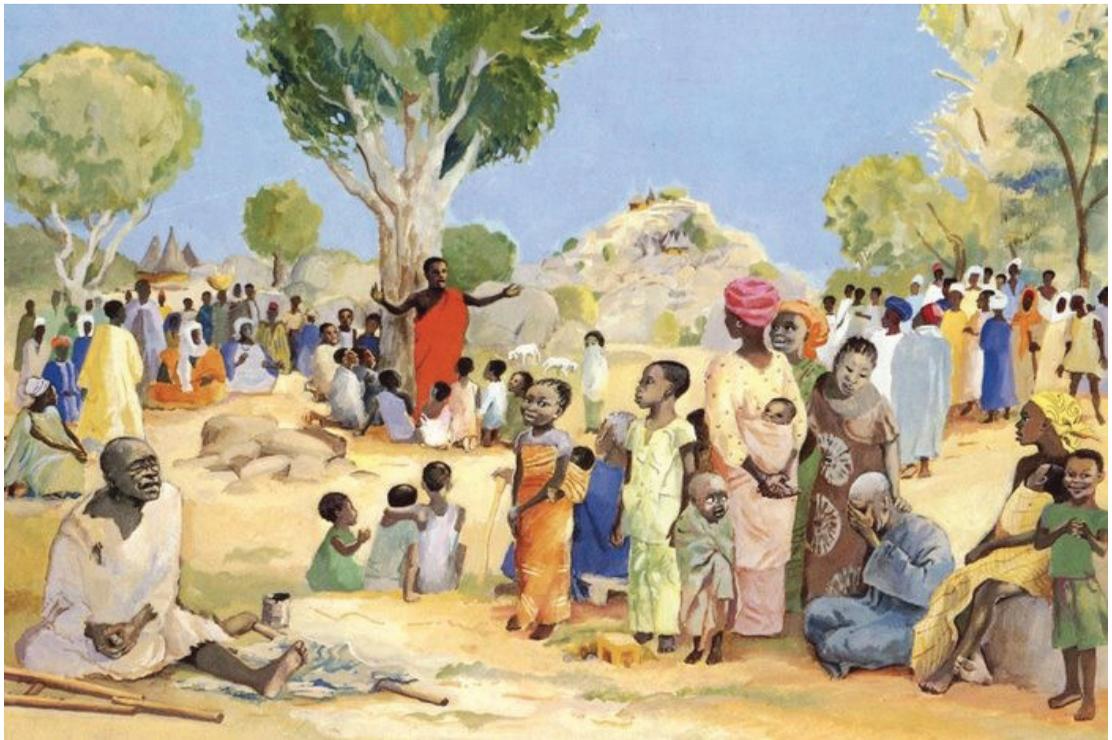


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



JANUARY 29, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome

Please silence cell phones upon entering the sanctuary.

Children in Worship

Infants and children bring life to our worship and are always welcome. Worship Activity Bags for children are located at the back of the church: teal bags for 2-5 years, navy blue for 6-10 years.

Sunday School

Preschool through adult Sunday morning learning is offered during the 9 o'clock hour. FCC is committed to the faith formation of all, so join us for weekly Sunday School in the Christian Education wing located on the lower level.

Sunday Brunch

Please join us for fellowship after worship in the Son Cafe after worship. Today's menu: Ham, corn bread, fruit, toaster items. We are gearing up for Superbowl Sunday in two weeks! Good coffee and even better conversation is always on the menu!

Interested in Membership?

Contact Pastor Craig, (309)-762-0787 or by email craig@fccmoline.org.

Wi-Fi Password

Welcome!

Resources

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

Getting connected

Please fill our pew pads to offer us a record of your attendance.

Today
from the life
of the church

The poet W. H. Auden, in his long work [Christmas Oratorio: For the Time Being](#) gives these lines to the star leading the wise men:

I am that star most dreaded by the wise, ...
Beware. All those who follow me are led
Onto that Glassy Mountain where are no
Footholds for logic, to that Bridge of Dread
Where knowledge but increases vertigo:
Those who pursue me take a twisting lane
To find themselves immediately along
With savage water or unfeeling stone,
In labyrinth where they must entertain
Confusion, cripples, tigers, thunder, pain.

This connects with the Epistle reading from Paul today. (1 Corinthians 1:18-31) And particularly, *For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Christ changes everything. Even the way we think and reason. And this is both liberating and disturbing.

Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE

Marian Antiphon V: How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou by Marcel Dupré

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;

**and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;

**and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the prayers of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**
Amen.

***HYMN**

#420, *God of Grace and God of Glory*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

**we confess that we have turned away from your way
to follow our own ways.**

Forgive us for the times

we have spoken or acted too quickly;

we have not spoken or acted at all;

we have hurt those we have yet to know;

we have thought more about ourselves than others;

we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.

Turn around, and give us a fresh start,

so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.

Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.

God's love never runs out.

God never tires of calling us beloved children.

Hear God say to you now:

Your sins are forgiven,

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen. **Amen.**

*SONG OF PRAISE *Gloria*



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Michael Swartz

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Proclaiming the Good News

SCRIPTURE

MICAH 6: 1-8

A reading from Micah.

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;

and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

who speak the truth from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain,

nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1: 18-31

A reading from First Corinthians.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision, arr. Robert Hunter

***GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 5: 1-12

A reading from Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Michael Swartz

***HYMN**

#405, *What Does the Lord Require*

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Adagio in d minor by Alessandro Marcello

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God From whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sending in Mission

***HYMN OF SENDING**

#84, *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

***BLESSING**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

*Marian Antiphon II: His Left Hand Is Under My Head,
and His Right Hand Doth Embrace Me* by Marcel Dupré



*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Corinne Potter
Given by Ellen McBride*

SERVING TODAY

Ushers

Pam Wendt, Mary Lou Carlson, Patti Ensey, Tom Woodburn, Abe Peterson

Liturgist

Mary Newcomb

Lector

Carol Freeman

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC STAFF

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon, *Pastor*

Rev. Michael Swartz, *Interim Associate for Pastoral Care*

Maureen Holmes, *Music Coordinator and Chancel Choir Director*

Pablo Gorin, *Interim Organist*

Gail Glockhoff-Long, *Campanella Ringers Director*

Erin Willhite, *Director of Marketing and Communications*

Angie Cleppe, *Online Publications*

Becca Peterson, *Director of Family Ministry*

Sara Otta, *Finance Manager*

Wes Llewellyn, *Fellowship Coordinator*

Evan Thornton, *Office Assistant and Nursery Coordinator*

Wendy Simmon, *Red Wagon Preschool Director*

Mike DeToye and Ron Mahar, *Custodians*



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gathered to Share God's Love