



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC LEADER
GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

Journey to Generosity

The Way of Jesus

Matthew 9:35-10:23

NOVEMBER 12TH, 2017

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTCOST



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
God is still speaking.

Welcome

Please turn off cell phones in 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. We offer childcare in our professionally staffed nursery in our downstairs nursery for children ages infancy through 6 years old.

Sunday School

Join us for weekly Sunday School in the Christian Education wing located on the lower level.

Sunday Brunch

chicken ala king on biscuits, green salad, goodies, and toaster items

Interested in Membership?

Contact Pastor Craig, call (309)-762-0787 or 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*

*We give the but Thine own,
What e're the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

This was written to be a stewardship hymn by the English cleric William Walsham How, who also wrote "For All the Saints" which we sang last week. He was sometimes known as "the children's bishop."

We often think of stewardship in terms of money.

The presentation of Bibles in the church reminds us that stewardship, or the best use of gifts, goes beyond money and includes our minds and our attention. Certainly the capacity to read, think critically, understand and act with purpose are gifts from God.

We are asked to use these gifts for God's glory.

Pr. Michael Swartz

Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE

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**

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof;
the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas,
and established it upon the floods.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Blessed sovereign, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

#491 Stand Up and Bless the Lord

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our merciful redeemer, we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from the voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives all your sin. Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God. 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 CHOIR

Hevenu Shalom Aleichem, arr. Dan R. Edwards
featuring Audra Bailey (piano) and Carl Collins (clarinet)

CHILDREN'S TIME

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

*Abraham Peterson, Avianna Michl, Anna Churchill,
Noah Johnson and Isabella Suman*

Loving God, for Jesus' sake, make yourself known to Abraham, Avianna, Anna, Noah and Isabella. Fill them with your Spirit that they may discern your inspired Word as they read the words on the pages of these Bibles we present to them today. Bless their lives. Bless their families. Bless our congregation because of their presence. Watch over them always. And by the power of your Holy Spirit, guide them along the paths that will lead to full life in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life. By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak to us of your promises that we might hear your truth and enjoy you forever; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Proclaiming the Good News

SCRIPTURE

JOSHUA 24:1-3A, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,

the world and those who dwell therein.

For the Lord has founded it upon the seas

and established it upon the rivers.

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord,

and who may stand in God's holy place?

Those of the innocent hands and purity of heart,

who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by what is false.

They shall receive blessing from the Lord

and righteousness from the God of their salvation.

Such is the generation of those who seek you, O Lord,

of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is the King of Glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,

that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of Glory?

Truly, the Lord of hosts is the King of glory.

SCRIPTURE

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Keep Your Lamps! arr. Andre Thomas
featuring Jacob Davis (percussion)

***GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Michael Swartz

***HYMN**

#428 *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

Freely we have received; freely we give, with gratitude and joy.

OFFERTORY

Lobe den Herren by J.S. Bach

***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

Gracious God, receive our gifts, tokens of thanks for your extravagant blessings, signs of trust in your coming reign of justice, peace, and love; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sending in Mission

***HYMN OF SENDING**

#420 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

***BENEDICTION**

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**

***POSTLUDE**



*Altar flowers given to the glory of God and
in loving memory of Joseph T. Leinfelder
Given by: Beverly Leinfelder*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher

Jim Moorhusen

Lector

Carson Stickell

Ushers

3rd Grade Class

Liturgist

Rylee Warpehoski

Usher Guides

Kim Fuller

Dixie Duckett

North Door Greeters

Ann Millman

Carol Freeman

Sound Tech

Bill Henning

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon, Senior Pastor

Rev. Michael Swartz, Associate Pastor

Maureen Holmes, Chancel Choir Director

Benjamin Holmes, Guest pianist

Gail Glockhoff-Long, Campanella Ringers Director

Jennifer Dailing, Office Assistant

Taylor Anderson, Director of Marketing and Communications

Becca Peterson, Director of Family Ministry

Sara Otta, Finance Manager

Wes Llewellyn, Fellowship Coordinator

Harleigh Jones, Nursery Coordinator

Amanda Peterson, Red Wagon Preschool Director

Mike DeToye and Ron Mahar, Custodians



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gathered to Share God's Love

Journey to Generosity The Way of Jesus

Matthew 9:35-10:23

This year's stewardship theme, "Journey to Generosity: The Way of Jesus," takes shape from this passage in Matthew 9:35-10:23, when Jesus said to his disciples:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

If we relate this passage to our lives as Christians in a faith community, it's easy to see that the plentiful harvest is God's blessings and we are the laborers. God expects us to give our time, talent, and treasure to help gather the bounty and share it with our church, community, and the world. God expects us to be generous because God is generous. This is the very essence of making a stewardship commitment.

The scripture goes on to tell how Jesus assembled his disciples and told them to go "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near. . . . You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food.'"

This is a tall order, even for the disciples, and yet it's not so different from some of the things we are called to do as Christian disciples today: go to the "lost sheep," proclaim the good news, give without payment.

And it is certainly no different from what we do when we make a stewardship commitment. This year, as you consider making a pledge, be reminded of the generosity God has bestowed on you, and let it inspire you to be generous in return.

For indeed, the journey to generosity is the way of Jesus.