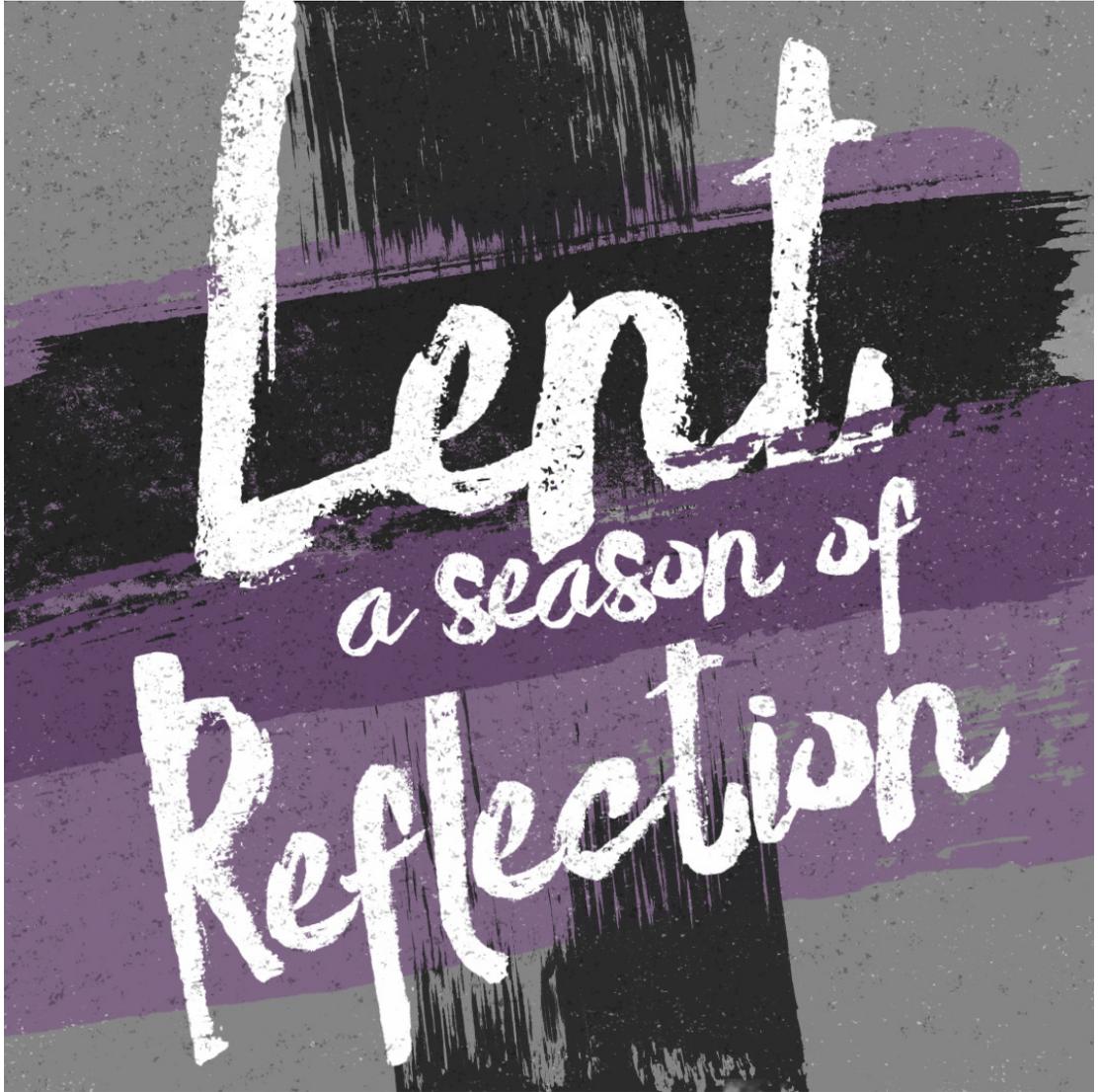




FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC LEADER
GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



FEBRUARY 18TH, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

All are welcome to join us for weekly Sunday School in the Christian Education wing located on the lower level. Preschool through adult Sunday morning learning is offered at 9am.

Sunday Brunch

Join us downstairs after the service in the Son Cafe for good food and fellowship! Today's menu is chicken strips, french fries, salad 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.

Cover Art

12th century Italian depiction of the Transfiguration

Today
from the life
of the church

Lent is the time when Christians are called upon to change their opinion and practice in the light of Christ's person and message. His forty days of Temptation in the Wilderness preceded the beginning of his public ministry in which Jesus put into practice the principles he had there adopted.

Was the trial sore?

Temptation sharp? That God a second time!

Why comes temptation but for man to meet

And master and make crouch beneath his foot,

And so be pedestaled in triumph? Pray
'Lead into no such temptations, Lord!'

Yea, but O Thou whose servants are the bold,

Lead such temptations by the head and hair,

Reluctant dragons, up to who dares fight,

That so he may do battle and have praise!

Robert Browning, *The Ring and the Book*

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**

And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness.

He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan;

and he was with the wild beasts;

and the angels waited on him.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ our savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

#77 Forty Days and Forty Nights

CALL TO CONFESSION

God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace us in your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, forgive us.

Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.

We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence

We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence

We acted when we knew better.

Silence

We were still when we should have moved.

Silence

**For the wrong we have done, for the good we failed to do,
have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE

Give Me A Clean Heart

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Steadfast God, thank you for sheltering us in the storms of life. Thank you for ministering to us through angels seen and unseen in times that test us.

Proclaiming the Good News

SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10

To you , O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,

Nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame;

Rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

Show me your ways, O Lord,

And teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,

For you are the God of my salvation;

in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,

For they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

Remember me according to your steadfast love

and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

You are gracious and upright, O Lord;

Therefore you teach sinners in your way.

You lead the lowly in justice

And teach the lowly your way.

All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness,

To those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

SCRIPTURE

1 PETER 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

My Shepherd's Amazing Grace
arr. Karissa Dennis

***GOSPEL**

MARK 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Michael Swartz

HYMN#391 Take My Life And Let It Be Consecrated*

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

Because we believe that in Jesus Christ, God's time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near, we respond in tangible ways. By doing acts of justice and compassion and by sharing our resources, we bear witness to the good news of the gospel. The offering is received in gratitude to God.

OFFERTORY

Time with Jesus by Tammy Waldrop

***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

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection through Christ our Lord.

Sending in Mission

***HYMN OF SENDING**

#281 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

***BENEDICTION**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

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 our parents, Robert and Dorothy Reimers and Wayne and Carol Forsyth
Given by: Jack and Kathy Reimers*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher

Jim Moorhusen

Lector

Audra Bailey

Ushers

Scott Waletzko

Kara Waletzko

Olivia Waletzko

Finley Waletzko

Liturgist

Patti Ensey

North Door Greeters

Tami Marshall

Carol Freeman

Usher Guides

Kim Fuller

Kathy Harris

Sound Tech

Jeff Newcomb

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon, Senior Pastor

Rev. Michael Swartz, Associate Pastor

Maureen Holmes, Chancel Choir Director

Mason Moss, Interim Organist/Pianist

Gail Glockhoff-Long, Campanella Ringers Director

Jennifer Dailing, Office Assistant

Amber Moore, 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