



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC LEADER
GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



FEBRUARY 25TH, 2018
SECOND 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 egg casserole, fruit and desert.

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

Lent (A Season of Reflection)

Today
from the life
of the church

Some days it's easy to identify with a fellow who has had enough of a troubled life. He flops down, says he's ready to give up, and has a nap. Well, it takes two naps, two jars of water and two hearth cakes – all served up by an angel – to give him the strength to complete his forty-day journey.

The Lord's Day, every Sunday, is food and drink and rest for the journey. Every Sunday is like an angel that comes to us when our heart is heavy. We desperately need our Sunday naps and "hearth cakes." We desperately need a day free from business as usual, a day without errands, demands and travel.

Recreation is not a luxury; it's a necessity. Without Lord's Day refreshment, Christianity itself would soon flop down unable to go any further.

- Hildegard Kerney

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 Lord entered into covenant with Abraham and Sarah,

And not only with them, but also with us.

At times they doubted because of their age,

And at times we doubt because of our sin.

But the Lord is God, and the covenant is everlasting.

O come, let us celebrate our covenant with the Lord!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **God, you have given us everything. What can we give
in return for our lives? Send your Spirit to guide us on our Lenten
journey. Reveal how we are to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and
follow the way of Jesus Christ. We lift repentant hearts to you. In
Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

#275 God of Our Life

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: 'For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.' The lyrics are printed below the notes.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

*Bwana Asifiwe
Arr. Mark Burrows*

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Proclaiming the Good News

SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make you my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."

Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:23-31

You who fear the Lord, give praise!

All you of Jacob's line give glory.

Stand in awe of the Lord, all you off-spring of Israel.

For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

Neither is the Lord's face hidden from them;

But when they cry out, the Lord hears them.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

Let those who seek the Lord give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

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.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

All the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

Who rules over the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship.

All who go down to the dust, though they be dead,

Shall kneel before the Lord.

Their descendants shall serve the Lord,

Whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

Saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") --in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Take My Yoke Upon You
by Douglas Nolan

***GOSPEL**

MARK 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Craig Jan-McMahon

HYMN**#393 *Take Up Your Cross the Savior Said**Responding to the Good NewsPASTORAL PRAYER****OFFERING OUR GIFTS****INVITATION**

What will profit us to gain the whole world and forfeit our life? With all humility let us make our offering to God, trusting not in worldly gain, but in God's sustaining grace.

OFFERTORY

***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**

#488 *The God of Abraham Praise*

***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 Albert M. and Josephine Crampton, Trudy Foy and Barbara J. Crampton
Given by: Charles A. Crampton*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher

Jim Moorhusen

Lector

Mary Lou Carlson

Ushers

Steve Schippers

Judy Schippers

Bill Keller

Cliff Carlson

Carol Freeman

Liturgist

Audra Bailey

North Door Greeters

Gary Hammond

Michelle Hammond

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