



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



APRIL 15, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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. 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

Please join us for fellowship after worship in the Son Cafe. Today's menu: Egg Casserole with potatoes, sausage, cheese and veggies. Fruit and coffee cake/pastries.

Interested in Membership?

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

Wi-Fi Password

Welcome!

Resources

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

Open and Affirming

We are an ONA church, please visit fccmoline.org/ona for more information.

Cover Art

Endless Road
Hofheinz-Doring, Margaret, 1910-1994

Today
from the life
of the church

Because we have been gifted with God's peace in the risen Christ, we are called to our own peace and to the making of peace in our world. As disciples and as children of God it is our task to seek for ways in which to make the forgiveness, justice and mercy and love of God visible in a world where violence and enmity are too often the norm.

Challenge of Peace

And all the wickedness in this world that man might work or think is no more to the mercy of God than a live coal in the sea.

William Langland
Fourteenth Century

Amighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord.

Gregorian Sacramentary

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**

How joyful it is to celebrate the good news of God's love!

We are called to be Easter people!

Darkness cannot claim us!

Fear cannot bind us!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! AMEN!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **Lord of Light and Mercy, be with us this day as we again hear the stories of faith and sight. Help us to believe in your abiding presence with us, both in our darkness and in the light which you bring. Give us courage and strength to witness to your resurrection. For we offer this in Jesus' Name, Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

#108, *Christ Is Alive!*

Affirmation of Baptism

INVITATION

We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord by affirming our baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. **Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church Universal.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you away from God?

I renounce them.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended to heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Let us pray. We give thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to life eternal. Renew our spirits, grant us courage, and transform us into risen body of Christ in the world today . 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Proclaiming the Good News

SCRIPTURE

ACTS 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 4

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;

**You set me free when I was in distress;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.**

“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;

How long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;

the Lord will hear me when I call.

Tremble, then, and do no sin;

Speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Offer the appointed sacrifices,

and put your trust in the Lord.

Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

You have put gladness in my heart

more than when grain and wine abound.

In peace, I will lie down and sleep

for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.

SCRIPTURE

1 JOHN 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy *Arr. Kevin Stewart*

GOSPEL

LUKE 24:36B-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Craig Jan-McMahon

***HYMN**

#83, *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Air with Holy, Holy, Holy by Linda R. Lamb

***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**

#447 Lead On, O King Eternal

***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**



*To the glory of God and in memory of the loved ones of
Wes and Mary Kay Johnson*

SERVING TODAY

Ushers

Andy Powell
Kelly Powell
Gage Powell
Ryan Powell
Emery Powell

Usher Guides

Kathy Harris
Cliff Carlson

North Door Greeters

Steve Schippers
Judy Schippers

Lector

Maureen Holmes

Liturgist

Audra Bailey

Sound Tech

Brian Williams

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