



Faith
UNITED CHURCH of Christ

Rev. Ted Brelsford | Pastor
Rev. Gary Burdick | Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Ruth Foley | Music Director

Sunday, February 2, 2025
10:15 a.m. Worship Service

4th Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME

Time of Silent Preparation for Worship

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Lois Thurnherr

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another.

People: Love is patient and kind; love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Leader: Love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

People: We love because God first loved us.

Leader: Jesus said the world will know we belong to him, if we love one another.

All: The greatest gift the Spirit gives is love; therefore, let us live in love. Amen!

INVOCATION

*HYMN *Sing Praise to the Father*

Gray, #9 vs. 1,3

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we are created in your image, but we cannot attain your perfect love. We fail to see your image in others, and we forget that we are ever visible in your eyes. In turning from opportunities to help others and serve you, we have sinned against you. Acknowledging our shortcomings and brokenness, we confess our fallen nature and ask you for forgiveness. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 1:4-10

***HYMN** *Here Is Bread, Here Is Wine* Black, #2266

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

SERMON "The Gift of Love"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UCC Statement of Faith)**

RECOGNITION AND RELEASE OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Cathy Kobel and Karen Winter

Pastor: God, whose love endures forever, whose faithfulness is to all generations, we turn to you as your grateful people. We give thanks for the gifts of these individuals who have served your church and given of themselves for the work of the Church Board.

People: We give thanks to the Lord for these people and for their gifts to us.

Pastor: We remember these who have shown us your love, whose faces reflect your image, whose actions have represented your work among us.

People: We give thanks to the Lord for these people and for their gifts to us.

Pastor: Gracious God, we know that the gifts of these servants are not yet complete, that you will call them to other ministries among us.

People: We give thanks to the Lord for these people and for their gifts to us.

VOWS OF RELEASE

Pastor: Do you, members and friends of Faith United Church of Christ release Cathy Kobel and Karen Winter from the duties of Church Board members?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you offer your encouragement for their ministries as they unfold in new ways?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you, Cathy and Karen, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you as Church Board members?

Retiring Church Board members: I do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and for the others who are called to serve as Church Board members?

Retiring Church Board members: I do, with the help of God.

Pastor: O God, we give thanks for gifts of these retiring Board members. We thank you for their commitment and service to this church. We pray that they will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as they move into new and yet unknown ministries within your church in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

INSTALLATION OF NEW AND CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS

Pastor: There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Pastor: The church is like a single body with many parts.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Pastor: Would the continuing Church Board members please stand: Gail Berger, Kevin Biddle, Bob Bishop, Mary Beth Dauer, Corky Forney, Bruce Lounsbury, Tim Plewik, and Ginny Taber, and would the newly elected board members, please stand: Katherine Meckes and Zach Munger.

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church.

The Trustees of our church are: *Kevin Biddle, Mary Beth Dauer, Corky Forney, Bruce Lounsbury, and Zach Munger.*

The Deacons of our church are: *Gail Berger, Bob Bishop, Katherine Meckes, Tim Plewik, and Ginny Taber.*

Pastor: Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry are you prepared to serve, with the help of God, in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Board Members: I am

Pastor: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully showing forth the love of Christ?

Board Members: I do, relying on God's grace.

Pastor: Will you maintain participation and communication with members of this Church, that all may be strengthened by the service to which you are committed?

Board Members: I will, relying on God's grace.

Pastor: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered Gods call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Pastor: Eternal God, you have called these people to serve in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry to the glory of your name.

People: Amen.

DECLARATION

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of Faith United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce you are installed as Church Board Members in your respective positions.

People: Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Pastor: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.

People: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .

People: “Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Pastor: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,

People: “Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ’s presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . .

People: We participate in the Body of Christ.

Pastor: Through the cup of blessing . . .

People: We participate in the new life Christ gives.

Pastor: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, let us receive these gifts of grace.

Partaking of Elements

When the usher comes to your row, those who wish to partake should come forward by the center aisle. The Pastor will place a piece of bread in the palm of your hand and then you may take a cup from the tray. Gluten free wafers are available. Grapes and crackers are available for children at the table to your left in front of the pulpit.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* Gray, #62 vs. 1,2,3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GIFTS and OFFERINGS *There is an offering plate on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary. May God bless the missions of our church and the needs of the world through the gifts of our resources. Amen.*



*DOXOLOGY

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

POSTLUDE

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

For peace in this country and the world, for our military, for all who are at war, and those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. And also for those whose needs we do not know. Bill Bates, Vickie Bieger, Sue Cook, Gary Cook, Stephen Dearth, Sonne Durphy, Barb Fink, Ruth Foley & Family, Louise Forney, Scot Kish, Eleanor Kraft, Carol Mueller, Claudia Renzi, Chuck & Sheila Recktenwalt, Tom & Marilyn Rucker, Joe Ryan, Fred Shear, Linda Smerka, Janet Taber, Bob Tills, and Joyce Whittemore.

For Those in the Military: Zachary Braun, Justin Buczek, Teegan Partridge, Cadan Skinner, Jamie-Lynn Smerka, Justin Slighter (Air Force), Joe Solak, Mark Solak, Aaron Wellman, and Mark Williams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today's service includes the **Release of Retiring Board Members and Installation of New Board Members**. Those going off the board are Cathy Kobel and Karen Winter. Joining the board are Katherine Meckes and Zack Munger.
- **There will be a coffee hour** following today's service in the Gathering Room.
- **Confirmation class** will meet Tuesday, February 4 at 4:00 p.m. in Zoom.
- **Movie Night** featuring "Mona" at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on February 7.
- **Women's Group** meeting on February 12.
- **As of January 2025, if you want to designate a portion of your contribution to the Benevolent account you must mark the outside of the offering envelope to indicate this.** Any contributions not designated to any other account or fund will go in the Current account for operating expenses. Please write your name on each offering envelope and indicate how you want your contribution allocated.

OPERATING BUDGET INCOME & EXPENSES

Average weekly operating expenses: \$2465

Offering collection from January 26, 2025: \$1033

Current: \$1023 Benevolent: \$10

Attendance on Sunday, January 26, 2025: 47