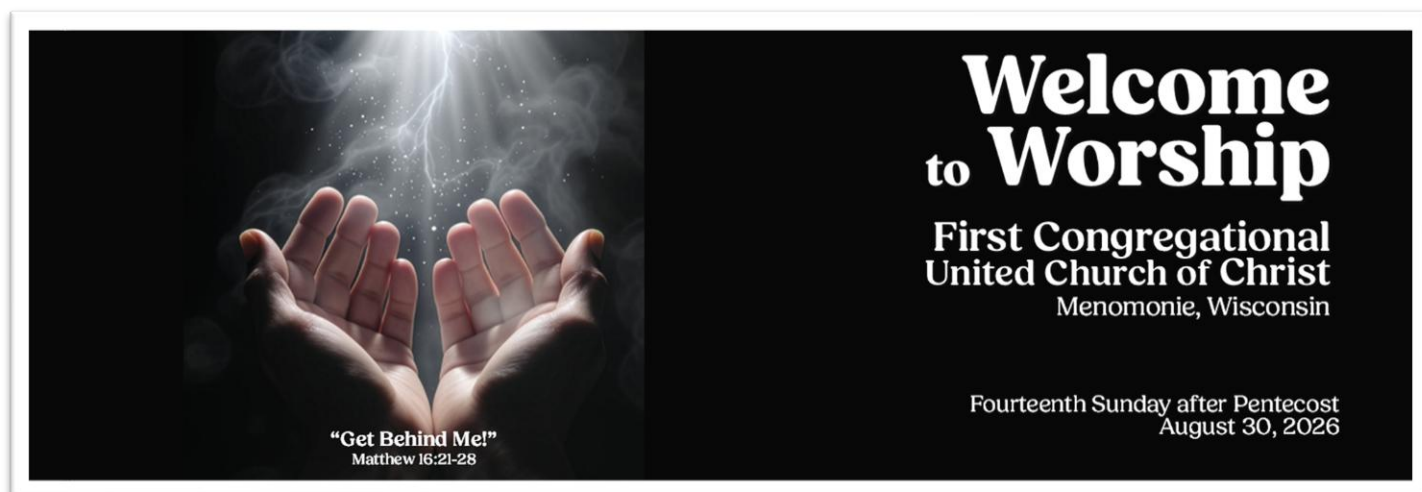




## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude/Candle Lighting**      “For the Beauty of the Earth”      Oxana Khramova  
(arr. M. Hayes)

## Ring of the Bell

**\*Call to Worship** (\*rise in body, mind, or spirit)

One: “Those who want to save their life will lose it.”

**All: I confess my attachment to power, privilege, security and esteem.**

**I confess I seek my own well-being separate from others.**

**I confess I would rather be safe than loving.**

One: “But those who lose their life for love’s sake will find it.”

**All: Give me faith to risk for the sake of love.**

**Give me courage to choose justice over my security.**

**I give you my life, God, that you may give life back to me,  
new, and free and infinite.**

One: “Take up your cross and follow me.”

**All: God, give me grace to follow Jesus, by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen**

**\*Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**Gracious God, we are aware this morning of those in our world who suffer. They are with us as we come into your presence. Bless us that in our worship we may be transformed to be of service to them, and to all who seek peace, hope or healing. As the scriptures are read and your good news proclaimed, help us to hear with glad hearts what you are saying to us today. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**      “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”      Hymnal #376

**Readings**      Karen Miller

Matthew 16:21-28; Romans 12:9-21

Contemporary Reading “The End of Summer” By Rachel Hadas

**Special Music**      “Upside Down”      Richie Price  
(Jack Johnson)

**Sermon**      “Get Behind Me!”      Pastor René Mehlberg

**Prayers of the People****Lord's Prayer**

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Offertory****"Father and Son"**

Richie Price

(Cat Stevens)

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

**Generous God, we share our gifts like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing our neighbors. May each gift bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn****"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"**

Hymnal #369

**\*Benediction****\*Sung Benediction (unison)**

**God be with you till we meet again;  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a Shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.**

**Postlude****"The Heart of Worship"**

Oxana Khramova

(M. Redman)

*The flowers today are from Toby and Marian Ellison in celebration of their 63rd wedding anniversary, which is tomorrow, August 31st. Congratulations Toby and Marian!*

**Credits**

- Liturgy pieces from Garnaas-Holmes, Steve. "Worship Resources – Unfolding Light." Unfolding Light. Accessed August 19, 2026. <https://unfoldinglight.net/worship-resources/>.
- Hadas, Rachel. "The End of Summer." Poetry Foundation. Accessed August 19, 2026. <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47887/the-end-of-summer>.
- Prayer of Gratitude from "The Work of Imagination" Lent Series © 2026, an Illustrated Ministry, LLC. product, purchased and used with permission.
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**This Week****Wednesday, September 2: 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal; 6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal****Thursday, September 3, 3:30pm Executive Committee, R1**

**Link to the full church calendar:** <https://www.menomonieucc.org/monthlycalendar>

### **Mission Statement of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Menomonie, WI**

We are called together:

To celebrate God's presence.

To help each person to grow in their relationship with God;

To create a welcoming and supportive community of all God's people, affirming the diversity of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, and identity, social and economic status, and disability;

To observe and share life's passages and our faith traditions;

To reach out in love seeking justice and peace;

And to tell the old story of Jesus and His love.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

Here we congregate on Ojibwe, Dakota, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Ho Chunk land. Generations of Indigenous people occupied and provided careful stewardship of this land long before Europeans arrived on these shores. The traumatic dispossession of this land by European immigrants and the displacement of countless individuals produced collective suffering that has repercussions for our Indigenous neighbors today. The original inhabitants of this land—known to some Indigenous peoples as Turtle Island—took seriously the Creator's call to be stewards of air, land, water, and creatures. With gratitude, we acknowledge the lessons we continue to learn from our Indigenous neighbors as we seek to be good stewards and pray for guidance in learning how to make reparations.

### **ONA Covenant**

We covenant as a congregation to welcome, celebrate, and include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people and their families into the full life of our church. We take this stance publicly and proudly, knowing that silence is inadequate to confront the violent theology that is widespread throughout the Christian church. We covenant to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people and their families with our prayers, words, and actions.

Charles Wesley, 1747

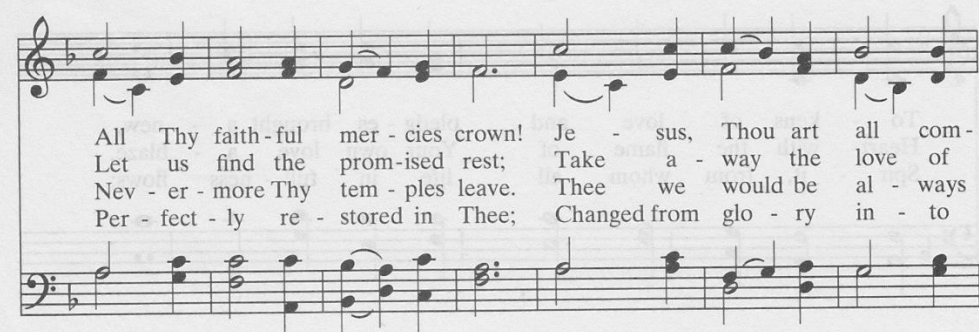
Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery  
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy  
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less



earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,  
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in Thee in - her - it,  
 life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,  
 let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion



All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -  
 Let us find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way the love of  
 Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways  
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to



pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with  
 sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
 bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee  
 glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

♩ = 66

D Bm , D A ,

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Em C , Em A D ,

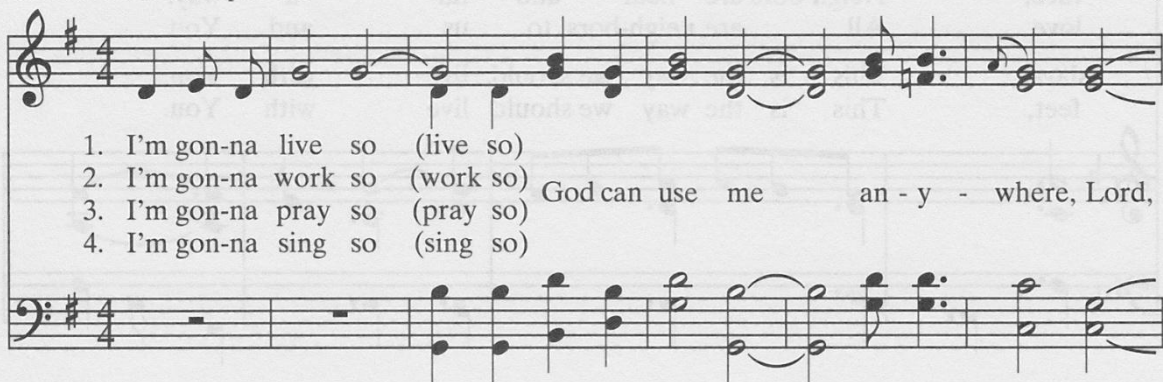
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, al - le - lu - ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al - le - lu - ia!

**Come and Fill.** "Songs & Prayers from Taizé." Music composed by Jacques Berthier. GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-715543. All rights reserved.

## 369 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

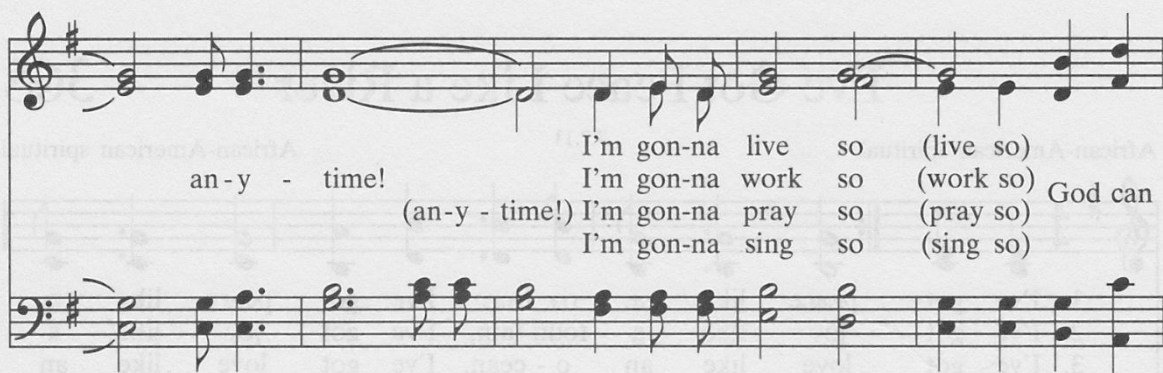
I'M GONNA LIVE Irregular

African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual  
Arr. Wendell Whalum (1932-1987)


1. I'm gon-na live so (live so)  
2. I'm gon-na work so (work so)  
3. I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)  
4. I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y - where, Lord,



an - y - time! I'm gon-na live so (live so)  
I'm gon-na work so (work so)  
I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)  
I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can



use me an - y - where, Lord, an - y - time!  
(my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

Music: Arrangement © by the estate of Wendell Whalum. Used by permission.