



Welcome and Announcements

Special Introduction to Today's Worship

Karen Miller

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"Sioux Spirit Dance Song"
(traditional)

Susan Trotter

Ring of the Bell

Traditional Conch Shell Call to Worship & Reading

Karen Miller

*Call to Worship and Opening Prayer (*rise in body, mind, or spirit)

Lay Lead: Let us all face the East.

Minister: We turn to the East, the direction of the rising sun, new beginnings, Spring Time and the element of Fire. We thank you Sacred Mystery for how you are revealed through the wild mercy of every morning, when the sun, our guiding light, warming fire, and inspiration for a new day rises yet again. And we acknowledge the shadow side of fire as it can cause destruction; our prayers and activism are with and behind those whose lives—human and more than human alike—are being impacted by forest fires even today. Let us pray.

All: We bow to the East in gratitude and honor for this new day, and all the wisdom within this eastern direction.

Lay Lead: Let us all face the South.

Minister: We turn to the South, the direction of the powerful sun in its full force, growing awareness, summer time and the element of the warming and fertile earth. We thank you Sacred Mystery for how you are revealed through Earth, the primary incarnation, the place from which life is seeded and grown. Let us pray.

All: We bow to the South in gratitude and honor for the work of this day, the particular purpose for which we each have been created, and all the wisdom within this southern direction.

Lay Lead: Let us all face the West.

Minister: We turn to the West, the direction of the setting sun, courage and introspection, becoming and belonging, autumn and the element of water. We thank you Sacred Mystery for how you are revealed through the watershed, seeing how we too are meant to be held within the flow of the essence of life. Let us pray.

All: We bow to the West in gratitude and honor for another day well-lived, and as the sun sets below the horizon, and yellowed leaves fall to Earth, we lean into the grace and wisdom of what is when we let go and allow ourselves to be in the Flow.

Lay Lead: Let us all face North.

Minister: We turn to the North, the direction of the sun at its coldest and darkest, sage knowing of the elders, winter time, and the element of Air. We thank you Sacred Mystery for how you are revealed through air, breath, and wind—that you blow wisdom through the winter-time air like a generational seed, that will become planted in the coming months of spring. Let us pray.

All: We bow to the North in gratitude and honor for the cover and quiet of night, for the inspiration of dreams, and for the much-needed sacred rhythm of dormancy and dark.

Lay Lead: Let us all face the cosmos above.

Minister: We reach to the cosmos, the home of the planets, stars, and galaxies; the creative cosmic reach of the Divine Spirit who flared all things forth. Let us pray.

All: We thank you Sacred Mystery for how you are revealed through the principles of the universe: diversity, interiority and communion. We expand our reach upwards remembering and reclaiming our at-oneness- with all beings—in the sacred community of expansive life.

Lay Lead: Let us all face Earth below us.

Minister: We reach down to Earth, the holy humus from which all planetary life is derived. Here we humbly acknowledge the sacramentality and revelatory nature of our planet. Here we acknowledge that we are each guests upon the lands of host peoples, indigenous communities who have been living upon these various lands for time memorial. Let us pray.

All: We thank you Sacred Mystery for Earth's energy and nourishment for the plants, trees, animals, and humans. We acknowledge the inherent dignity of all beings and the divine presence that is made manifest through Earth and all her regulating systems. We bow to the ensouled Earth in gratitude and reciprocity.

Lay Lead: Let us all face inward.

Minister: We place our hands on our hearts, honoring the divine spark in our core, the presence of the holy within that honors the holy throughout.

All: We thank you Sacred Mystery for your light, power, wisdom and guidance that you placed within each of us.

Opening Hymn

"God Weaver"

attached

(lyrics Kate Compston/traditional French)

Scripture Readings & Music

Book of Wisdom 9:9-11, 13-18

Colin Kintzinger

Descendants of Tribal People

Susan Trotter/Dean Langby

Colin Kintzinger

(John Trudell)

(Native American Flute/Hand Drum)

Proverbs 1:20-23

Naomi Cummings

*Instructions for Living a Life,
On Mary Oliver's Wisdom
(Embracing Spirit)*

Susan Trotter
(Native American Flute)

Naomi Cummings

Sermon "A Way of Walking in the World" Karen Miller

Transitional Hymn "Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Things" Hymnal #271
(Dakota Hymn)

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Eternal spirit, earth-maker, pain-bearer, life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. AMEN!

Offertory "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" SoF #97
(sing 4 times)

***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)**

God of All, thank you for your blessings. May these gifts be used to sustain Mother Earth so she can continue to sustain us, our children, and our grandchildren. We commit to reciprocate by giving back and taking less from this fragile earth. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom" attached
(Donna Kasbohm/Ruth Duck)

***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 "Finlandia" Oxana Khramova
(J. Sibelius, arr. M. Hayes)

The flowers today are from Margea Schultz in memory of her dad who passed away in October 1986.

Credits

- Conch Shell Reading from the diary of Esther Edwards. "Missionary Kids in Stockbridge" in 5 Minutes of Church History Podcast. Stephen Nichols, May 25, 2025, at <https://learn.ligonier.org/podcasts/5-minutes-in-church-history-with-stephen-nichols/missionary-kids-in-stockbridge>.
- The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer titled Rewilding Wheel Seven Directions Prayer can be found online at Waymarkers, Sept 21, 2026, <https://www.waymarkers.net/blog/2020/9/21/rewilding-wheel-seven-directions-prayer>. Waymarkers draws its name from Jeremiah 31:21: "Set up waymarks"—simple markers placed along a path to guide travelers home through wild terrain. This work is rooted in the understanding that the natural world accompanies us, guiding us toward belonging.
- Thoughts on Mary Oliver's Wisdom written by Embracing Spirit at Embracing Wisdom and Wellness, November 21, 2025, at <https://embracingwisdomandwellness.com/2025/11/21/living-mary-olivers-wisdom-paying-attention-being-astonished-and-sharing-your-story/>. Retrieved September 21, 2026.
- Prayers of the People was written in part by The Church of the Four Winds, Portland Oregon and Environmental Sabbath/Earth Rest Day, June 1990; UN Environment Programme, DC2-803 United Nations, New York, NY 10017.
- The Lord's Prayer is from the New Zealand Prayer Book (September 2018). Reprinted under One License.
- The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from a This Land Belongs to No One written by Hila Ratzabi, in RitualWell: Tradition and Innovation at <https://ritualwell.org/ritual/land-belongs-no-one/>.
- Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom (covered under One License)
- The Benediction is from Indigenous Peoples Day Prayer written by Steve Garnass Holmes at Unfolding Light, October 2023, <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/10/09/indigenous-peoples-day-prayer/>.
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This Week

Wednesday, October 14: 9:30am Tour of Homes crafts, R1; **4pm** Kid's Club, R2; **5:30pm**

Chancel Choir; **6:30pm** Bell Choir

Saturday, October 17, 10am Water Presentation by Neil Koch

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.

God Weaver

Kate Compston

Noel Nouvelet

1. Weav - er God, Cre - a - tor, sets life on the loom,
 2. Called to be co - weav - ers, yet we break the thread,
 3. Weav - er God, great spir - it, may we see your face
 4. Weav - ers we are called yet wov - en too we're born,
 5 draws out threads of co - lor from prim - or - dial gloom.
 and may smash the shut - tle and the lock in - stead.
 tap - est - ried in trees, in waves and winds of space;
 For the web is seem - less: if we tear we're torn.
 9 Wise in de - sign - ing, in the weav - ing deft:
 Care - less and greed - y, we de - ny by theft
 ten - der - ness teach us, lest we be be - reft of
 Gent - ly may we live/that frag - ile Earth be left with
 13 love and just - tice joined, the fab - ric's warp and weft.

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

Donna Kasbohm, 1995, Text (c) 1996, Music (c) 1997 The Pilgrim Press

Ruth Duck, 1993

1. Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when earth was new.
 2. Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the mar - ket place.
 3. Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who seek re - birth.
 5 Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es, for her words are right and true.
 Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us, full of glo - ry truth, and grace.
 Spir - it guide and close com - pan - ion, bring to light our sa - cred worth.
 9 Wis - dom clears the path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 When the word takes root and ri - pens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 Free us to be - come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Things 271

LACQUIPARLE 9.6.9.9.6

Dakota hymn

Joseph R. Renville, 1842

Trans. F. Philip Frazier, 1953 (Sioux)

Native American melody (Dakota)

Adapt. Joseph R. Renville, 1842

Harm. J. R. Murray, 1877



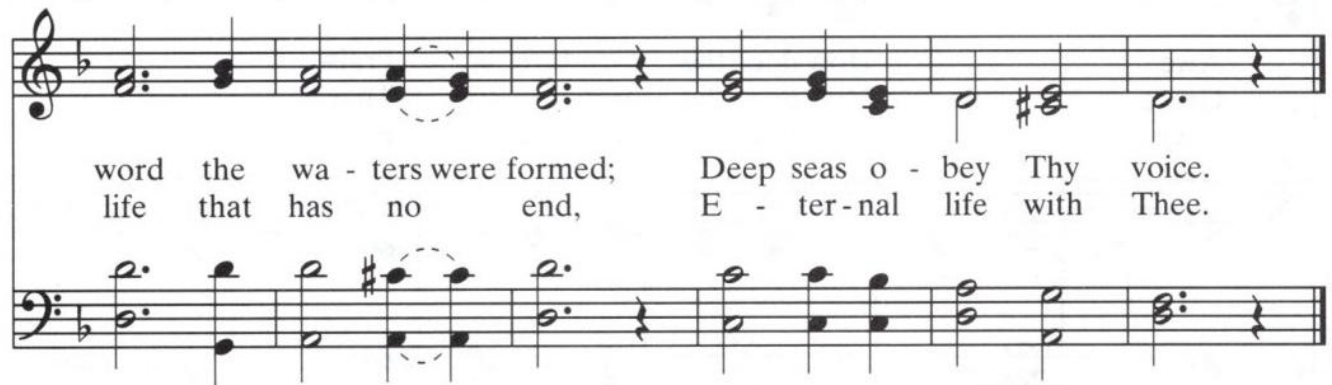
1. Man - y and great, O God, are Thy things, Mak - er of
2. Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with Thee, Thou star - a -



earth and sky; Thy hands have set the heav - ens with stars,
bid - ing One; Come un - to us and dwell with us:

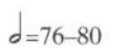


Thy fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at Thy
With Thee are found the gifts of life. Bless us with



word the wa - ters were formed; Deep seas o - bey Thy voice.
life that has no end, E - ter - nal life with Thee.

Optional hand drum or tom-tom: 

 = 76-80

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The first staff contains the first four measures of the song, and the second staff contains the next four measures, starting with a measure rest. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O
The Lord is my song, The Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The

5
Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
Lord is my song, The Lord is my praise: God the well-spring of life. The