



First Congregation UCC Annual Meeting, Sunday, April 26 after service, Pot luck to follow

*Vote in the new council, and express your appreciation to the outgoing council members.

*Approve the 2026-27 budget.

*Approve the bylaw change (removing the Northwest Association language).

*Other news.

A quorum is needed, so please come!

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

“El Shaddai”

Oxana Khramova

(M. Card, J. Thompson, arr. C. Tornquist)

Ringling of the Bell

***Call to Worship** (*Stand as you are able)

One: We call upon the name of the Holy One who hears our cry and responds to our prayer.

All: We will call upon the name of the Holy One for as long as we live.

One: The Holy One has been our Companion in suffering and our Comforter in anguish.

All: We will serve the Holy One and be companions and comforters for God’s people.

One: The Holy One has given a new covenant of salvation, redemption, and restoration for the world.

All: We will declare the goodness of God with praise and thanksgiving. Hallelujah!

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

Living God, you are the fire that burns within us. You open our hearts to your presence, revealed in word and song, in hospitality and friendship, in sacrament and presence.

Open our minds again so that we may recognize you when you meet us in unexpected moments. Let us encounter you in every phase and movement of worship that we might know you and love you more than before we gathered. And, may that love burn brightly like the sun cutting through the gloom of the storm to inspire us to go on with renewed hope and spirit. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

Hymnal #324

Readings

Sherry Galetka

1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35,

“Road to Emmaus,” by Steve Garnass Holmes

Anthem	“Quiet Faith” (Heather Sorenson)	Chancel Choir
Sermon	“Recognition”	Karen Miller
Transitional Hymn	“Here I Am, Lord”	Hymnal #525

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	“Abide with Me” (W. Monk, arr. C. Tornquist)	Oxana Khramova
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***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 pray that these gifts will bring glory to your name and bless your creation through good stewardship, Spirit-led discernment, and generous love. Amen.

*Closing Hymn	“This Is My Song / Finlandia”	SoF #138
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***Benediction**

**One: As you go, may your hearts burn for the love of God to ignite throughout the world:
Through acts—great and small— of compassion, kindness, and community;
Through sacrifices—great and small—for justice, liberation, and restoration;
Through commitments—great and small—to bring good news to every moment,
decision, and interaction. Go on...enflamed with the hope of peace burning brightly
from the heart.**

All: Amen.

***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	“Let All Things Now Living” (arr. M. Hayes)	Oxana Khramova
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Today's flowers are from Karen Miller to celebrate her first worship service as a member-in discernment!

Credits

- Today's liturgy was written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, published in Worship Ways at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way>. The partial paraphrase of 1 Peter 17:17-23 and the contemporary reading are from Steve Garnaas Holmes' Unfolding Light at <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/01/02/3rd-sunday-of-easter/>.

- Licenses purchased to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained: ONELICENSE #A-715543. CCLI Copyright License B 20989858.

This Week

Monday, April 20, 6pm: Pride Picnic planning, R1

Tuesday, April 21: 11:30am Church Council R1; **4pm:** Early Service Planning, R1

Wednesday, April 22, 12:30pm Women's Fellowship, FH

Wednesday, April 22: 4pm Kid's Club; **5:30pm;** Chancel Choir; **6:30pm** Bell Choir, **7pm**
Dance practice

Sunday, April 26, 11:30pm: Annual Meeting, Sanctuary

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

Choir Anthem

Quiet Faith

In a quiet faith, in a gentle grace,
Often in the steadfast pace, we see the hand of God.
In the faithful prayers, in the silence shared,
Often in the simple care, we see the heart of God.

Not all soldiers carry swords,
Not all victories come with headlines and rewards.
Not all mountains move by sermons and debate.
Often it's the quiet faith.

In humility, in our sacrifice, in gentility,
We see the mind of Christ.
Often in the daily task, meeting needs before they're asked.
Service not by passed, by God who sees the heart.

Blessed are the poor, Blessed are the meek,
Blessed are the ones who help the weak,
Blessed are those that seek.

Unknown giants with unseen triumphs.
In the quiet faith, often in a gentle grace,
In the steadfast pace, we see the hand of God.

Words and Music by Heather Sorenson

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 his or her 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 the differently abled;

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.

Open My Eyes That I May See

OPEN MY EYES 8.8.9.8 with refrain

Clara H. Scott, 1895

Clara H. Scott, 1895



1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see Glimps - es of truth Thou hast for me;
2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear Voic - es of truth Thou send - est clear;
3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear Glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where;



Place in my hands the won - der - ful key That shall un - clasp and set me free.
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear.
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare Love with Thy chil - dren thus to share.



Refrain

HOLY SPIRIT



Si - lent - ly now I wait for Thee, Read - y, my God, Thy will to see;



eyes,
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 heart,



VERSES *Majestically*



1.I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2.I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3.I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



1.All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who
 2.I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 3.I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

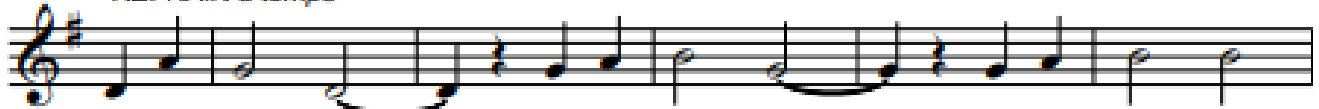


1.make the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 2.break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 3.bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



1.Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? ____
 2.I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? ____
 3.I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? ____

REFRAIN *a tempo*



Here I am, Lord.____ Is it I, Lord?____ I have heard you



call - ing in the night.____ I will go, Lord,____ if you



lead me.____ I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.____

This Is My Song

Ps. 82:8

Lloyd Stone, 1934

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
Jean Sibelius, 1899
Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933