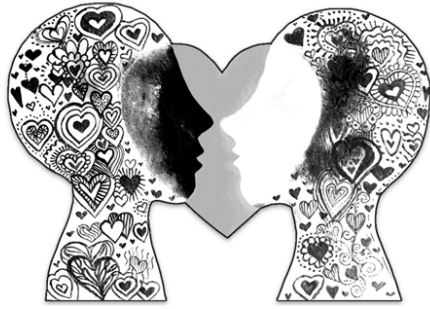




Loving Your Neighbor:
Election Heros

Welcome to Worship

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"Here I am, Lord"
(arr. Martha Lynn Thompson)

Bell Choir

Ring of the Bell

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

One: Just and merciful God, you speak through the prophets, challenging us to seek peace rooted in justice.

All: Help us to hear your urgent call.

One: Loving God, in Jesus you change our lives for good, challenging us to work for reconciliation.

All: Help us to see your way of truth and love.

One: With us God, your Holy Spirit moves us to action, challenging us to live the Good News.

All: Help us to respond wholeheartedly, here and now – to say Yes! Amen.

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

Over time, over space, over matter, over thought, you are our God, in all and through all. The noises of war are loud in your ears, as is the cry of a newborn child. In Christ, all the pain and potential in the world are held together in the hope of healing. Be present to us here, gracious God, and let your Spirit open us to glimpse that fairer, more equitable world which you intend for us and for all people. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"All Beautiful the March of Days"

Hymnal #292

Readings

Matthew 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-37; Contemporary Reading "Jesus is Not a Registered Voter"

Dawn Ascher

Anthem

"This Love of God"
(A. Maxwell, arr. H. Sorenson)

Chancel Choir

Sermon

"Loving Your Neighbor: Election Heroes"

Pastor René Mehlberg

Transitional Hymn

"They Asked, 'Who's my Neighbor?'"

attached

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

"Faith"
(M. Hayes)

Oxana Khramova

*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)

Living and true God, we return to you the things that are yours – our time, our skills, our possessions, ourselves. Bless us and these your gifts. Move us to works of faith and labors of love for the good of all people and the wholeness of all creations. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Hymnal #420

*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

"Come, Thou Almighty King"
(arr. M. Hayes)

Oxana Khramova

Flowers today are provided by Sally Conklin in remembrance of her late husband Roger's birthday on October 16 and the anniversary of their marriage on October 21, 60 years ago.

Credits

- Call to Worship ©1999 Wild Goose Resource Group adapted from A Wee Worship Book GIA Publications, Inc. "All rights reserved" One License.net License #A-715543
- Idleman, Kyle. Not a Fan Daily Devotional: 75 Days to Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus (pp. 49-50). (Function). Kindle Edition. (slightly edited)
- Prayer of Dedication adapted from Garnaas-Holmes, Steve. "OT 29 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost." OT 29 – 21st Sunday After Pentecost – Unfolding Light, March 1, 2023. <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/03/01/ot-29-21st-sunday-after-pentecost/>.
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This Week

Tuesday, October 20: 4pm Early Service Committee, R1; **5pm** Tech Committee, R3

Wednesday, October 21: 9:30am Tour of Homes crafts, R1; **11:30am** Women's Fellowship, FH; **4pm** Kid's Club, R2; **5:30pm** Chancel Choir; **6:30pm** Bell Choir

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.

All Beautiful the March of Days

FOREST GREEN CMD

English folk melody

Frances Whitmarsh Wile, 1911; alt.

Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. All beau - ti - ful the march of days, As sea - sons come and go;
 2. O'er white ex - pans - es spar - kling pure The ra - diant morns un - fold;
 3. O Thou from whose un - fath - omed law The year in beau - ty flows,

The hand that shaped the rose hath wrought The crys - tal of the snow;
 The sol - emn splen - dors of the night Burn bright - er through the cold;
 Thy - self the vi - sion pass - ing by In crys - tal and in rose,

Hath sent the hoar - y frost of heaven, The flow - ing wa - ters sealed,
 Life mounts in ev - ery throb - bing vein, Love deep - ens round the hearth,
 Day un - to day doth ut - ter speech, And night to night pro - claim,

And laid a si - lent love - li - ness On hill and wood and field.
 And clear - er sounds the an - gel hymn, "Good will to all on earth."
 In ev - er - chang - ing words of light, The won - der of Thy name.

This tune in a lower key, 414

Text: Copyright © 1912. Used by permission of Dorothy M. W. Bean.

Music: Arrangement from the *English Hymnal*, 1906. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"

541

Jan Wesson, 1981; alt.

Luke 10:29-37

Unison F Dm Am Gm

1 They asked, "Who's my neigh - bor and whom should I love; for
 2 There once was a trav - el - er set on by thieves who
 3 A cer - tain Sa - mar - i - tan then came a - long to
 4 I know who's my neigh - bor and whom I should love, for

F/C Dm C C7 F C

whom should I do a good deed?" Then Je - sus re - lat - ed a
 beat him and left him to die; A priest and a Le - vite each
 bind up his wounds and give aid; He took him to stay at an
 whom I should do a good deed; For Je - sus made clear in the

F Am Gm/Bb F/C C7

sto - ry and said, "It's an - y - one who has a
 saw him in pain; but they turned a - way and walked
 inn un - til well, and for all the ser - vice he
 sto - ry he told, it's an - y - one who has a

Dm Bb F/C C7 F

need, yes, an - y - one who has a need."
 by, yes, they turned a - way and walked by.
 paid, yes, for all the ser - vice he paid.
 need, yes, an - y - one who has a need.

Ruth Janelle (Jan) Wesson wrote this hymn for the dedication of her church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was encouraged to submit it to a Hymn Society competition. It was published at the society's national conference in 1982.

Tune: NEIGHBOR 11.8.11.8.8.

Jan Wesson, 1981

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

John Hughes, 1907

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that

pour Thy power; Crown Thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces,

Bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.
 That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!