

TRANSFIGURATION
SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Welcome! The mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is to: **Live by faith, embody love, proclaim hope, and seek justice.** If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. When the Friendship Folder is passed during the announcements, please sign it, and then pass it back across the pew to the inside aisle.

All are welcome. Jesus called us to welcome all into God's family. Join our Fellowship Hour after worship where everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments in the Community Room. A restroom for families and all bodies is in the narthex.

Children are welcome in worship! Activity bags are available in the narthex. There is an area for parents and children at the front of the nave which allows children to be close to the action in worship. Our staffed nursery (downstairs) is an option as well; all kids workers have undergone a background check. Today, the children will join their age-specific classes downstairs after the Word for Children.

Livestreaming Notice for Worship. We strive for worship to be accessible for all, so we livestream our worship services on our YouTube channel, First Congregational UCC, La Crosse. Your voice and/or image may be visible in the broadcast. These recordings are publicly available at the church's discretion. If you prefer not to appear, we invite you to sit in the sanctuary's last six rows, which are not shown on camera.

Please ask an usher if you would like a large print or sensory friendly bulletin, or if you need directions or any other assistance

Serving in Worship Today

Leading Worship & Preaching.....	Laura Wright
Pianist	Kourtney Austin
Guitar/Vocals	Mike James
Trombone	Mark Lakmann
Bass.....	Paul Jewson
Drums	Dave Kies
Reading Scripture.....	Tom Stolpa
Head Usher	Michael Feuerhelm
Ushers	Marilyn & Tom Nyre
Greeter	Gladys McLenahan
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton
Fellowship.....	Christian Education

* In the order of service indicates all who are able, please stand.

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"St. James Infirmary"

Mike James & Ensemble

Unknown

Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us today. Please pass the Friendship Folder, fill out the information you wish to share, & note those worshipping in your pew so you can greet them by name.

Prelude Music

"Soon and Very Soon"

Mike James & Ensemble

Andraé Crouch

*Call to Worship

One: Come, let us go up the mountain with God.

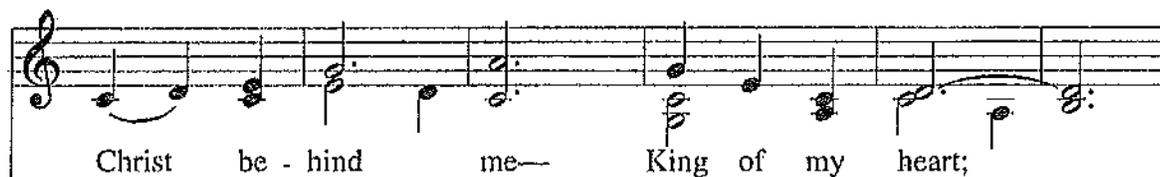
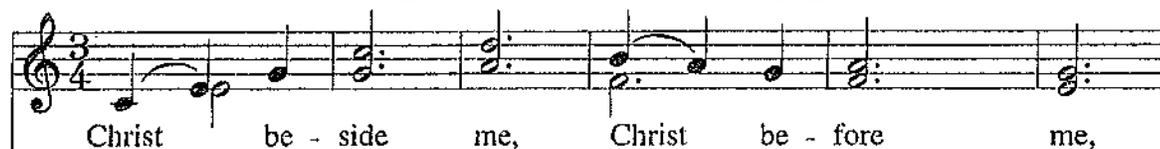
For God draws near in cloud and fire, in light and mystery.

All: **We come longing to see the Holy One in wonder and awe.**

One: God meets us here in glory and silence, in brightness and shadow.

All: **We come with open minds to worship God on this mountain.**

One: Come, let us sing to God from this holy ground:



Moment of Silence

Take this moment of silence to grow still and attentive to God. If it helps, try breathing in and silently praying, "God of love" and breathing out while praying "I am here."

*Hymn (All join in singing the hymns.)

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Thomas A. Dorsey



1. Pre cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
2. When my way grows drear, Pre-cious Lord, lin-ger
3. When the dark - ness a - ppears And the night draws



1. stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. _____
2. near, When my life is _____ al - most gone, _____
3. near, And the day is _____ past and _____ gone, _____



- 1. Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
— 2. Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
— 3. At the ri - ver I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



1. light: Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
2. fall:
3. hand:

*Sharing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Please greet those near you with a wave or a bow and with words such as: "Peace be with you. / And also with you."

Listening

for the Still-speaking God

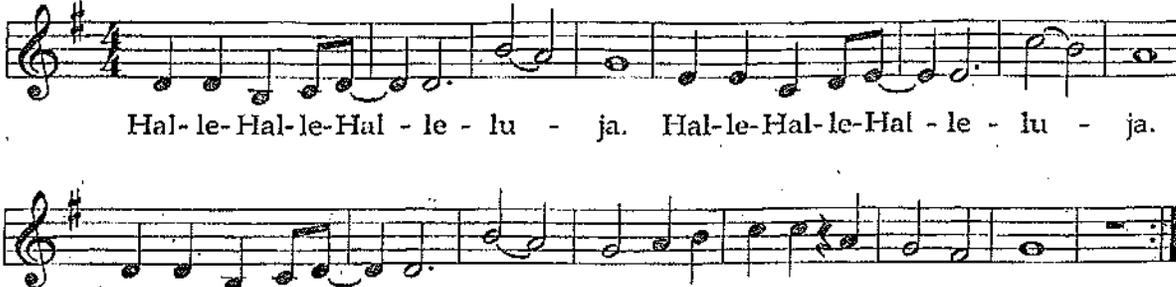
The Word for Children

Children will join the pastor in the center aisle as we walk forward for the Word for Children. Kids will go downstairs to their age-specific classes after the Word for Children.

Acclamation (Sung by all.)

Halleluja

All:



Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first phrase, and the second staff contains the melody for the second phrase. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The First Lesson

Tom Stolpa

Exodus 24:12-18

The Psalter

Psalm 99 (Reading is based on The Message.)

One: God rules. On your toes, everybody!

Many: **God rules from the divine throne—take notice!**

God is majestic in Zion.

One: God towers in splendor over all the big names.

Great and awesome is your beauty: let everyone praise you!

Holy, yes, holy.

Many: **Strong King, lover of justice,
you laid things out fairly;**

One: you set down the foundations in Jacob,
foundation stones of just and right ways.

Many: **They prayed to God and he answered them;
God spoke from the pillar of cloud.**

One: And they did what God said;
they kept the law God gave them.

Many: And then God, our God, answered them.
But you were never soft on their mistakes.
One: Lift high God, our God;
worship at his holy mountain.
Many: Holy, yes, holy is God, our God.

The Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon

"The View from the Mountaintop"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

Responding

with the voice of hope

*Voluntary

"Amazing Grace"

Mike James & Ensemble

John Newton

The Community Invited into Prayer

Prayers of the People

Leader: God, in your love,
All: hear our prayer.

The Prayer of Jesus (*Said by all. Use language that reflects your view of God.*)

Our (Father / Mother / 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

☪ Thanksgiving

for the gifts of God

Stories of Generosity

Beth Moore

Music at the Offertory

Mike James & Ensemble

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Unknown

*As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of Old 100th (Hymn 34).

(All who are able are invited to stand and sing.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

☪ Going

to be messengers of good news

*Hymn *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Converse

1. What a friend we have in Je - - sus,
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - - tions,

1. All our sins and griefs to bear. _____
2. Is there trou - ble an - y - where? _____

1. What a priv - il - ege to car - - ry,
2. We should ne - ver be dis - cour - - aged,

1. Ev - ery thing to God in prayer. _____
2. take it to the Lord in prayer. _____

1. O What peace we of - ten for - - feit,
2. Can we find a friend so faith - ful,

1. O What need - less pain we bear,
2. who will all our sor - rows share.

1. All be - cause we do not car - - ry
2. Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - - ness,

1. Ev - ry thing to God in prayer.
2. take it to the Lord in prayer.

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

Mike James & Ensemble

"When the Saints Go Marching In"

Unknown

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

Unknown

*Flowers today are given by Steve, Dan, Cydney, and Sue Suchy
in honor of Harold and Carobyn Suchy.*

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First Congregational UCC Ministry Team

All the Members..... Ministers
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright..... Senior Pastor
Nancy Allen Organist & Choir Director
Sue Retzlaff Bell Choir Director
Michelle Logan Office Manager

Contact Information: First Congregational UCC, 2503 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601,
608-784-8137 or office@firstcongolax.org, or visit us on the web at www.firstcongolax.org.

What gifts did you give God this week?

Can we share your gift to God with the congregation? Yes _____ No _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week in our Church:

Sunday, February 15

Transfiguration Sunday

9:00 am Faith Forum:
Ali Abidi, SEHAT Inc. (C)
10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Nursery
10:20 am JAM
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

Monday, February 16

Office Closed

President's Day

Tuesday, February 17

10:00 am Coffee & Friends
(Diane Stoffregen's Home)

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service (C)
6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service w/Meal (CR)

Thursday, February 19

12:00 pm Visitation Committee (CR)
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir (S)

Friday, February 20

Office Closed

10:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Sunday, February 22

The First Sunday in Lent

9:00 am JAM Breakfast (CR)
10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Nursery
10:20 am JAM
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

CALENDAR KEY

C = Chapel, J = JAM Rooms, L = Lounge, N = Narthex, CR = Community Room, P = Pastor's Office, S = Sanctuary

Coffee & Friends



You're warmly invited to a cozy morning of coffee and conversation—because good relationships grow best with a warm cup in hand.

Where: Diane Stoffregen's home @ 3522 East Avenue South, Apartment A

When: Tuesday, February 17

Time: 10:00 am

Come sip, chat, listen, laugh, and simply enjoy being together. No agenda—just a chance to build relationships and share a little life.

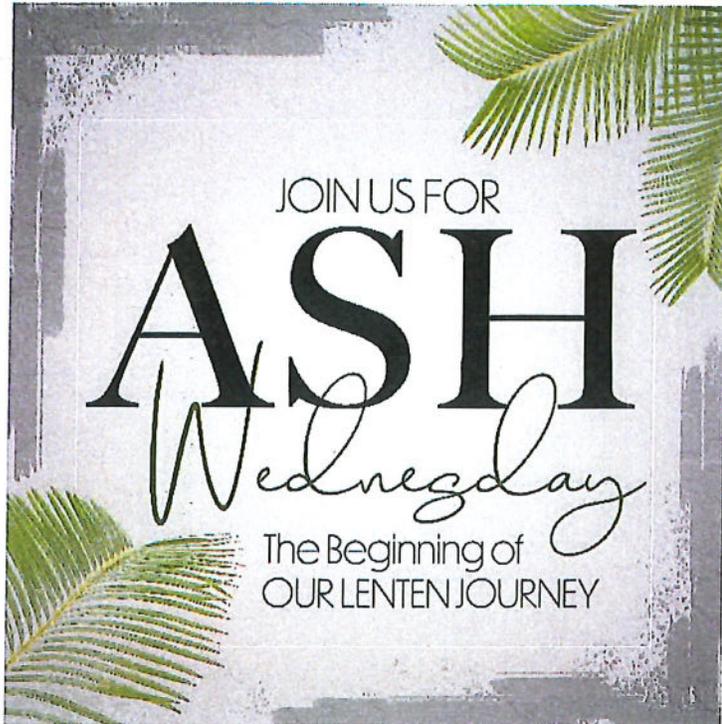


WANTED: YOUR SMILE

A picture of *you* is needed!

We are gathering current photos for our updated church picture directory, and we would love you to be included. If you'd like to participate, please send us a 3x5 or 4x6 photo taken within the last year. This spring, we will compile a new directory using all submitted photos, helping us better recognize and stay connected with one another. Thank you for helping us put faces to names and strengthen our church community

Save the Date: Ash Wednesday Services



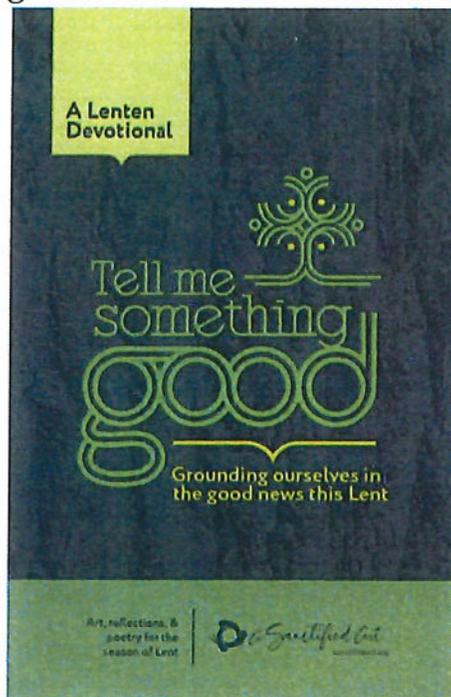
Join us for Ash Wednesday as we begin our Lenten journey together.

12:00 PM – A traditional Ash Wednesday service in the Chapel.

6:00 PM – An all-ages, experiential service beginning outside the church with the symbolic burning of last year’s palms. We will then move to the Narthex to let go of things that hold us back at the baptismal font, followed by a simple soup meal in the Community Room. After the meal and the imposition of ashes, we will break into our **Lenten Connection Groups** and begin our journey into the *Good News* together. A children’s group will be led by Zali, giving parents the opportunity to fully

engage in their own Lenten faith journey. We hope you’ll join us as we enter this meaningful season together.

The good news calls us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings grounds us in who God created us to be. Can we be “good news” people in a world so often burdened by bad news?



This Lent, let us remember that the good news really *is* good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world. Would you like to take this five-week journey with us? We will be using a devotional as our guide as we dig deep into the good news together. The journey begins at our Ash Wednesday service on **February 18 at 6:00 pm**. To sign up, follow the SignUpGenius QR code, or contact Michelle in the office at (608) 784-8137 or office@firstcongolax.org.



Family Trivia Night



Friday, February 27th

BEGINS AT 5:30 PM

Childcare will be available

Please let us know if you will need childcare so we can ensure adequate staffing.

You may sign up in the Narthex or contact Michelle in the church office at office@firstcongolax.org or (608) 784-8137