

First United Methodist Church
Sunday, April 24, 2022
Caring for Creation Sunday

As we gather in this sacred space, we recognize and acknowledge that our sanctuary is located on land that was ceded in the 1854 treaty with representatives of the Ojibwe nation. We are reminded of our obligations of stewardship and of right relations with the Ojibwe people who remain today as neighbors and dwellers in their ancestral territory: Anishinaabe Akiing. We commit ourselves to the work of social and environmental justice and healing as we walk together with humility in this beautiful land.



Prelude *Peace*

Tom Hamilton, organ

Dan Locklair

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Call to Worship

One: Come, let us dwell in God's shelter,

All: **let us dwell in God's work of art.**

One: Come, because the earth is the Lord's,

All: **and God's earth is our home.**

One: We live in God's world; we are not alone.

All: **We share this life with the heavens and the earth, with the waters and the land, with the trees and the grasses, with fish, birds and animals, with minerals and creatures of every form, and with all humankind.**

One: God is good, and everything that God makes is good.

All: **God is love, and everything God makes is love's fruit. Let us worship God!**

*** Hymn** *Morning Has Broken*

UM Hymnal #145

Morning Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Unison Prayer: Everything is a gift from the Creator. We are humbled by this knowledge, and grateful. We acknowledge our thanks with prayer that encompasses life, taking care of our gifts and using them resourcefully. We acknowledge that those gifts have made us rich, and that in our richness we can afford and are obligated to be generous, with both tangibles and intangibles: generosity, including a generosity of spirit, is the natural and sensible conclusion. We meet our obligation to the future by honoring the past and living a good life in the present. (A simple manifestation of Ojibwe philosophy as quoted in Linda LeGarde Grover's book "Gichigami Hearts," the current One Book Northland selection.)

Musical Response *Touch the Earth Lightly*

attachment

We seal our prayer together, saying,

All: Our Creator, throughout the heavens, hallowed be thy flame. In a trillion suns, thy will be done. In the tiniest cell, thy kingdom comes. Give us each day – a bird in flight, a flower's perfume, a bright star's light. And lead us not on the path of greed, but teach us to tread lightly, taking only what we need. For ours is the journey from ignorance to understanding, from separateness to oneness. Together with you, the universe, the energy and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. (Solstice Prayer by Chuck Dayton)

Children's Message

Jojo Coffin- Langdon, director of family ministries

Children may leave for Sunday School following the Children's Message

Scripture Readings

Jean Walsh

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalms 24:1-5

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants too. Because God is the one who established it on the seas; God set it firmly on the waters. Who can ascend the Lord's mountain? Who can stand in his holy sanctuary? Only the one with clean hands and a pure heart; the one who hasn't made false promises, the one who hasn't sworn dishonestly. That kind of person receives blessings from the Lord and righteousness from the God who saves.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life.

Anthem

Come to the Table

Sidewalk Prophets

Tapestry; Leah and Corey Hulst, directors

Sermon

For the Beauty of the Earth

Pastor Jeanine Alexander, with Laura Krumwiede and Jean Walsh

* Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

UM Hymnal #92, v. 1-4

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Unison Prayer of Dedication: All good gifts come from you, dear God, and you reveal glimpses of your grace through them. Thank you for inviting us to be partners with you in caring for your creation. We offer these gifts now, knowing that they come first from you, then from other members of your family of creation, then from us. Bless these symbols of our awareness that we depend upon you and your creation for all that we call "ours." In your name. Amen!

* Hymn

Now the Green Blade Riseth

UM Hymnal #311

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

All: We hold in our care and prayers all who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change. We hold all species that suffer. We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life. We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions. We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already-suffering earth community. We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities so that we may with integrity look into the eyes of all beings and truthfully say we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children. May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life! Amen.

Postlude *Carillon*

Louis Vierne

Tom Hamilton, organ

** please stand as you are comfortable*



Announcements

*Please fill out the Connect Cards each week. They are replacing the attendance pads formerly found in the pews. Keeping attendance and making sure the church has your current contact information is an important part of church records. **On the back of the card**, is a list of ministry opportunities, places where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.*

***Guests:** Welcome to First United Methodist Church. We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex; we have a packet and small gift for first-time visitors.*

A gift to light the church for the week of April 24 was made by Barbara and Robert Bennett, in memory of Jean Caligiuri. Their gift will also support the Garden Committee.

Join us for Faith Forum next Sunday, May 1, from 9:00-9:45 in the East Lounge. Marilew Barnidge and friends will talk about their faith journeys.

Roadside Cleanup is Saturday, May 21. This is a chance for you to put your commitment to the earth into action! We'll clean up our stretch of road beginning at noon. For more information, contact Bill Alexander at bill@strikepoint.com.

Thank you to Dr. Tom Hamilton, who is our organist today.

Thank you to Alex Flinner, Tommy Kishida and the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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