

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*Partners in Christ's Service since 1890*

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 25, 2021

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Martha Mendoza

*At First Church, we welcome theological diversity. Please feel free to substitute the liturgical language of your choice as you worship.*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

#588 Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

**\*PASSING THE WAVE OF PEACE**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Team Work

Martha Mendoza

**SINGING THE CHILDREN OUT**

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
May the love of God surround you  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Great is Thy Faithfulness  
*Carina Kanzler and Meg McGarry*

arr. Lloyd Larson

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. John Gibbon

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)**

**SCRIPTURE**

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 (NRSV)

Claire Richter

***Acts 1: 15-17***

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who

became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

***Acts 1:21-26***

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**SERMON**

Discerning the Way Forward

Rev. John Gibbon

**INVITATION TO GIVE**

**DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Offertory

Amazing Grace (instrumental)

*Dave Benziger, guitar*

*Jim Molina, piano*

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above, ye heavenly host:**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

#575 Come and Find the Quiet Center

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*\*Please stand if you are able. Songs and prayers printed in **bold** are to be recited out loud together. Please silence your cell phones. Thank you.*

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<b>Guest Minister:</b>	Rev. John Gibbon
<b>Ministry of Christian Education:</b>	Martha Mendoza
<b>Ministry of Music:</b>	Jim Molina
<b>Guitarist:</b>	Dave Benziger
<b>Vocalists:</b>	Carina Kanzler and Meg McGarry
<b>Head Usher:</b>	Don Haraf
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Olivia Scumaci and Martha Mendoza



Bob Tracy  
Phyllis Crosley  
Jan Russell

Janet Rowe  
Mary Loss  
Russ Laine

Louis Reed  
Amy Lynch  
Basia Rudy

To add or remove names from the prayer list, please fill out a prayer request card in the foyer or email [elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elmhurstucc@sbcglobal.net). Please note, names will be listed for two weeks unless otherwise requested. Thank you!

## FIRST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***Welcome Back Rev. John Gibbon!***

We are excited to have Rev. Gibbon join us for another week. The Reverend John Gibbon is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and a retired army chaplain. His authorized standing is within the Southeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC.

Ordained in 1984, John served two UCC congregations in Michigan and New York. During his military service he served with various units throughout the U.S., and in Australia, the Republic of Korea, Honduras, Italy, Kuwait, and Iraq.

He retired from the army in 2011 after 29 years of active duty and reserve service. Pastorally, John provides pulpit supply in Illinois and Wisconsin. He also currently serves as the Moderator of Plymouth Congregational UCC in Burlington, WI.

John holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Heidelberg College, Ohio, an Ohio State Teacher's Certification from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, and a Master of Divinity Degree from Eden Theological Seminary, Missouri. He is also a graduate of the Army's Chaplain Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Staff Service School, and the Command and General Staff College. John is currently located in Burlington, Wisconsin where he resides with his rather sassy but friendly Airedale Terrier, Caley.

## **COME TO THE TABLE**

Please accept this invitation to a special service **ON SUNDAY AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup>**.

A service of celebration!

A celebration of our church family!

### **Come to the Table!**

In the midst of change, we need each other.

In the midst of change, we need connection.

In the midst of change, we need prayerful moments.

In the midst of change, we need singing.

In the midst of change, we need Communion.

### **Come to the Table!**

Communion is a celebration of our call to join together at the table with Jesus to strengthen our faith and good works as a community.

Communion is God's way of providing healing and wholeness.

Communion is a joining together of minds and spirits.

### **Come to the Table!**

Together, let us take this moment to share our gratitude for each other, our church community, and all our future holds. We have much to be thankful for!

### **Come to the Table!**

**Join us inside for 10:00 am service filled with thoughtful prayers & beautiful music.**

**Join us outside after service for a light meal & beautiful music (weather permitting).**

We look forward to seeing you and joining you ... **At the Table!**

**Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am**