



First Congregational United Church of Christ

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Sunday, October 25, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Reformation Sunday

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026
9:00 A.M.
REFORMATION SUNDAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ryan D. Travis, Pastor

PRELUDE

"Fantasia on 'When Morning Gilds the Skies'"

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: We gather before the God who speaks truth into our lives. Through Nathan, God called David to recognize the sin he could see in another but had overlooked in himself. That same Word calls us to discern right from wrong and to examine our own hearts honestly. As we worship, let us lay aside our excuses, seek God's mercy, and receive the wisdom to walk faithfully with our neighbors. Let us rise and worship God.

INVOCATION

Liturgist

All: God of truth and steadfast love, open our hearts to your Word. Give us discernment to recognize wrongdoing, courage to speak the truth, and humility to examine ourselves. When we see the sins of others, awaken our consciences to our own need for repentance. Keep us from pride and indifference, and teach us to love our neighbors with honesty and compassion. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

#507

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***CONFESSION**

Liturgist: Let us call to mind those ways we have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. *(Silence is kept to reflect on our sins.)*

All: Merciful God, we readily recognize the sins of others while making excuses for our own. We condemn in our neighbors what we overlook in ourselves. We have treated others as though we were better than they are, forgetting our own need for mercy. At other times, we have remained silent about wrongdoing because speaking the truth was difficult. Forgive our pride, our indifference, and our dishonesty. Wash us thoroughly from our sin. Give us humble hearts, clear discernment, and courage to acknowledge and amend the harm we have done. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Pastor: God brings our sins to light and meets our repentance with abundant mercy. Our forgiveness rests in Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us. By his authority, I declare to you: your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Receive God's mercy, and extend that mercy to your neighbors.

People: Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#734

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen, Amen.***

MUSIC MINISTRY

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mindy Bunselmeyer

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*"Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path."
Psalm 119:105*

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Sam. 11:1-5; 26-27; 12:1-9

Liturgist

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Liturgist: A reading from the book of 2nd Samuel in the 11th and 12th chapters.

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² It happened, late one afternoon when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³ David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ The woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. ²⁷ When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

12 ¹ and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had very many flocks and herds, ³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He brought it up,

and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare and drink from his cup and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." ⁵ Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶ he shall restore the lamb fourfold because he did this thing and because he had no pity." ⁷ Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸ I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your bosom and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah, and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Truth about Judging"

Pastor Ryan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for persistence...

All: Our Father, 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.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Pastor: Please rise and join me in confessing what Christians have believed throughout history in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#72(v. 2)

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***Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.***

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided -
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.***

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Alice Huebner

OFFERTORY

"Like a River Glorious"

Frances Ridley Havergal arr. Heather Sorenson Copyright © 2026 Heather Sorenson Music ARR
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***DOXOLOGY**

Old Hundredth

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Liturgist

Liturgist: Generous God, everything we have is a gift of your goodness. Receive these offerings and use them to care for our neighbors, relieve suffering, and support the proclamation of your truth and mercy. As we offer our gifts, we offer ourselves. Teach us to use what you have entrusted to us with gratitude, humility, and compassion. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

#569

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***BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May the LORD bless you and keep you. May the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious. May the LORD look upon you with favor and grant you peace. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

O God of love, help me to be more loving.

God of forgiveness, help me to forgive.

God of all grace, help me to be more gracious.

God of all gifts, help me more freely give.

O God of truth, help me to work for justice.

O God of mercy, help me to be kind.

*O God of peace and goodness, help me serve you,
with all my heart and strength and mind.*

"Benediction" Composed by Laurie Matheson. Used by permission.

POSTLUDE

"A Mighty Fortress"

Martin Luther arr. David M. Cherwien Copyright © 2007 Augsburg Fortress ARR

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About Today's Music

The Postlude is David Cherwien's delightful setting of Martin Luther's beloved hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." While the hymn is often referred to as the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation" nothing could be further from the truth. The tune is believed to be a mixture of familiar melody and original tune. But the text was composed during a time of great distress and struggle in his life. Luther was dealing with significant conflicts in the Church, and at home, was watching, praying and caring for his infant daughter who was terminally ill. The text of the hymn includes many phrases such as "And though this world, with devils filled would threaten to undo us...we will not fear for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us." Luther bears witness to God's Presence with us when we face the worst struggles that life gives us. We know that through our faith in Jesus Christ, nothing can separate us from God's love and care. Dave Cherwien's arrangement is written with little "snippets" of the melody in the hands - much like a musical fugue, while the main theme is played with strength and valor in the pedals.

*Every good
and perfect
gift is from
above*

October 25, 2026

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Joan Wolfram, Katie Elvidge, Larry Huckile, Martha Crookshank,
Clint Whitrock, Robin Reynolds, Helen Johnson, Steve Martin,
Kelly Gonzalez, Dean Lorbach, Robert Bean, Norma Morrison,
Tom Irwin, Margaret, Diana Kitchell, Jennifer K, Brad Johnson,
Olivia Wernecke Dees, Becky Corbin, Nancy Leoucis,
Marilee Gordon, Letsa, Randy Habbe, Eric Wolfram,
Don S, Mary Stewart, Murray Elliott, John & Lois Pennock,
Richard Laswell, Malinda Callaway, Ellen Heavner, Tom Cooley,
Matt, Glenn Wolfram, Jerrold Fallstrom, Laura Fankhauser,
Pat Woodcock, Erika Kelley, Meg Phillips, Shelly Long, Michelle,
Mathew Clary, Gary Heymen, Lexi Boyer, Norma Lingenfelter,
Erica Moster, David Marshal, Jason Mumm, Ty Ditty, Kim Leon,
Band Family, Aaron Heartt, Carl Erbsen, Michelle Unruh,
Jodie Trembe, Kay Penk-Burrus, Heather, Quinton Lefler,
Mike Travis, August Scherer, Noah Gallion, Barbara Wence,
Sam Miller, Sue, Madeline Mitchell, Rhett Ruecker,
PJ Patterson, Lucas, Jessica, Maddy, Marcus' sister,
Tom and wife, Judy Schwartz, Julie Fallstrom, Michaela Council,
Betty Henry, Sally, Martha Foster, Johnny Ewing, Terry Alden,
Larry Elvidge, Rachel, Gary Ochs, Carter & Riley Anderson,
Ron Carlson, Jen, Marie Davis, Brittany Jenkins.

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

Connie Booth

Tim Coy

Emily Perry

Mike Longstreet

Rodney Barbour