



# First Congregational

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

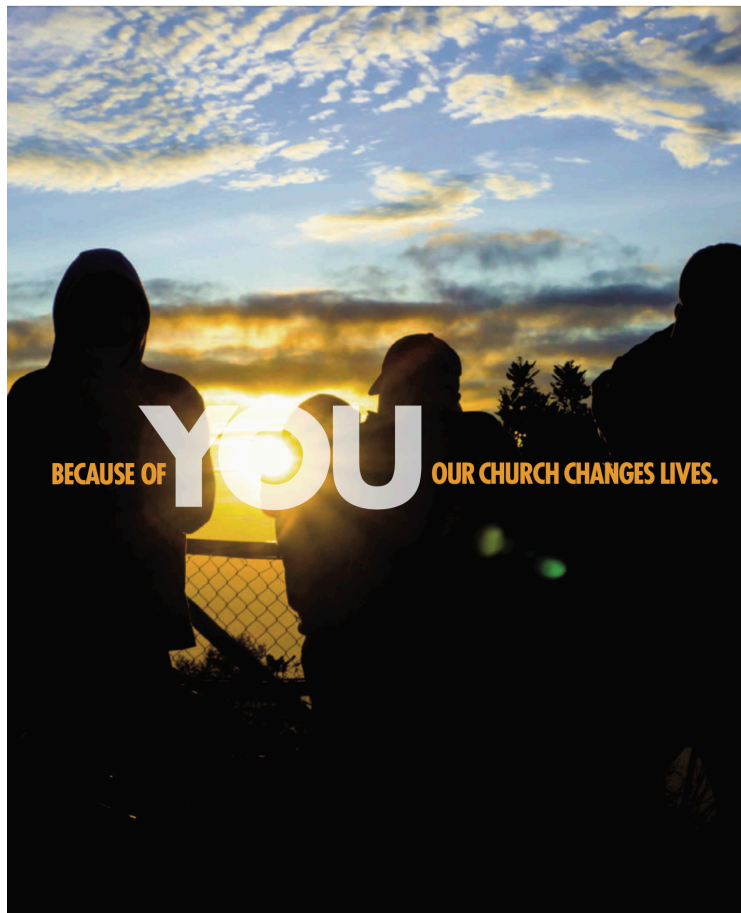
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# Stewardship Sunday

November 12, 2023



**Worship Leader**  
Diane Highnam

**Mini Message**  
Diane Highnam

**Director of Music**  
Luke Overton

**Guest Preacher**  
Abbie Chronister

**Organist**  
Hudson Lourenço-Feld

**Office Manager**  
Michelle Wolfe

**Custodian**  
Kyle Lindaman

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*

**Prelude** *Procession of Praise* - Arnold Sherman A Touch of Brass

**Welcome and Announcements** Diane Highnam

**\*Call to Worship** Diane Highnam

Leader: God of abundant grace called Jonah long ago

**People: God of abundant grace calls us today**

Leader: God called Jonah to share the good news of God's grace

**People: God is calling us to share the good news of God's grace**

Leader: Come, Despite our fears

**People: Come, Despite our desires to run away**

Leader: Come, Despite our worries that we are not enough

**People: Come, Let us worship the one who calls us** *Rev. Kari Collins, Juniper Formation*

**Prayer of Reflection and Growth**(unison) Diane Highnam

Gracious God, you have created a world of abundance—an abundance of love and of grace. And yet, like Jonah, we run away. Rather than answering your call, we are preoccupied with ourselves. Instead of extravagantly sharing your abundance, we have lived life as if your treasures are scarce. Help us to answer your call to practice generosity, and to take the abundance of treasures you have given to us into our communities to transform lives.

*Rev. Kari Collins, Juniper Formation*

**\*Opening Hymn** *For the Fruit of All Creation* #425 (NCH - Black)

**Joys & Concerns** Diane Highnam

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**Abbie Chronister

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Mini-Message** Diane Highnam

**Choral Anthem** *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* - Joseph Martin Chancel Choir

**Bringing Forth Our Commitments (and Offering)**Diane Highnam

**\*Doxology**

#780 (NCH - Black)

**\*Stewardship Prayer**

Abbie Chronister

Leader: O Holy One who dwells in our midst, you change our lives through the experience of beloved community. The transformation you bring pushes us out of our comfortable places, calling us into the ever-wider world of human diversity. You challenge us to recognize in others your beloved face. We offer these gifts to you as an act of love.

**People: Take and multiply them, show us how to create a world where the stranger is welcomed, greeted as Cherished-of-God, honored with justice, engaged in peace. All this we ask in the name of the One who calls us “Friend”, and invites us to ponder ever more deeply: “Who is my neighbor?” Amen.**

*Rev. Susan A. Blain, 2023 Stewardship / Generosity Materials*

**Scripture Lesson**

Jonah 2:1-9 NRSVUE

Diane Highnam

**Hymn of Response**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

#23 (NCH - Black)

**Message**

*“Jonah & Generosity*

Abbie Chronister

**Closing Hymn**

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

#347 (NCH - Black)

**Benediction**

Abbie Chronister

**Postlude**

*Church Sonata in C Major K336 - W. A. Mozart*

Hudson Lourenço-Feld

\* You are invited to Stand

*Sunday School for students up to 6th grade is provided after the Mini-Message.*

*We welcome your child(ren) to follow our Sunday School leaders to the youth director's office at the conclusion of the Mini-Message.*

*After church, you will be able to pick up your kids in the church basement.*