

# *First Congregational United Church of Christ*

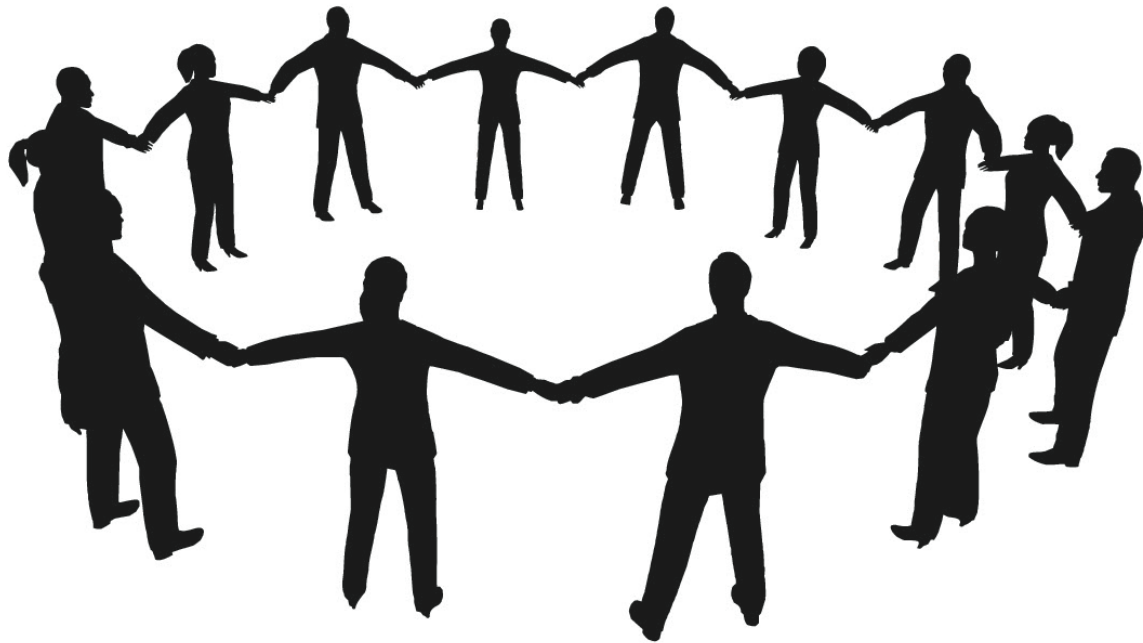
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[@FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa/](https://www.instagram.com/FirstCongregationalUCCWaterlooIowa/)

## *Mental Health Sunday* *May 15, 2022*



**Worship Leader**

Jayne Slaughter

**Director of Youth**

Abbie Chronister

**Director of Music**

Luke Overton

**Guest Preacher**

Rev. Leonard Harmon

**Organist**

Hudson Lourenço

**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**

Improvisation on "This is my Father's World"

Hudson Lourenço

**Greeting**

**\*Call to Worship**

Jayne Slaughter

Leader: What commandment is first of all?

**People: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

Leader: What is the second great commandment?

**People: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.**

Leader: Praise the Lord!

**People: The Lord's name be praised!**

**\*Hymn**

*Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers*

#397 (Black)

**Moment for Missions**

Mental Health Awareness

Jayne Slaughter

Leader: On this Mental Health Sunday, we join in this Litany of Naming.

**People: As a congregation we are glad to lift up our voices and our spirits to break the silence that often happens when we are confronted with mental illness.**

Leader: As a faith community, we name the gifts and the often unnamed experiences which come to those who live with a mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, substance use, addiction, historic and generational trauma, racial trauma, grief and eating disorder. We pray for all those of us experiencing this pain and those in our families and community who are hurting.

**People: The Hope which upholds our spirit through honest sharing;**

Leader: The Pain when people turn away because of fear;

**People: The Courage to speak in a safe place the way that Jesus spoke truth with love;**

Leader: The Strength from being with others who listen compassionately; The Isolation that comes when no one knows what to say;

**People: The Realization that mental illnesses and brain disorders can be managed;**

Leader: The Exhaustion that comes with living with a mental illness as well as for those who are caregivers;

**People: The Welcome of mental health as part of our church's ministry and outreach;**

Leader: The Wisdom that comes when we become educated about mental health; The Spirituality that comes when we walk alongside those who show both resilience and vulnerability in their lives affected by mental illness;

**All:** We receive these gifts that we have named, those which are welcomed and those that are challenges. We come before you, our God, knowing we are not alone and that You will show us a way to be and live. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen. (Rev. Alan Johnson)

**Children's Lesson**

Abbie Chronister

**Joys and Concerns of the Church**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

Hymn Improvisation

Hudson Lourenço

**\*Doxology**

No. 515 (Pilgrim - red)

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Scripture Reading**

Mark 12:28-34

**Hymn**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

#498 (Black)

**Sermon**

“It’s All About Relationships”

Rev. Leonard Harmon

**\*Closing Hymn**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

#388 (Black)

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Improvisation on “*Stand up! Stand up for Jesus!*”

Hudson Lourenço

\* You are invited to Stand

(Hearing assistance devices are available in the cabinet in the back of the sanctuary.)

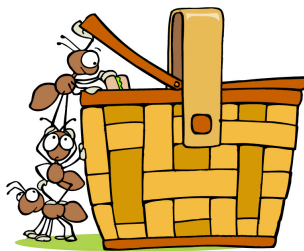
*Childcare is provided after the Children's Message through the end of service.  
We welcome your child(ren) to follow youth staff to the childcare room (located at the bottom of the steps closest to the sanctuary) at the conclusion of the Children's Message.*

## **Upcoming Events:**

**May 20th** - Funeral for Russ Towsley at 10:30am in the sanctuary  
(Visitation from 9:30 to 10:30am)

**May 22nd** - Youth Sunday

**June 5th** - Pentecost Sunday & Picnic



We are resuming our outside worship service and picnic this year, and will hold it at the church. Worship will begin at 10:30am followed by the picnic. The church will provide the chicken and drinks and everyone who is able is asked to bring a side or dessert to share. We always enjoy a great day of worship and fellowship...come join us!