



**WELCOME  
to WORSHIP**  
**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**  
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Racial Justice Sunday & Black History Month  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 8, 2026

## Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude/Candle Lighting**      “My Lord, What a Morning”      Deanna Schultz  
(Robert Lau)

## Ring of the Bell

**\*Call to Worship** (\*Stand as you are able)

One: Alone, we can be one seed planted for justice.

**All: Together, we can be a movement rooted in God’s love.**

One: Individually, we can be one voice crying out for mercy.

**All: Together, we can be a movement building a new world.**

One: Separately, we can be one heart aching for repair.

**All: Together, we can be a movement toward racial justice.**

One: Affirming all of our unique selves, cherishing all of our singular experiences, holding all of our distinct passions, God calls us and gathers us.

**All: Together, we worship as the Body of Christ. Together, we join the movement of the Spirit toward liberation.**

## \*Opening Prayer (in unison)

Presence Who Holds Sky and Sea in the breath of the wind and the pull of the tides remind us that we belong to one another – creatures of soil and spirit, woven into the sacred web of earth. We acknowledge our place in the balance of life. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn**      “Eyes on the Prize”      attached

**Readings**      Dawn Ascher

Isaiah 58:6-8; Matthew 5:13-20

Contemporary Reading: *A story about a greedy frog*

**Special Music**      “Day of Peace”      Sarah Martinek  
(Words by Sarah Martinek, Music from the hymn O Day of Peace)

**Reflection** “Resisting Empire: Rejecting Dominance, Embracing Connection”

Pastor René Mehlberg

**New Member Covenant & Affirmation of Covenant**

**All (when prompted): We welcome you with joy! As partners in the common life of this congregation, we pledge to you our friendship and prayers as we grow together in God’s transforming love. We give thanks that you join us now, as fellow seekers and servants!**

*(Applause and welcome hugs as new members return to their seats)*

**Transitional Music**

“You Are Welcome Here”

SoF #162

*(all three verses)*

**Ministry Moment**

“There Your Heart Will Be”

Agnes Welsch

Mission for Peace & Justice Deacon

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**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.**

**Offertory**

“One Life, One Love”

Sarah Martinek

*(Bob Marley and the Wailers)*

and friends

**\*Doxology**

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

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

**Sovereign God, you promised us that our faith might move mountains. So we offer ourselves with our gifts, trusting that you have a purpose for them and for us in moving the world toward racial justice. Through these gifts and all of our commitments to kingdom-making, may we share in the most important movement of all time: creating a more just world for all. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Siyahamba/We are Marching”

attached

*(Four verses: marching, dancing, singing, praying)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sung Benediction (unison)**

**God be with you till we meet again;**

**Loving counsels guide, uphold you;**

**With a Shepherd’s care enfold you;**

**God be with you till we meet again.**

## Postlude

## “Trumpet Voluntary” (Gordon Young)

Deanna Schultz

*The flowers today are from Margea Schultz in memory of her mother Margery Schultz remembering her birthday today, February 8th.*

## Credits

- Armas, Kat. *Liturgies for resisting empire: Seeking community, belonging, and peace in a dehumanizing world.* Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2025. Chapter 8: Rejecting Dominance, Embracing Connection, pgs 149-150.
- Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication “Join the Movement: Join the Movement toward Racial Justice Worship Resources.” United Church of Christ, November 16, 2025. <https://www.ucc.org/jtm-resources/local-church-campaign-2/>.
- Image for Worship Visuals accessed from [https://www.instagram.com/p/DT39tORj\\_LW/](https://www.instagram.com/p/DT39tORj_LW/)
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## This Week

**Tuesday, February 10, 4:00pm:** Executive Committee, Rm 1

**Wednesday, February 11:** Kid’s Club, 4pm; Chancel Choir, 5:30pm; Bell Choir, 6:30pm; Dance Practice, 7:00pm

**Link to the full church calendar:** <https://www.menomonieucc.org/monthlycalendar>

## Mission Statement of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Menomonie, WI

We are called together:

To celebrate God’s presence.

To help each person to grow in his or her relationship with God;

To create a welcoming and supportive community of all God’s people, affirming the diversity of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, and identity, social and economic status, and the differently abled;

To observe and share life’s passages and our faith traditions;

To reach out in love seeking justice and peace;

And to tell the old story of Jesus and His love.

## Land Acknowledgement

Here we congregate on Ojibwe, Dakota, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Ho Chunk land. Generations of Indigenous people occupied and provided careful stewardship of this land long before Europeans arrived on these shores. The traumatic dispossession of this land by European immigrants and the displacement of countless individuals produced collective suffering that has repercussions for our Indigenous neighbors today. The original inhabitants of this land—known to some Indigenous peoples as Turtle Island—took seriously the Creator’s call to be stewards of air, land, water, and creatures. With gratitude, we acknowledge the lessons we continue to learn from our Indigenous neighbors as we seek to be good stewards and pray for guidance in learning how to make reparations.

## **ONA Covenant**

We covenant as a congregation to welcome, celebrate, and include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people and their families into the full life of our church. We take this stance publicly and proudly, knowing that silence is inadequate to confront the violent theology that is widespread throughout the Christian church. We covenant to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people and their families with our prayers, words, and actions.

# Eyes on the Prize

1. Paul and  
 Si - las bound in jail they had no  
 (2) S - las began to shout the jail door  
 (3) chains that we can stand are the  
 (4) hand/on/the free - dom plow, won't take

3  
 mo - ney to pay their bail. Keep your eyes on the prize hold  
 op - ened and they walked out. hand. eyes on the prize hold  
 chains of hand in hand. hand. eyes on the prize hold  
 long for/my jour - ney now. hand. eyes on the prize hold

7  
 on hold on. Hold on (hold on) hold on (hold on) Keep your

13  
 eyes on the prize hold on hold on  
 0 0  
 2. Paul and  
 3. The on - ly  
 4. Got my

## You Are Welcome Here

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

G A D G D C G A

no mat-ter where you are. on life's jour - ney. You are

D G/D D G A G A

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and

D G D G/D A D 1.2.3.

join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ.

A G/D D A D G/D D

1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam-
2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav-
3. Lift - ing each oth - er; do - ing what's right; stand - ing to - geth - er, what - ev -

G/D A A G/D D A D

- 'ly of God. We are God's peo - ple and you be - long,  
 - ior of all. We find God's mer - cy; we find re - lease,  
 - er may come; prais - ing our Sav - ior, shin - ing our light,

G/D A 4.

share in the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are  
 shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are

# Siyahamba/We are marching

Additional verses: dancing, singing, praying

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) and some fermatas. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

**System 1:** We are mar - ching in the light of God, we are mar-ching in the light of God

**System 2:** We are mar - ching in the light of God, we are mar-ching in the light of the God.

**System 3:** light of God. We are mar-ching mar-ching we are mar-ching mar-ching we are

**System 4:** mar-ching in the light of the light of God. We are mar-ching mar-ching we are

**System 5:** mar-ching mar-ching we are mar-ching in the light of God.