

Season of Creation



“God’s Word”

Welcome to Worship

First Congregational
United Church of Christ

Menomonie, Wisconsin

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

“Jesus Paid It All”
(arr. M. Hayes)

Oxana Khramova

Ringin of the Bell

***Opening Confession** (*rise in body, mind, or spirit)

One: Ever-living God, you created the Earth, all that is in it, and found it very good.

All: Forgive us all that we have done to harm the Earth and one another.

One: God of life and love, you created all that exists to sustain life on the Earth, human life and all forms of life, and the landscapes and ecological systems that underlie all life.

All: Forgive us for squandering the incredible natural riches of this Earth, using your creation as if it were merely a collection of objects for our use alone.

One: God of grace, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile all things, making us ambassadors of his will for restored relationships.

All: Forgive us for not truly understanding what it means to “live abundantly” in the richness of relationships built on justice, peace, compassion, and sustainable inter-relationship with all of your creation.

One: God of mercy and hope, forgive us our apathy and arrogance, shortsightedness and greed.

All: Guide us now in the study of your Holy Word, that we may understand what you call us to do. Give us the wisdom, compassion, and courage to do all that we can to restore, preserve, and protect your creation. Amen.

***Opening Prayer** (in unison)

Gracious and Holy Lord, Thank you for your living Word. Continue to speak to us through your scriptures and all inspired by it. Open our minds and our hearts anew, to live in covenant with you and in right relationship with all of creation. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Earth and All Stars”

Hymnal #458

Readings

Kristen Billingsley

Job 39:1, 5-8, 26-27; Revelation 22:1-2

Contemporary Reading, “The Promise” by Steve Garnass-Holmes

Special Music	“Trying and Troubled” (Christopher Schumacher)	Christopher Schumacher
Sermon	“Season of Creation: God’s Word”	Pastor René Mehlberg
Transitional Hymn	“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”	attached

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

Our Creator, 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	“You are my sunshine” (Jimmie Davis and Charles Mitchell)	Christopher Schumacher and Dean Langby
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***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)**

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: Accept the first fruits we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Closing Hymn	“For the Fruit of All Creation”	attached
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***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	“Brightest and Best” (arr. M. Hayes)	Oxana Khramova
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The flowers today are from Doris Win and her daughter Emily Win in celebration of Doris’ brother and Emily’s uncle, Harvey’s, 93rd birthday on September 30th. Happy Birthday Harvey!

Credits

- Liturgy pieces including Contemporary Reading from ELCA. “Awakening God’s Call to Earthkeeping.” ELCA Resources, August 14, 2024. <https://resources.elca.org/stewardship/awakening-gods-call-to-earthkeeping/>.
- Garnaas-Holmes, Steve. “The Promise.” The promise – Unfolding Light, September 17, 2026. <https://unfoldinglight.net/2026/09/17/the-promise/>.
- Prayer of Gratitude from “Living Water: Season of Creation.” Season of Creation. Accessed August 30, 2026. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>.

This Week

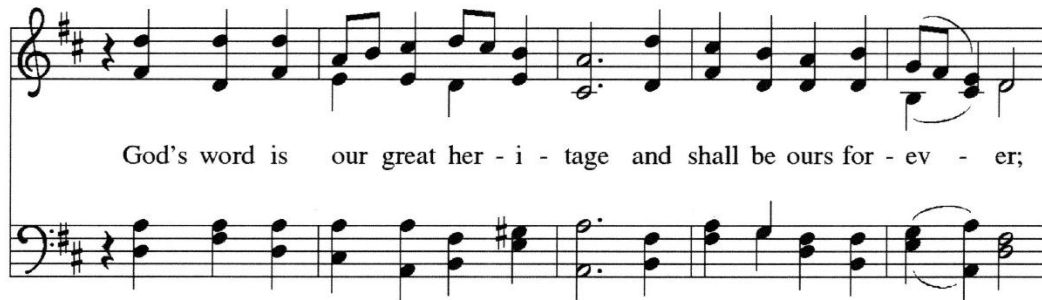
Monday, September 28, 9:30am Care Ministries, R1

Wednesday, September 23: 9am Tour of Homes crafts, R1; **5:30pm** Chancel Choir; **6:30pm** Bell Choir

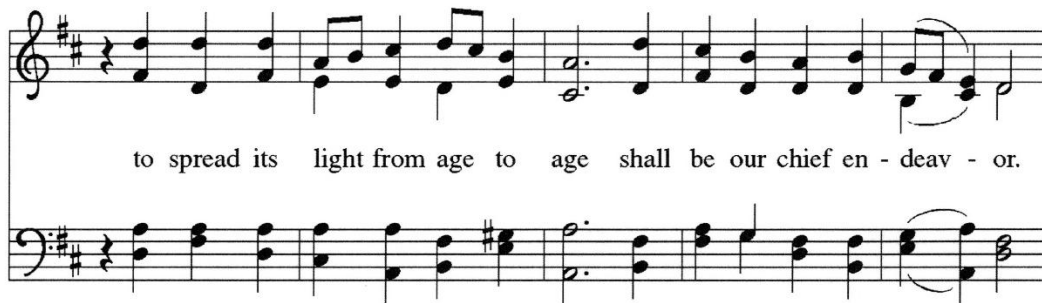
Thursday, October 1, 3:30pm Executive Committee, R1

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

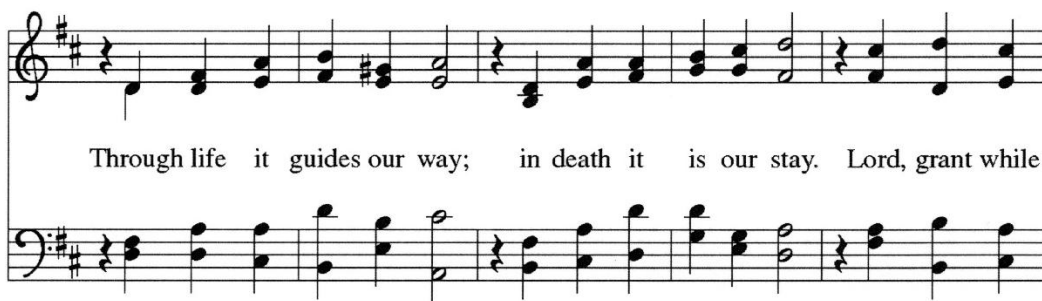
God's Word Is Our Great Heritage



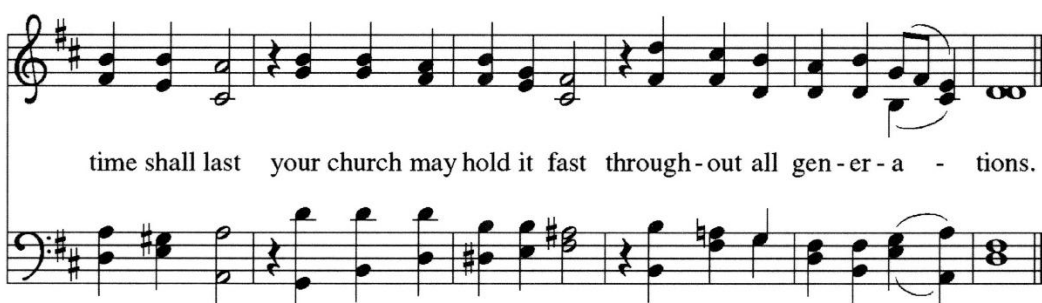
God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;



to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.



Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while

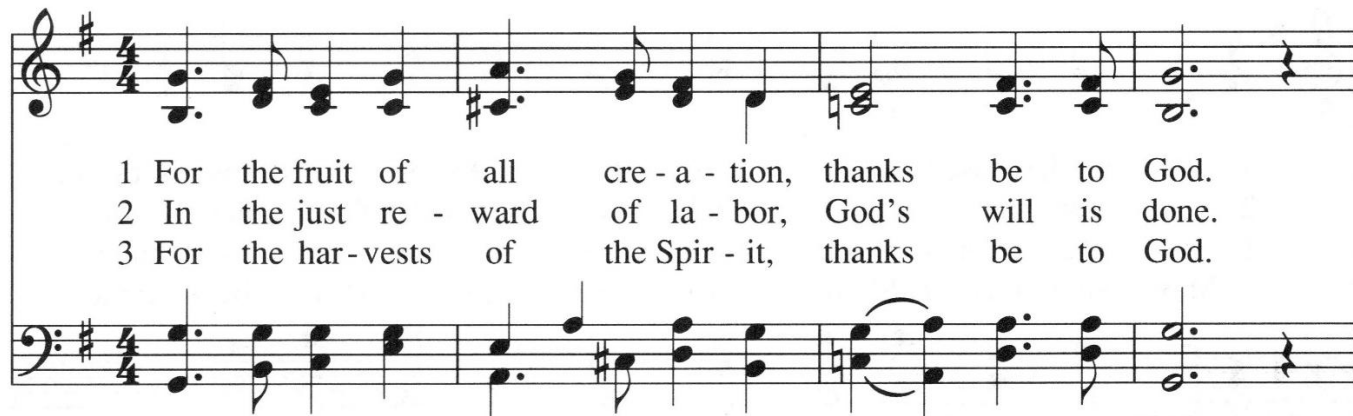


time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

For the Fruit of All Creation

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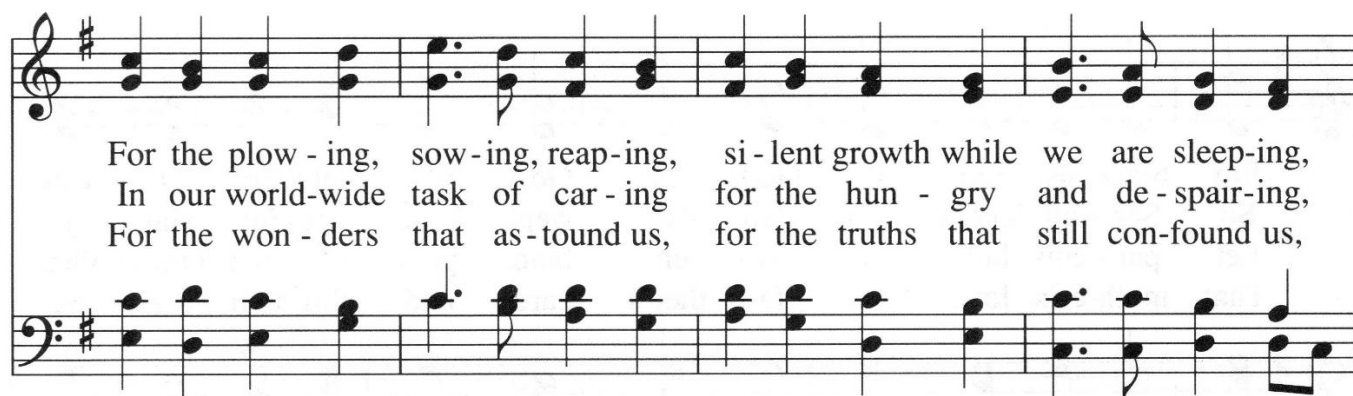
Fred Pratt Green, 1970



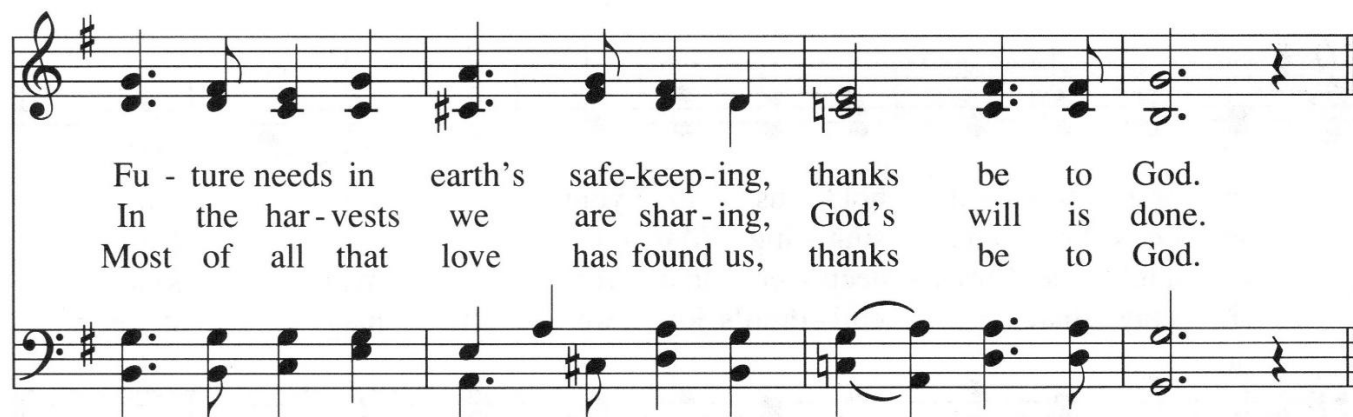
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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 their 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 disability;

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.

Earth and All Stars

DEXTER 4.5.7 D with refrain

Herbert Frederick Brokering, 1964

David N. Johnson, 1968

A^b Cm B^bm A^b Fm E^b B^b E^b Fm D^b

1. Earth and all stars, Loud rush - ing plan - ets Sing to the
 2. Steel and ma - chines, Loud pound - ing ham - mers Sing to the
 3. Class - rooms and labs, Loud boil - ing test tubes Sing to the
 4. Knowl - edge and truth, Loud sound - ing wis - dom Sing to the

A^b B^bm Fm E^b D^b E^b A^b E^b D^b A^b E^b Cm Fm A^b B^b E^b

Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blow - ing snow - storm
 Lord a new song! Lime - stone and beams, Loud build - ing work - ers
 Lord a new song! Ath - lete and band, Loud cheer - ing peo - ple
 Lord a new song! Daugh - ter and son, Loud pray - ing mem - bers

Fm Fm D^b Cm B^bm Fm E^b D^b E^b A^b E^b

Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done
 Sing to the Lord a new song!

E^b A^b D^b A^b D^b A^b E^b A^b Fm D^b A^b Fm B^bm E^b A^b

mar - vel - ous things. We will sing prais - es with a new song!