



Welcome to Worship

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
Menomonie, Wisconsin

**Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
November 9, 2025**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude/Candle Lighting

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"
(by L. Mason, arr. F. Bock)

Oxana Khramova

Ring of the Bell

Opening Litany: Blessed are the Caregivers

Leader: Blessed are those who sleep poorly because they're worried about their loved one or because their loved one wakes in the middle of the night and needs help,

All: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn because their loved one, though still alive, is slowly slipping away,

All: **for they will be comforted.**

Leader: Blessed are the meek who force themselves to speak up and speak out to make sure their loved one receives the help they need,

All: **for they will inherit the land.**

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for answers on why this is happening and how much longer it will last,

All: **for they will be satisfied.**

Leader: Blessed are those who show mercy, kindness and compassion to their loved one,

All: **for they will be shown mercy, kindness and compassion.**

Leader: Blessed are those who keep a loved one clean who is physically or mentally unable,

All: **for they will see God.**

Leader: Blessed are those who help their loved one find moments of peace,

All: **for they will be called children of God.**

Leader: Blessed are those who are misunderstood, not appreciated and taken for granted in their role as caregiver,

All: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Leader: Blessed are you whose caregiving efforts are unjustly criticized – or who are falsely accused of not caring about others – because of your love for your care-receiver and your love for God, who has asked you to help his beloved child.

All: **Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.**

Opening Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Hymnal #376

Readings

Sarah Martinek

Psalm 17:1-9

Job 19:23-27

"A Blessing for Care-Givers and Care-Recipients" by Kate Bowler

Special Music

**"Ciel d'Automne"
(Andre Brunet)**

Pat and Joe Bonner

Message

"Together for Caring"

**Carla Berscheit, Dunn
County ADRC Dementia
Care Specialist**

Transitional Music

"Precise Lord, Take My Hand"

Hymnal #404

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.

Speaker

"Together for Tomorrow"

Andrew Mercil

***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 of the hungry, hurting, and homeless; you are with them and in them. May we steward these gifts to serve those most in need for food, shelter, clothing and for all your children to experience care, connection, community, and love. Amen.

***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

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"
(by J. Dykes, arr. M. Hayes)

Oxana Khramova

*The flowers today are in memory of Bob Wood, remembering his birthday today,
November 9th, from his daughters, Amy Wood and Margy Ingram.*

Credits

- Opening Litany: Blessed are the Caregivers adapted from Dodds, Bill. "The Beatitudes and a Prayer for Caregivers." The Arlington Catholic Herald, July 14, 2014. <https://www.catholicherald.com/article/global/the-beatitudes-and-a-prayer-for-caregivers/>.
- Bowler, Kate. "A Blessing for Care-Givers and Care-Receiver." August 21, 2023. <https://katebowler.com/blessings/a-blessing-for-care-givers-and-care-receivers/>.

This Week

Monday, November 10, 9am: Directory meeting; R1

Tuesday, November 11, 10am: Executive Committee; R1

Wednesday, November 12: 10am; Tour of Homes Meeting; R1; 4pm Kid's Club;
5:30pm; Chancel Choir; 6:30pm Bell Choir

Thursday, November 13, 9am-12pm: Tour of Homes crafts, R1

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