



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

MENTAL

HEALTH

SUNDAY

May 14, 2023



United Church of Christ™
**MENTAL HEALTH
NETWORK**

Worship Leader

Jayne Slaughter

Mini-Message

Cliff 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 Hymn Improvisation Hudson Lourenço-Feld

Welcome & Announcements Jayne Slaughter

***Call to Worship** Jayne Slaughter

One: Come, let us worship God who is creating a new heaven and a new earth. Today is a new day, a fresh start, and a day of new beginnings.

All: Come, let us worship God who creates peace out of chaos, calm out of anxiety, and hope out of despair. Even when we are depressed, we trust God is with us.

One: Come, let us praise God who chooses to be among us, one of us, a Disabled and Neurodiverse God dwelling among us living with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, brain disorders, and neurodiversity.

All: Come, let us praise God who says to each one of us, “no matter who we are or what medications we take or our diagnoses or where we are on life’s journey: I will be your God.”

One: Come, let us give thanks to God who promises to wipe away every tear from our eyes.

All: Come, let us give thanks to God who loves us so much that death, mourning, crying, and pain cannot stop God from loving us. This is our greatest hope: we are held in God’s love.

Everyone: Come, let us rejoice, for God, the Alpha and Omega, is making all things new!

*Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Call to Worship in
Mental Health and Wellness: Worship Resources for All*

***Prayer of Invocation (unison)** Jayne Slaughter

Holy One, we are all seekers. No matter where we are in the world, no matter what our strengths or weaknesses, no matter what our language or our creed, you seek us out with the eternal parental love of the Creator. No matter that You are always present with and for us, no matter that we do not always recognize the form, no matter that we may have a dimness of sight as in a mirror, we continue to seek you with the unquenchable human desire to know You and to rest in You. In You we live and move and have our being. Guide us now to recognize that truth as we gather together with you in this hour. Amen.

Carrie Bail, Invocation in “One in Heart and in Mind”

***Opening Hymn** *Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song* #270 (NCH - Black)

Joys & Concerns Jayne Slaughter

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer Abbie Chronister

Our [Father/Mother/Creator/Holy One/Eternal Spirit], who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Mini-Message Cliff Highnam

Special Music	<i>My Shepherd Will Supply My Need</i> arr. by John Leavitt	Anne Hoekstra
Invitation to Offertory		Jayne Slaughter
Offertory	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
*Doxology	Tune: #515 PH	Words: #778 NCH
*Prayer of Dedication		Abbie Chronister
Scripture Lesson	Romans 8:22-27	Jayne Slaughter
*Hymn	<i>Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ</i>	#520 (NCH - Black)
Message		Abbie Chronister
*Closing Hymn	<i>Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire</i>	#508 (NCH - Black)
*Benediction		Abbie Chronister
Postlude	Hymn Improvisation	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.