



# First Congregational

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

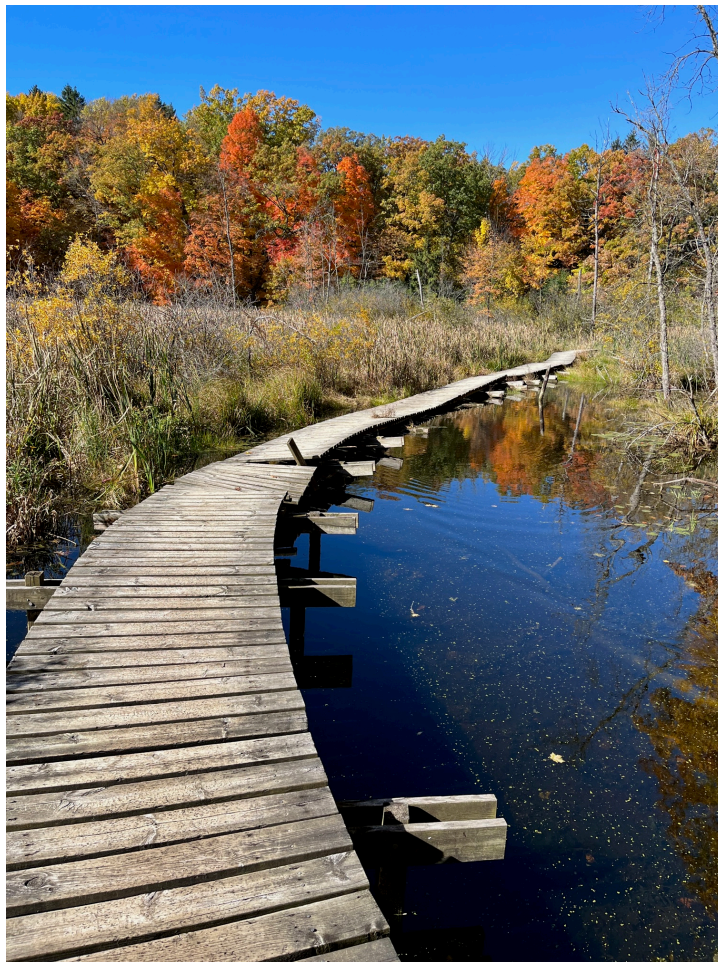
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# Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 29, 2023



**Worship Leader**  
Greg Hoekstra

**Mini Message**  
Gina Greene

**Director of Music**  
Luke Overton

**Guest Preacher**  
Steve Prust

**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.*

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>The Road Home</i> - Stephen Paulus	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Greg Hoekstra
<b>*Call to Worship</b>		Greg Hoekstra
Leader:	I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; Before the gods I sing your praise.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name For your steadfast love and your faithfulness.</b>	
Leader:	For you have exalted your name and your word above everything.	
<b>People:</b>	<b>On the day I called, you answered me, You increased my strength of soul.</b>	
<b>Prayer of Invocation</b> (unison)		Steve Prust
	Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Word and for the eternal/abiding truths that guide us each day. WE thank you most of all for the living Word, Jesus Christ, and the sureness of His presence. Teach us how to turn to you so that your Truths may become our Truths. Teach us to focus on and seek the Kingdom of God and to proclaim that the Kingdom of God is at hand. In Jesus name, Amen.	
<b>*Processional Hymn</b>	<i>I Sing the Mighty Power of God</i>	#12 (NCH - Black)
<b>Joys &amp; Concerns</b>		Greg Hoekstra
<b>Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer</b>	Steve Prust	
	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.	
<b>Mini-Message</b>		Gina Greene
<b>Choral Anthem</b>	<i>Northern Lights</i> - Ola Gjeilo	Chancel Choir
<b>Invitation to Offertory</b>		Greg Hoekstra
<b>Offertory</b>	Hymn Improvisation	Hudson Lourenço-Feld
<b>*Doxology</b>		#780 (NCH - Black)
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		Greg Hoekstra
<b>New Testament Lesson</b>	1 Corinthians 10:14-21	Greg Hoekstra

**\*Hymn** *Take My Life, God, Let It Be* #448 (NCH - Black)

**Message** *“So what do we do about Halloween?”* Steve Prust

**Affirmation** (unison)

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place; into action Into vulnerability and into the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerful and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God’s new community of hope.

Amen.

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Published by Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow G2 3DH, UK)

**Closing Hymn** *For All the Saints* #299 (NCH - Black)

**Benediction** Steve Prust

**Postlude** *Improvisation on ‘Ein Feste Burg’* 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.*