

*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”*



**March 19, 2023**

## **WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY**

## **LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

## **PRELUDE**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

When the world is dark and full of hate and fear, when we cannot see God

**we will turn on the light.**

When we cannot find our way back to love and peace

**we will turn on the light.**

When our vision dims due to the darkness within

**we will turn on the light.**

Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.

**The light of the world is Jesus Christ.**

Come and worship the one who showers us with light to show us the way.

**Praise God, who empowers us to bring Christ’s love and light out into our community and the world!**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **GLORIA PATRI\***

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen, Amen.*

## **HYMN\* My Hope Is Built #537**

## **INVOCATION & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Gracious God, who created us in your own image, we are grateful for all that you have done for us, for all that you are doing in us, and for all that you will do through us. Grant us the power and the courage to move out into the world and into the light of Jesus Christ, that we may serve you by serving others. Loving you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength we lift our voices praying the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying,

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Choral Response

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

Call to Offering

Offertory *Man of Sorrows! What a Name* Bliss & Young

Song of Presentation\*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly hosts:*

*Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Offering Prayer\*

**God of every time and space, our time is now. The work of your realm is so needed in our world today. May the gifts we offer here provide resources for the work of opening doors, sharing your word, and nurturing faith through Jesus Christ. Amen**

**HYMN\*** *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!* #545

Church School children will process to the Parish House during the second verse

**SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 5: 8-14

**SERMON** *It's Time to Shine*

Choral Response

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**HYMN\*** *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine . . .

All though the night, I'm gonna let it shine . . .

**BENEDICTION\*** - spoken and sung

**POSTLUDE**

\*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

### Calendar and Announcements

#### Every Sunday

9am - Coffee House Crew

10am - Worship

10:30am - Church School

11am - Coffee hour

#### March 19 & 26

Easter Candy Sales

#### March 20

1pm – Women's Bible Study

6:30pm – Church Council Meeting

#### March 21

7pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal

#### March 22

5pm – Grad Party Team Meeting

#### March 23

7:30pm – Choir Rehearsal

#### March 27

1pm – Women's Bible Study

#### March 28

7pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal

#### March 30

7:30pm – Choir Rehearsal

#### April 2

11am – Waffle Bar Brunch

#### April 3

1pm – Women's Bible Study

7:30pm – Investment Team Meeting

#### April 4

7pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7pm – Women's Ministry Book Club

#### April 5

7pm – Bible & Brews

7pm – Finance Team Meeting

#### April 6

7pm – Maundy Thursday Service

#### April 7

12noon - Good Friday Prayer Walk

#### April 10

1pm – Women's Bible Study

#### April 11

7pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7pm – Church Management Ministry Meeting

#### April 13

7:30pm – Choir Rehearsal

#### April 17

6:30pm – Church Council Meeting

#### April 18

7pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal

#### April 19

4:40pm – Baby Bundles

7pm – Bible & Brews

#### April 20

7:30pm – Choir Rehearsal

**Welcome &** thank you for joining us in-person or via live stream today. We invite you to sign up for our e-mail newsletter today, email [news@nmchurch.org](mailto:news@nmchurch.org). **Coffee Hour:** Please join us for coffee/tea and light refreshments for a time of fellowship after worship. Please note that Coffee hour will be held in Fellowship Hall until further notice. The double metal doors will be propped open downstairs for those who have a hard time with the stairs and would like to come in from outside.

**Today we are honored to have the Rev. Darrell L. Goodwin** join us in worship. Rev. Goodwin is the Executive Conference Minister of the Southern New England United Church of Christ Conference. A Chicago native, Rev. Goodwin began as the first Executive Conference Minister of the newly formed Southern New England Conference on Jan. 1, 2021. He is also the first openly LGBT black person to serve as an Executive Conference Minister in the United Church of Christ. As the Chief Vision-Keeper, he is responsible for guiding the conference and its affiliates to have a positive and lasting impact in our world. After worship he will join us for a time of conversation and fellowship. He is open to any and all questions and is interested to hear more about who we are and what we see as our path into the future. Please come downstairs and share some refreshments and your thoughts and questions with Rev. Goodwin.

**Thank you** to our guest organist, Owen Borda.

**Grad Party:** The church will once again be sponsoring the Rotunda for the annual Grad Party on June 24. We are looking for team members to help with decorations and games for the rotunda. Our first team meeting will be **March 22 at 5pm**. We are also looking for help with set-up on June 23, working the grad party on June 24, and clean-up on June 25. Please let Nicole know if you would like to help with any or all of it.

**Women's Bible study and fellowship:** Join us on Monday afternoons at 1pm in the Taylor room as we look at the stories of women in the bible. All are welcome, if you have any questions, please contact Leslie at [news@nmchurch.org](mailto:news@nmchurch.org)

**Sunday bulletin information and announcements** are due **Tuesday by noon** each week. Please email [communicationsgroup@nmchurch.org](mailto:communicationsgroup@nmchurch.org) Thank you!

<b>The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ</b>		
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Financial secretary	Katie McKay	<a href="mailto:financialsecretary@nmchurch.org">financialsecretary@nmchurch.org</a>
<b>Today's Service</b>		
Deacon on Duty	Sheri Gunn	
Trustee on Duty	John Wittmann	
Ushers	Coffee House Crew	