

First United Church of Christ  
**Celebrating Resurrection!**

March 31, 2024

Not yet! Wait for the sunrise...

*Silence*

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb... John 20:1*

**1<sup>st</sup> Hymn**                      ***Morning Has Broken***                      **(Red Hymnal #28)**

**Prelude and Bringing in the Light**

**\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn**                      ***This Momentous Morning***      (Tune #125; Lyrics on screen)

**\* *Easter Prayer of Praise***

**All:** Our prayer is a song of praise and rejoicing, Wonderful God, on this bright and glory filled Resurrection morning. We have walked the knife edge of death, looking into the gloom. We came with the sunrise to mourn before the tomb. But you, O God, have taken away our sadness and given us cause to sing. Christ is Risen! Death is conquered! Christ is Risen! Amen!

**Leader:** "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people, and Hallelujah! is the only song we have to sing."  
(Pope John Paul II)

**\* 3<sup>rd</sup> Hymn**                      ***Christ the Lord is Risen Today***                      **(NCH 233)**

**Greeting and Announcements**

**The Surprise Choir**

**Invitation to Offering**                      **“Easter”**                      **by Joyce Kilmer**

The air is like a butterfly  
With frail blue wings.  
The happy earth looks at the sky  
And sings.

**Offertory**

**\*...And so we sing**

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, glad heavens and earth reply:  
Alleluia!*

**\* Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

Break open our hearts, Loving God, to let this resurrection life flow through us to the world you have loved so well and redeemed so fully, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

**Kid’s Time**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading**                      **John 20:11-16**

**Choir Anthem**                      ***He Is Risen!***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading**                      **Isaiah 43:1**

**Easter Meditation**

**\* 4<sup>th</sup> Hymn**                      ***Hymn of Promise***                      **(NCH #433)**

**“Now it happened that same day...”**

**\* *Benediction***

*Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant make you complete in everything good so that you may do God’s will; working among us that which is pleasing in God’s sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.*  
*Hebrews 13:20, 21*

**Postlude**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist:** Christy Kinnamon

**Radio Sponsor:** Rod & Carol Hehenberger in loving memory of Carol's dad, Ray Jensen.

**If you would like to sponsor** a radio broadcast call the church office at 608-643-8387 to check on available dates. Cost is now at \$90.00/week. Your support of this important ministry is much appreciated.

**Address Changes**—If your phone number, mailing or email address changes please send the new address to the church office so we can keep our records up to date.

**From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for March:** Food items: Ritz type crackers. Personal items: men's and women's deodorant. Please drop your donations off in the red tote outside the educational doors during office hours (Monday-Friday 8am–Noon) or inside during Sunday worship. Thanks for your help.

**We will not be having Sunday School** or Confirmation classes today, March 31. Enjoy being with your families! Happy Easter!

**The Communion Table is set** with home made bread on the plate and grape juice in the cup. We welcome absolutely everyone to share in this meal. Whoever you are, whatever brought you here this morning, if you are even a little bit hungry, come and taste.

**The Sunday School is asking for your help.** They are collecting monetary donations for Mabel's Building Mission. This organization was founded for the purpose of building homes for the poor in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. Please see the March edition of the Scoop for details, or check out the table in the church entryway.

### **First UCC Welcome Statement:**

*“Come to me,” Jesus said, “all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest”*  
*(Matthew 11:28)*

First United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation. We strive to foster loving and caring relationships in our church and community, and so we welcome and value all people—whoever you are, wherever you come from, however you identify, whomever you love. All of who you are is welcome here and all of us are enriched by your presence.

### **Isaiah 43:1**

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

### **John 20:11-16**

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’