

FIRST SUNDAY



IN LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ)

February 26, 2023

10:30 AM

The Reverend Steven Price
Mr. Ron Strong
Mr. Veniamin Blokh
Ms. Janet Herman
Mr. Ryan Hubbell

Pastor
Choir Director
Church Musician
Substitute Organist
Technical Support



Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!

WELCOME!

We extend a warm welcome to you as we gather to celebrate God's life-giving presence. During communion, as we partake of the bread and cup, please know that **all** who desire Christ's boundless and embracing love are welcomed to participate.

Prayer is an important part of our life together as a community of faith. If you have a prayer concern or joy you would like raised later on in the service, text your request to Beth Fulkerson at 585.755.6310.

GATHERING

Please take this time to center yourself as we listen to this morning's prelude.

Prelude

Ms. Janet Herman

† Call to Worship

~ by Gill Le Fevre

One: As darkness gives way to light
and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

Many: We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.

One: Like the green shoots of renewed life,
stirring beneath the soil,

Many: We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.

One: In this time of reflection and repentance,

**Many: We affirm our identity, and we claim our security,
as children of God.**

† Confession

One: O God, if we don't give anything else up for Lent this year,
then let us at least give up this:

Many: Our disconnection from You.

(continued)

Many: Forgive us for not noticing You, in creation, in our neighbors, in our enemies, and in ourselves...

One: Remind us that every one of our steps can bring us nearer to You, if we would simply pay attention.

ALL: Amen

† Opening Hymn

Touch the Earth Lightly

Chalice Hymnal, No. 693

Please join us in singing verses 1, 3 and 4 only.

This tender hymn is a lovely way to begin our Lenten journey. We'll start our journey in the Garden of Eden today, so it seemed the best fit to accompany us. This is a new hymn for me; it is easy to sing and full of gorgeous imagery. For music readers, a hymnal might be helpful.

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
Nourish the life of the world in our care:
Gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
Trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
Water that blesses and air that is sweet,
Health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
Regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
Using us gently, and making us one.

Sharing With Children **Presentation: First GREEN LEAF!**

Anthem

"A Kyrie for Our Time"

Nancy Price & Don Besig

Laura Schunk, flute

"Kyrie eleison" is Greek for "Lord, have mercy." This phrase has been used as part of the Christian liturgy since the earliest days of the Church.

Children are invited to Faith Formation activities following this portion of the service.

ENGAGING

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:15 – 3:1-7
(Various verses)

Lectors: John Giffen & Pastor Steven

Sermon

The Reverend Steven Price

Music for Reflection

Janet Herman

RESPONDING

Offering Sentence as Prayer

~ written by Katherine Hawker, edits smp

† Song of Praise

Doxology

Chalice Hymnal, No. 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, (God) all creatures here below;
Praise him (God) above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen
(or Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.)

* *An offering plate is available in the narthex for those who would like to give after worship.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER



Communion Distribution

*This table is open to all who are seekers of another way
made known to us in Jesus.*

*Please come down the center aisle **single file** to receive a piece of gluten-free bread from an elder
and a cup of grape juice from another elder, returning to your seats by the outer aisle.
If you are unable to come forward, please signal that you would like to be served
and someone will bring communion to you.*

Prayers for Our Community and the World

Hear now our community prayers. After request... God in your goodness, grace
or mercy... **People: Hear our Prayer.**

Let us say together the prayer Jesus taught those he loved . . .

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father (or Creator) which 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

GOING FORTH

† Concluding Hymn

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

Chalice Hymnal, No. 568

Please sing through two times.

Let us sing this old Shaker song that gently reminds us during this season of Lent
to live more simply. Words to the song are on page 5.

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

(Please sing 2 times through.)

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shant be ashamed,
To turn, turn, will be our delight
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

† Benediction

~ by Joanna Harader, edits smp

As we begin our Lenten journey together, hear this encouragement:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. **Amen.**

Participating in the Life of the Church (Announcements)

(See pages 6-8)

Postlude *(Please remain seated.)*

Venya Blokh



† All who are able, please stand.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Elders Patti Ayers and Fred Brown Deacons Karen Destino
ZOOM Host Barbara Coe Greeter All God's People!
ZOOM Elder Pam Bakst



Land Acknowledgment: Our physical space stands on unceded land originally stewarded by the Seneca people. Today let us acknowledge and honor the Seneca nation by walking paths that lead to equality for all and care for creation.

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Steven Price, Pastor (585) 733-7121



News You Can Use at Community Christian Church

Today's ZOOM service was recorded.
To access the recording, visit our
website: Cccopentoall.org.
It will be posted early this week.



Creation Care Challenge: Greening God's Good Earth for Lent

Each week during Lent 2023, our congregation will be challenged to "turn over a new leaf" to care for God's Creation. When you pick up your bulletin at the welcome table, you can also grab a green leaf. Please write on the leaf the action that you took to help green God's good Earth the previous week, and then place it in the basket in front of the communion servers during communion. Be sure to help your children and grandchildren participate too! Members of our Creation Care team will add these leaves to our Creation Care tree in front of the sanctuary throughout Lent.

Our new Creation Care team has just begun to meet, and hopes to kick off new practices and awareness, both inside and outside the church, as time goes on. We hope that our first activity will yield a big, healthy green Creation Care tree by the end of our Lenten journey.

The Community Christian Church Creation Care Mission Statement:

As creatures of God, we have the responsibility to protect, restore, and justly share God's creation. As part of the Body of Christ, we aspire to educate, engage, equip, and empower our congregation to live in God's vision for us and all Creation.

PROPHECY THEN, PROPHECY NOW!

During Lent we often set time aside, time to learn about a subject like St. Paul, or racial justice, or forgiveness. This year we will listen to a lecture series that I think is less about education and more about INSPIRATION. The topic is Prophecy - and I realized while listening to the series that I wasn't necessarily learning about historical prophets BUT I was hearing prophets speak in real time... and IT IS HARD TO LISTEN TO A PROPHET and not be inspired and/or moved into action. Sister Joan Chittister and Fr. Richard Rohr spoke to an assembled group in 2006 about



RSVP
by
2/26/23

contemplation, action and prophecy and their presentations were recorded over the course of about 6 hours.

Contact me between now and **February 26** if you would like to hear the first 23 minutes of a prophet giving a lecture AND THEN decide if you would like to hear more either alone - or with a group.

I'll send you a lecture to listen to as a download, then get back to me if you want more.

Thank you,
Pastor Steven
RevStevenCCC@gmail.com

Book Club – Tuesday, March 14th at 7:00 PM

At our March 14 gathering we'll discuss the book, IN FIVE YEARS by Rebecca Serle — a striking, powerful, and moving love story following an ambitious lawyer who experiences an astonishing vision that could change her life forever.

We meet at the home of Kathy Schaefer, 508 Panorama Trail, 14625. Our time together is open to all church goers. We'd love to have you join us! Contact Kathy at shaykathryn@gmail.com if you're attending or have any questions.

HOPES and PRAYERS – Tuesdays at 10:00 AM.

Join Pastor Steven via ZOOM for a time of sharing those things heavy on your heart as well as lifting up the ways God has already blessed your life or answered your prayers. A ZOOM invitation will be sent Monday evening.

Best Wishes to Those Celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary this Week:

Kiely McGowan
Maddie Snyder
Katy Davison
Logan Freedman
Sandy Hubbell



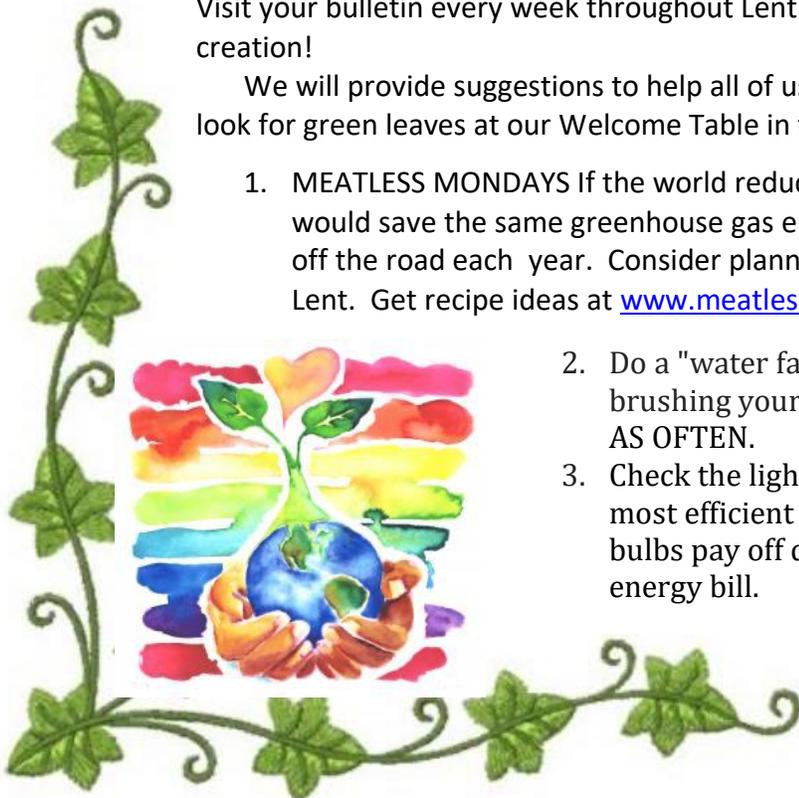
February 26
February 27
February 29
March 2
March 2

Creation Care Corner!

Visit your bulletin every week throughout Lent to see how you can better care for creation!

We will provide suggestions to help all of us do our best - kids included! Then look for green leaves at our Welcome Table in the Atrium to share your successes.

1. MEATLESS MONDAYS If the world reduced meat consumption by 15% it would save the same greenhouse gas emissions as taking 240 million cars off the road each year. Consider planning for MEATLESS MONDAYS during Lent. Get recipe ideas at www.meatlessmonday.com
2. Do a "water fast" by turning off water while brushing your teeth and flushing your toilet HALF AS OFTEN.
3. Check the light bulbs in your house. Are they the most efficient possible? Energy savings from LED bulbs pay off quickly for God's creation and your energy bill.



◆ THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE ◆

Today, February 26 th	11:30 AM 4:00 PM	Fellowship Time – Join us for light refreshments in Fellowship Hall. OMP Rehearsal – FH ‘til 6p
Monday, February 27 th	6:30 PM	Elders’ Meeting – Theater Room
Tuesday, February 28 th	10:00 AM 12:00 PM	Hopes and Prayers (ZOOM) Deadline for bulletin announcements
Wednesday, March 1 st	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	The Quilting Gals – FH & K ‘til 4p Sr. Choir Rehearsal – FH
Thursday, March 2 nd	7:00 PM	RGMC Rehearsal – FH
Saturday, March 4 th	9:00 AM	The Caring Music Group – FH ‘til noon
Sunday, March 5 th		2nd Sunday of Lent 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Hybrid Worship – masks optional 11:30 AM Fellowship Time



Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and sustainable development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. For nearly 80 years, Week of Compassion has pursued its mission, working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God’s people transform suffering into hope.

Hope and transformation, alleviation and relief— things that have been sorely lacking in our nations and world these last few years. Our neighbors, our churches, our families, our own individual spirits, still carry the fatigue of a global pandemic that saw millions of deaths and continues to be of wearying concern. International conflicts and a global climate crisis seem too huge to grasp and leave us feeling helpless, while local communities sag under the strain of bitter politics, pervasive violence, and economic challenge.

In the midst of all this? Week of Compassion says ‘**RISE UP ANEW**’?!

The Week of Compassion Offering will be collected the month of February. Donations may be made by writing a check to the church clearly marked “Week of Compassion.” **Give as you are blessed – give generously!**