

# Emerging Possibilities

Easter 2025

PHOTO BY ELLA WEB - <https://www.pexels.com/photo/monarch-butterfly-on-rod-3-hard-garabou/>

## ~ Welcome Visitors! ~

**Guide to the bulletin:** An asterisk (\*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal next to your pew chair.

**Children:** Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. After the Message for All, children are welcome to join in Sunday School activities. There are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. There is also a [Prayer Ground](#) set up at the front of the sanctuary. There are several quiet activities prepared for children. We know many of us need to wiggle a bit to be comfortable. Kids do too!!! Adults are welcome to sit in this area as well! #ChildofGod. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do.

## GATHERING TOGETHER

Prelude

**Morning Song**

Tom Birchwood

**Welcome and Community Connections**

## **Introit**

## ***We Are Called***

### **\*Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

**One:** Amidst destruction

**All: Blessed be the creators**

**One:** Amidst despair

**All: Blessed be the nurturers of connection**

**One:** Amidst cynicism

**All: Blessed be those practicing hope**

**One:** Amidst cruelty

**All: Blessed be the gentle**

**One:** Amidst death-dealing systems

**All: Blessed be those with reverence for life**

**One:** The God of New Life blesses

**All: those who love compassion and justice.**

**One:** Let us worship God.

### **\*Opening Prayer**

**Praise be the protectors, organizers, educators, and conservationists.**

**Praise be the healers, death doulas, midwives, and caregivers.**

**Praise be the artists, writers, singers, and visionaries.**

**Praise, praise, praise be the children, the playful, the open-hearted,  
those who school us in present-moment living.**

**Holy Spirit, guide us towards what is ours to do today. Root us in  
spiritual practices, that we may be grounded in our work. Remind us  
that we are part of a web of interdependence; that collective thriving  
requires both steadfast devotion and soulful rest. Amen.**

## **Hymn**

## ***Precious Lord, Take My Hand***

NCH 472

## **HEARING THE WORD**

### **First Bible Reading**

Acts 9:36-43

### **Special Music**

### ***Wanting Memories***

### **Gospel**

John 10:22-30

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<sup>1</sup> 1. "Liturgy That Matters Resource Collection," enfleshed, April 28, 2025,  
<https://enfleshed.com/liturgy-that-matters-subscription-library/>.

## Message for All

Growing in Faith  
*Celebrating Sunday School Teachers +  
Daycholah & MoonBeach Summer Camp*

## Prayer of Jesus

**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.**

*After the Message for All, children are invited to participate in Sunday School, sit by their family in the sanctuary, or at the Prayer Ground*

## Reflection

### **SHARING OUR LIVES**

**Call to Prayer**     ***Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***

## Prayers of the People

*During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-438-6307 or Pastor Peter at 608-338-2268. They will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: [pastorkris@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@memorialucc.org) and/or [pastorpeter@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorpeter@memorialucc.org).*

### **GOING OUT TO THE WORLD**

**\*Sending Hymn**     ***Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer***     NCH 18

**\*Benediction**     ***Sing Your Way Home***

**\*Postlude**     ***Strong Praise!***     Paul Davis

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**Worship Leaders:** Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Jeff Darwin (Pianist), Pastor Kris Gorton, and Pastor Peter Morris

**Readers:** Jan Klawitter and Sonjia Short

**Ushers:** Roger Elver and Haylie Schmit

**Media Room:** Bill Jetzer

**Fellowship:** Karen and Michael Bryant

Memorial UCC uses photographs and video for social media communication with our members and friends. If someone does not wish to be photographed or in a video, ushers will help them find a seat out of camera view.

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042



**Hearing Loop and Listening Devices:** For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.

**Bathrooms:** There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you



**Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities:** Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Giving online through PayPal is fast and secure, and you do not need a PayPal account to make

one-time or recurring donations. Visit [memorialucc.org](http://memorialucc.org) and click the "giving" link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Cathy Halpin at [halpincjo@gmail.com](mailto:halpincjo@gmail.com), and she will get you signed up.

**Want to Know More About Us?** Co-pastors Kris and Peter would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact either of them at [pastorkris@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@memorialucc.org) or [pastorpeter@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorpeter@memorialucc.org). You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at [www.memorialucc.org](http://www.memorialucc.org). You can also follow us on Facebook (@FitchburgMemorialUCC), Twitter (@MemUCC), or join our Facebook group Memorial UCC: Ever-Widening Circles.

## **CHURCH GROUNDS SPRING CLEAN UP DAY**

Saturday, May 17, from 8 am - noon

On Saturday, May 17, the Building and Grounds Committee will be hosting our annual church grounds spring clean up day. In addition to general sprucing up of the yard, this year we would also like to do some work on the trails in the woods. Come and join us, even if you can only make it for part of the time, to help freshen up our church grounds in time for summer. All are welcome and kids are encouraged to come. Please bring gardening tools, yard tools, pruners, and gloves if you have them. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Wade Kuhl at [wade.kuhl@fabickcat.com](mailto:wade.kuhl@fabickcat.com) or (608) 516-2464

## **SAVE THE DATE: SILENT AUCTION**

Sunday, May 18: Back by popular demand, the MUCC Trustees will be hosting the 2025 Silent Auction. Bidding will begin 2 weeks prior to the auction and end at 11 am on May 18. Plan to join us for food and fellowship to help support MUCC ministries.



We are happy to accept your auction prize donations. You can access a [print donation form HERE](#) or the [online donation form HERE](#). There are also paper donation forms in the narthex niche. Please list and describe the item or service you will donate for MUCC's Silent Auction. You may include pictures or the actual item when you submit this form or bring the item the day of the auction.

## **MORE THAN A MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

Are you new to Memorial UCC and interested in learning more about our faith community? We will be scheduling a "More Than a Membership Class" get together soon! This will be an opportunity for those that are new, or "newish" to Memorial to meet other potential new members and learn about our ministries. ANYONE who is interested in connecting with others is welcome to join the conversation (in other words, you don't have to become a member if you attend, or you can come if you have already joined)! If you would like to attend, please let Pastor Kris or Pastor Peter know the days and times that are convenient for you to participate.



## **VOLUNTEER AT BRATFEST = FUNDRAISING FOR MUCC**

Great news! We have again been chosen to be one of the receiving charities for this year's [Bratfest](#)! This means that when we volunteer for any variety of shifts, we'll receive \$12/hour that each person works. The more we sign up to volunteer the more money we make.

### **Things to know/steps to volunteer:**

This event will be over Memorial Day weekend: Friday, May 23rd - Sunday, May 25th.

[CLICK HERE](#) or go to the link in the enews to start the volunteer process.

If you have questions, contact Membership Committee Co-Chair [Laura Mengar](#)

### **IT'S THAT TIME! SIGN UP TO HOST FELLOWSHIP**

Hi everyone! We're looking for volunteers to host Fellowship in the upcoming months. Invite a friend or your family to do this with you. Providing support for this hospitality ministry each Sunday is important for building community - make it as simple and fun as you'd like. If you're interested in signing up, contact Laura Mengar at [lwmengar@gmail.com](mailto:lwmengar@gmail.com)! Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

### **MUCC CAMPING TRIP**

The Third Annual MUCC camping trip at Wildcat Mountain State Park is May 30 to June 1, 2025! This will be a fun-filled weekend including canoeing/kayaking the Kickapoo River on Saturday and biking on the Elroy to Sparta Rail-Trail on Sunday. Potluck supper on Saturday and lots of socializing around the campfire. All ages are welcome! A group campsite is reserved and the cost is \$10/person or max of \$40/family. Contact Mary Koeppe to sign up or with questions (608-698-4899 or [koeppejm@gmail.com](mailto:koeppejm@gmail.com))

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# Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
 2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,  
 3 When the shad - ows ap - pear, and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
 when my life is al - most gone,  
 and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
 Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:  
 At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

*Refrain*

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain  
 Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

## Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re-deem-er, pil-grim through this  
 2 O-pen now the crys-tal foun-tain, where the heal-ing  
 3 When I reach the Riv-er Jor-dan, bid my anx-ious

bar-ren land; I am weak, but you are might-y;  
 wa-ters flow. Let the fire and cloud-y pil-lar  
 fears sub-side. Death of death, and hell's de-struc-tion,

hold me with your power-ful hand. Bread of heav-en, bread of heav-en,  
 lead me all my jour-ney through. Strong de-liv-er-er, strong de-liv-er-er,  
 land me safe on heav-en's side. Songs of prais-es, songs of prais-es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.  
 ev-er be my strength and shield, ev-er be my strength and shield.  
 I will ev-er sing to you, I will ev-er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION