

Greetings to our members, those from United Congregational Church in Conway and all our friends at home,

This Sunday is we are offering a Memorial Sunday in keeping with Memorial Day weekend. Our music, prayers and message all center around not only those who gave their lives in service to their country, but also, as President Woodrow Wilson said when he signed Memorial Day into the national calendar, *to show sympathy with peace and justice*. While Memorial Day is a national, civil observance, our Gospel lesson for today resonates with it, *No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*"

We continue to record our services. Thanks to Lora Graves, we are recording Sunday Morning worship and uploading the service on YouTube within a day or two after the service. When the video is released an email notice will be sent out with the link. We are looking for a couple of volunteers who wish to learn how to record our services. If you are interested contact me, or Lora Graves.

We are back in the sanctuary for worship. Please remember that it is important to make a reservation with Diantha, since our seating is limited. You may reach her at 413-6592 or through her email, foxtowne@gmail.com. Remember to wear a mask and keep distance while entering and leaving the building.

Our Safety Procedures will be changing as the state removes restrictions. You will be notified through email when changes occur. If you are not sure, always choose the safer option.

First Safety Change: Beginning this Sunday we will return to congregation singing by singing two verses each of three hymns. We ask that the congregation remain seated and continue to wear their masks when singing. Humming works too.

Looking forward to seeing you in worship!

Pastor Rob

Welcome to Memorial Sunday Worship May 30, 2021

Good Morning to our members, those from United Congregational Church in Conway and all our friends at home. This Sunday falls in the Memorial Day Weekend. Many churches have labeled this as Memorial Sunday. This year we will follow that tradition and include remembrances in prayer of those who gave their lives in service for their country.

Prayer Requests: We are accepting requests for prayer (healing, comfort, thanksgiving, and others). Please send your requests to the Pastor at pastor01089@gmail.com. Requests will then be sent out through our email list to the congregation for our common prayer life during the week. PLEASE remember that all prayer requests received become public knowledge. If you are uncertain if your request for another might be confidential, do not send it.

And now let us be in worship

Call to Worship (Responsive, L=Leader, P=People) Psalm 8

L O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

P When we look to the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, and the stars, what are human beings that you are mindful of them?

L Yet, you have made us a little lower than God, and crowned us with glory and honor.

P O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

* **Hymn:** 437, *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*, First 2 verses

Unison Morning Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

O God, creator of this new day, we offer our prayers of thanksgiving. We give thanks for the liberty we enjoy, for the bounties of our tables and for the security of our nation. We give thanks for those who have given their lives that we may be so blessed this day. Each new day, as we remember and give thanks, we pray for peace, in our hearts and in our homes, in our nation and in our world, and always in the name of Christ who 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 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.*

Prayers of the People

This morning's prayers are a memorial to all those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who have suffered in our times of conflict. There will be time for personal prayer and meditation, concluding with prayers for peace.

Loving God, may our prayers this morning be like candles lit before you. May their light scatter the darkness. May their flame be a symbol of hope. May their burning be a sign of our faith. May our prayers serve as memorials for all those who gave of their lives in the service of their country. May we remember, this day, all Americans who have died in our wars.

The American Revolution, The Indian Wars, The Barbary Wars, The War of 1812, The Mexican American War, The American Civil War, The Spanish American War, The United States Philippine War, The Moro Wars, The Banana Wars, The First World War, The Second World War, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, The Persian Gulf Wars, The Iraq War, The Afghanistan War.

May our prayers serve as memorials for all those who gave of their lives in the service of their country. May we remember all Americans who died in conflicts and rebellions worldwide.

The Boxer Rebellion, The Russian Civil War, The El Salvador Civil War, Interventions in Lebanon, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Bosnia, Panama, and Syria.

Let our prayers, O God, serve as memorials to all who have perished. Let them serve as memorials to all who have suffered in times of war and conflict:

Husbands and wives, fiancées, and close friends. Parents and Grandparents, all the children. Neighbors, communities, and all who have mourned the loss of the ones they love.

May these prayers join many others for peace. Loving God, even in our sorrow for so many lives gone may our lives be lights of peace to our world. May we always point to Jesus, Prince of Peace. May we seek his peace in the midst of conflict and in the moments of celebration. In

trial and rejoicing let our lives be an offering of peace to you. May they join many other lights for peace. (Moment of Silence, Personal Prayer & Meditation).
Hear these our prayers O God and grant us thy peace. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: John 15:9-17

Our Gospel lesson for today takes place during Jesus' final days with his disciples. At this time, Jesus is trying to assure his follows that they will not be cut off from him even though he will be arrested and executed. Having first assured his disciples that they are, and always will be, a part of his living vine, Jesus goes on to describe his understanding of love and friendship.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

After the reading, you may reflect on this passage.

The sermon for this Sunday may be viewed on the video posted by Tuesday.

Sermon: *No Greater Love than This.*

Benediction: