

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

This Sunday sees changes in our Safety Procedures. They are:

Those who are fully vaccinated have the option to wear a mask or not while in the building. Those who have not completed their vaccinations are required to wear a mask while in the building.

There will be congregational singing with the congregation to remain seated.

There will be an offering taken during service; ushers will safely pass the offering plates.

All the other procedures are still in effect, so don't forget to **make a reservation with Diantha**, since our seating remains limited. You may reach her at 413-625-6592 or through her email, foxtowne@gmail.com.

We will be discontinuing the weekly Worship Resource and replacing it with the Order of Service that is handed out on Sunday morning. While not as detailed as the Worship Resource, the Order of Service provides for at home participation with the weekly worship video. The order and the video link will be sent out together each week no later than Tuesday. This week's final Worship Resource is attached.

Your church leadership has been exceptionally diligent in following the state mandates, United Church of Christ recommendations and in reviewing the specific environment in our county and our immediate area. Their goal continues to be keeping you as safe as possible as we open our church building for worship, look forward to returning to Fellowship Hall and continuing our ministries.

Wishing you all of God's blessings,

Pastor Rob

Welcome to Sunday Worship

June 13, 2021

Good Morning to our members, those from United Congregational Church in Conway and all our friends at home. Today we reflect on the Parable of the Sower from the Gospel of Mark. In our worship we give thanks for God's design that includes the call to our ministry.

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)

One: It is good to give thanks to God!

Let us make music; it is the sound of rejoicing in our Creator.

All: God knows our troubles and remembers our needs.

Our hearts' cry to the Lord is heard. Peace in the Lord is ours.

Unison Morning Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

We turn to you, O God, knowing we can depend on you when earthly rulers stumble and fall, when our relationships are strained and broken and when we are faced with difficult challenges. It is good to sing your praises, even when we do not feel like singing. It is good to declare your faithfulness, even when we have been unfaithful. It is good to give thanks, for when we do, we are reminded of the multitude of blessings we so often take for granted. Lead us in this time of worship as we pray using the words your son taught us, 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

Today's prayers offer up to God our struggle to be people of faith, our need for God's guidance and strength and our dedication to the various ministries we are called to. Let us come to God in prayer.

Hear these our prayers, O God, for your guidance and your strength. We desire to be faithful people, to follow wherever you lead, yet we are often as distracted from your call. In our abundance in the world, we are often blinded by the needs of others and stingy with your blessings. Strengthen us, O God, to make our love fruitful in our ministry. Strengthen us that we may never disown those who struggle in poverty of body, mind or spirit. Strengthen us, O God, that we might find it difficult turn our heads, avert our eyes and look only to our own needs. Strengthen us that we might be better able to surrender ourselves to the will of your love. Strengthen us, O God, that we might come to find the love and the mercy to be all that you intend us to be, loving spouses, caring parents, and grandparents, growing children of God who are dedicated community servants, devoted citizens, and faithful Christians living in community offering our care our resources and our prayers for those in need. Strengthen us, O God, that we will hear and respond to your call. Send us, O God, to do the ministry of Christ. This day we pray for all the ministries in which we are currently engaged, ministries of worship and sacrament, ministries of education, ministries of stewardship that give us the resources we need to minister in our community and to the ends of the earth, ministries of pastoral care, comfort, and prayer through which we share the joy and the sorrows of those around us, ministries of outreach and evangelism through which we share your gospel with others, ministries of hospitality and healing. We pray for all those who are diligent in their ministries and all those who are touched by them. Hear now, O God, these our prayers of thanksgiving, for in your call to us, you have blessed us richly, hear our prayers for those in need, those whom we love and those known only unto you, hear these our prayers for ourselves, for we would be the disciples you call us to be. (Personal prayer and

meditation). We are grateful, O God, for calling us to be your hands here on earth for the sake of Christ, Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Mark 4:26-29

In the spring of 29 AD, Jesus and his disciples were completing their first year of public ministry in Galilee. It had been an incredible time, Jesus had been baptized, called his disciples, they had traveled together, Jesus had taught, preached, and healed. But by the spring of 29, opposition was starting to mount against him. Today's text is a section from his teachings by the Sea of Galilee concerning the Kingdom of God.

He also said, "*The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.*"

After the reading, you may reflect on this passage.

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

Sermon: *The Father's Field*

Benediction: Based on Psalm 86

We give thanks to you, O Lord, Our God. With our whole hearts and voices, we declare that we will glorify your name in all we say and in all we do.

And may your blessings be upon us this day and forever more. Amen