

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

February 22, 2026

10:00 AM

“We are a community in Christ, called to act with love toward our neighbors.”

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

(As we prepare for worship, we invite quiet contemplation of the Living God.)

**For those who are able, please stand.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT #277 (UCC-Red) “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN #22 (UCC-Red) “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him”

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 32:1-8)

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.
6 I said, " I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;
According to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.
Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.
Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

*SONG OF PRAISE #338 (UCC-red) (Gloria Patri)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

GOD MOMENT

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 4:1-11
Romans 5:12-19

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES (Teachers and classes leave for Church School)

SERMON "Sorely Tempted"

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

*HYMN #205 (NCH-Black) "Forty Days and Forty Nights"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - CONCERNS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR GIFTS (Please send pledges & donations to the church via mail or use online giving through our website. Loose offerings go into the general church fund.)

MUSICAL OFFERING – ANTHEM "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

*SONG OF PRAISE HYMN #780 Doxology (NCH – Black)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, O heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator God, may we be filled with your merciful generosity, filled to overflowing with your love, spreading the joy and truth of your Holy Word to all creation. Through our gifts, let your peace and understanding be our mission. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*HYMN #51 (NCH-Black) "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "One In Love"

One in love, one in friendship true,
One in hope, one in spirit, too,
One in faith that God will care for you
Till we meet together again.

POSTLUDE

WE EXTEND THE HAND of Christian fellowship to all who have come to worship in this Welcoming, Open and Affirming congregation. May our prayers and the hearing of God's Word make our burdens lighter, our hearts encouraged, and our souls refreshed.

If you are visiting for the first time, we welcome you.

OUR THANKS to Jon Clinch and all who participated in our service this morning.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given by Warren Cross in memory of Alice.

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE NEEDED! Please sign up on the flower sign-up list on the table in the entrance or call Cynthia King 802-885-5831.

CHECK OUT our church web site: firstchurchspringfield.org and our YouTube channel First Church Springfield 4738 (@firstchurchspringfield4738)

TO JOIN OUR ONLINE LIVE WORSHIP SERVICE EACH SUNDAY AT 10 AM, CLICK ON THE LINK FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE:

www.firstchurchspringfield.org

Note that a copy of the bulletin and hymns are available midway on the homepage.

Click on Worship on the homepage and it will take you to our Facebook page and a live video. Click on the video.

Glad you can worship with us!

CHOIR meets to raise our voices on the final Sunday of each month, rehearsing at 9 AM just before worship. All are welcome to join.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

Those words can mean most anything. Would you or someone you know benefit from prayers, home visits, help with shopping, rides to appointments, prepared meals, food to help you over a hard time? If you have such a need, or know someone who does, please contact Congregational Care chair, Claire Trask at 886-7377.

PRAYER LIST	Jaz Helen Ted All others in need	Martha Jeff Elmer	Jocelyn Amie and Nicole Dan	Sheila Wesley Ellen
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COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR!

Feb	22	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Feb	26	Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom	9:30 AM
Mar	1	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Mar	4	“Acoustic Worship” Musical Service	4:00 PM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tues. & Wed. 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

PASTOR'S HOURS

Wed. 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

STAFF

Pastor: Michael Mario
Administrative Assistant: Sheila Turner
Sexton: Todd Murray

~ NOTES ~