

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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April 26, 2026

10:00 AM

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

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*(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 #252 (NCH-Black) "Saviour, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

### CALL TO WORSHIP

\*HYMN #4 (UCC-Red) "We Gather Together"

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 23, 1599 Geneva translation)

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to rest in green pasture, and leadeth me by the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul, and leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

4 Yea, though I should walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

5 Thou dost prepare a table before me in the sight of mine adversaries: thou dost anoint mine head with oil, and my cup runneth over.

6 Doubtless kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall remain a long season in the house of the Lord.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep,

we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,

we have offended against your holy laws,

we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,

and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

But you, o Lord, have mercy upon us, spare those who confess their faults,

restore those who are penitent, according to your promises unto humankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;

and grant, O most merciful God, for his sake,

that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy name. 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**            John 10:1-10  
    Acts 2:42-47

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

**SERMON**                                "Through the Gate"

### **PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY**

**\*HYMN #279** (UCC-Red)                "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

## **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**    "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

**\*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**

**Heavenly God, you surround us with beauty and wonder in your creation. You give each of us gifts to share with the world. Please bless our gifts, given in gratitude, in Jesus name. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #473** (NCH-Black)                "Blessed Assurance"

## **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**

