



To share faith, hope & love with all  
**First Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

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<https://kerc.ca/wp-content/uploads/001-gnpi-105-peter-restored.jpg>

**May 4, 2025**

**No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.**

If you would like to know more about our church, please contact us at [info@fccalive.org](mailto:info@fccalive.org)

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Liturgy inspiration this week has come from the *UCC's Worship Ways*.

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**SERVICE of WORSHIP AND PRAISE**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

***\*Indicates "All who are comfortable, please rise in body or spirit"***

***WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE***

**Prelude** "Fantasia" – Johann Pachelbel

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Choral Introit** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

## Five Minutes of Kindness

### \*Call to Worship

One: You'd think by now we would get used to Jesus showing up like this, inviting us to cast the net deeper and wider,

**All: showing us the way to abundance is leaning into new possibilities.**

One: We are starting to open ourselves to these hauntings, encouraging us to share what we have and watch it multiply,

**All: showing us the way to flourishing is together.**

One: We are learning to recognize this ghost asking about love, calling us to tend and nourish each other,

**All: showing us the way to new life is new solidarities.**

One: You'd think by now we would get used to Jesus in our midst, welcoming us to the worship that is love in action, showing us the way to transformation is mutual belovedness.

**All: Let us worship God, because we know in our bones, everywhere we turn, it is the Lord!**

**\*Opening Hymn** #250 vs. 1 & 3 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

### \*Passing of the Peace

### \*Prayer for Transformation and New Life *(in unison)*

Generous Creator, forgive us when we believe the lies that scarcity tells us:

- if they just worked harder...
- I've earned everything I have...
- there won't be enough if I share...
- I have to protect what's mine...
- safety comes from holding on to what I have...
- I can't count on anyone but myself...

Gracious Redeemer, teach us to cast our nets differently. Amen.

### \*Words of Grace *(in unison)*

The Abundant Spirit opens before us the ways of flourishing:

- the impulse to share is our birthright
- dignity and justice belong to us all
- there is more when we contribute to each other's wholeness
- together, we keep us safe
- flourishing for all is possible together

Praise God who loves us into thriving new life!

**Ministry of Music** "Who Is He in Yonder Stall?"

## ***WE HEAR GOD'S WORD***

**Scripture Reading** John 21:1-14

1 Later Jesus again was manifested to the disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place. 2 Assembled were Simon Peter, Thomas "the Twin," Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's

children, and two other disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I'm going out to fish." "We'll join you," they replied, and went off to get into their boat. All through the night they caught nothing. 4 Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. 5 He said to them, "Have you caught anything, friends?" "Not a thing," they answered. 6 "Cast your net off to the starboard side," Jesus suggested, "and you'll find something." So they made a cast and caught so many fish that they couldn't haul the net in. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, "It's the Teacher!" Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak—he was naked—and jumped into the water. 8 Meanwhile the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from land—no more than a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled. 10 "Bring some of the fish you just caught," Jesus told them. 11 Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with huge fish—one hundred fifty-three of them. In spite of the great number, the net was not torn. 12 "Come and eat your meal," Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared to ask, "Who are you?"—they knew it was the savior. 13 Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This marked the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

One: The Word that is a lamp to our feet and a light unto our path.

**All: Thanks be to God who is still speaking.**

#### **\*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.

#### **Resurrection Jeopardy**

Pastor Kearstin (*she/her*)

#### ***WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING***

#### **Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** You are invited to pray in the language & tradition of your choice.

*Our Father/Creator, 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/trespasses.*

*As we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us,*

*and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,*

*for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Prayer Response** "Surely the Presence"

#### **Words of Offering**

Scarcity teaches us to hold back, to see what we lack instead of what we have, to fear there won't be enough if we give it away. But today, let's cast our nets to the other side of the boat, where abundance lives waiting for us to recognize it. Let us give joyfully and generously

#### **Offering and Clangy Change Collection**

Clangy change collected today during Mental Health Awareness Month will go to support Equality Ohio.

**Offertory** "Great Is the Lord"

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication** *(in unison)*

For the abundance of love that the world cannot take away, we dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE OF GRACE***

**\*Communion Hymn** #776 vs. 1 & 2 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

**The Invitation**

One: God be with you.

**All: The Holy One is with us.**

One: May our hardened hearts be softened.

**All: We lift them up to the Holy One with thanksgiving and in hopeful expectation.**

**Distribution of Elements / Sharing the Meal**

As the bread and cup are passed, we ask that you take and hold on to the elements so that we may partake in them together as a community.

**Prayer following Communion** *(in unison)*

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen

***WE GO TO SERVE***

**\*Sending Hymn** #801 vs. 1 & 2 "This Is the Day"

**\*Taking the Light into the World**

**\*Benediction**

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Go blessed, Beloveds.

**Choral Benediction** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

**Postlude** "All Glory, Laud and Honor" – Melchior Teschner

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## **Announcements**

**Clangy change:** With May being Mental Health Awareness month, we recognize how the mental health of many of our siblings has been impacted by recent harmful legislation. Equality Ohio has been fighting for LGBTQ+ youth to have access to gender affirming care which is crucial for their mental health and significantly reduces the prevalence of depression and suicidality. Our clangy change collected will go towards supporting these advocacy efforts that align so closely with the values of the UCC. "Equality Ohio works on the issues affecting LGBTQ people and our communities through education, advocacy and mobilization efforts to achieve our vision: an Ohio where everyone feels at home and where equality, diversity and inclusiveness are universally valued."

**Family Game Day:** Join us after worship today as we break out the games for some good-natured competition and fellowship for another fun-filled family game day! It's a great way to get to know your church family members.

**Liturgist Needed:** A liturgist is needed for May 25. Sign up sheets are available in the front and back of the sanctuary.

**Attn: All Men:** Join Barb in the choir room at 10:00 a.m. on Mother's Day (May 11). We will be singing to all the special mothers/mother figures in our lives. It will be an easy piece, so don't panic! We will just have fun, no pressure at all. Please join us!

**May Newsletter:** Pick up your copy of the May issue of *The Messenger*. Extra copies are available in the front and back of the sanctuary and it is also available for downloading from our website [www.fccalive.org](http://www.fccalive.org).

**Fellowship time:** We need people to sign up to oversee fellowship time after the worship services. There are sign-up sheets on the table in the front of the sanctuary, in the narthex, and on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.

**Got Junk?** Sell it at our Junk in the Trunk event! Junk in the Trunk is like a flea market and rummage sale rolled into one! Sell your "treasures" from your trunk and parking space on **Saturday, May 17** from 10 am to 2 pm. Registration forms are available on the table at the front of the sanctuary.

**Dining to Donate:** The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a **Dine to Donate** event on Thursday, June 5 at the Avon Applebee's to help fund our youth mission trip to Lotts Creek. Flyers to present at the restaurant will be made available later in May.

**Women's Book Club:** All gatherings are at the church at 7 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

**May 19:** Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewell

**June 16:** Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

Come to worship next Sunday - Mother's Day (May 11) and hear the beautiful music of the handbell choir for the last time before summer.

**Pastor**

Rev. Kearstin Bailey

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**Christian Ed Director**

Mary Karlovec

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**Music Director**

Barb Habecker

<https://www.facebook.com/firstconguccnr>

**This Week's Events**

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| Today  | Outreach meeting, 9 am<br>Worship service, communion, clanging change collection, 10:30 am<br>Family game day, after worship service |
| May 6  | CE meeting, 7 pm<br>Trustees meeting, 7 pm   |
| May 7  | Handbell choir practice, 6:30 pm / Choir practice, 7:30 pm   |
| May 11 | Mother's Day<br>Worship service, 10:30 am<br>Fellowship hour, after worship service  |



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