Sixth Sunday of Easter
Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 22, 2022

Rev. Jennifer Amy-Dressler

Congregation is invited to respond as indicated in **bold**

* Please stand as you are able

Prelude

Welcome

* **Song**

“People, Rise Up”

* Sharing the Peace of Christ

A Time With Kids

Moment for Mission  Strengthen the Church
A Time of Prayer
Sharing Our Joys and Concerns
A Time of Personal Prayer
A Time of Responsive Prayer

"God, in your grace,"
"You hear our prayer."

Graduate Recognition
Introductions
Song

“A Mother Lined a Basket”

1. A moth-er lined a bas-ket to keep her ba- by dry,
2. A moth-er sewed a jack-et lined in the soft- est wool,
3. A moth-er laid her ba- by in man- ger lined with straw;
4. Like Joche-bed and Han-nah, and Ma- ry, too, we know

then rocked him on a riv- er, lest he a- wake and cry.
then dressed her lit- tle boy-child, her cup of bless- ing full.
then, in the shep- herd’s sto- ry, his call from God fore- saw.
the hard- est part of lov- ing is learn- ing to let go.

She let a prin- cess name him her son that he might live.
She brought him to the tem- ple where he would serve and live.
She nur- tured him and taught him the way that he must live.
So when we send our chil- dren out in the world to live,

God’s peo- ple had a lead- er. She had such hope to give.
God’s peo- ple had a proph- et. She had such faith to give.
God’s peo- ple had a sav- ior. She had such love to give.
grant us such hope and faith, God, and love e- nough to give.

Blessing

Scripture
Acts 16:9-15

Reflection
Visions and Dreams

Scripture
John 5:1-9

Reflection
Perseverance

A Time of Offering
Invitation
Offertory

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Invitation
Eucharistic Prayer, including The Prayer Jesus Taught:

Our Father, who is in heaven: hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup
(This is an appropriate time for you to prepare your own elements.)
Sharing the Bread and the Cup
Prayer of Thanks

* Song (next page)  “Dream God’s Dream”

Announcements
Blessing
Postlude


Those assisting with worship:
Anne Badger, piano
Dave McClure, reader
Dawn Haggard, coffee hour
Jenn Martin Olsen and Heather Francis, counters of our gifts
Dee Dressler, Donna Martin, Mike Thorp, Mary Malinsky,
Sarah Reckmeyer, Sharon Karasti, tech team

Sophia Engel graduated from Minonk Cooperative Preschool and will enter kindergarten in the fall as a Fieldcrest Knight
Michael Serna graduated from Ottawa Township High School
Liam Lindig graduated from American Musical and Dramatic Academy focusing on musical theater
Natalie Lindig graduated from Illinois State University
Jenn Martin Olsen graduated from Phillips Seminary (DOC) with a Certificate of Pastoral Ministry

Congratulations and good luck in your future!
Dream God's dream! Holy
Spirit, help us dream of a world where there is
justice and where everyone is free to
build and grow and love, and to simply have e-
ough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.

1. I'm dreaming of a world where the color of one's
2. I'm dreaming of the call God is offering to
3. I'm dreaming of the way that I want my life to

skin will mean less than what's within the person's heart.
me, how to use my energy and my best gifts;
go, I've got hope and I've got goals I'd like to meet.

A world where water's clean and when
to do the work of Christ to say
I'm reaching for the stars, but I

air is safe to breathe. And every child
God, please use my life to spread Your healing
won't forget the scars of Christ who died to

born has enough to eat. Your dream.
love and to live Your truth.
show that the dream's for all.
Welcome to Open Table United Church of Christ!

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, YOU are welcome here.

Welcome to Open Table United Church of Christ. We are an open table where all are welcome. We celebrate diversity, nourish and serve others, work for justice, and grow together in faith through the teachings of Jesus Christ and the voice of the still-speaking God.

Open Table UCC continues to ask those coming into the church building to remain socially distant from staff and others present who are not from their household, wearing a mask is optional. We are offering hybrid worship, meaning you are welcome to come to in person worship or join us through Zoom in the comfort of your home, with the exception of the last Sunday of the month which is a Zoom only offering.

Today, we will share the meal of Holy Communion. At Open Table UCC, we celebrate an open table where all are invited to eat the bread and drink the wine or juice as we remember the life and death and resurrection of Jesus and offer thanksgiving for God’s amazing love. If you are worshiping from home, please gather some bread, crackers, water, juice or whatever you have at hand.

We hope you find our church family warm and welcoming, and that you experience worship as meaningful and spiritually uplifting. We are an Open and Affirming congregation, and we take seriously our commitment to create a worshiping community where ALL people feel welcome, affirmed, and valued. Please stay and join us after worship for an opportunity for fellowship. And please, when you are ready, share with us your contact information so that we can keep you up-to-date on all the exciting things happening at Open Table UCC!

Today

10:00 a.m.  Hybrid Worship
11:00 a.m.  Fellowship Hour
6:00 p.m.  Book Study

5/23 - Monday
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  Music Lessons
5/24 - Tuesday
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  Pastor's Office Hours
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  Youth Outlook
5/25 - Wednesday
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Pastor's Office Hours
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Music Lessons
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  Music Lessons
5/27 - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  Music Lessons
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  Music Lessons
5/29 - Sunday
10:00 a.m.  Zoom Worship
11:00 p.m.  Fellowship Hour
2:30 p.m.  Ottawa PFLAG
6:00 p.m.  Book Study

5/30 - Monday  Office Closed - Happy Memorial Day
5/31 - Tuesday
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  Pastor's Office Hours
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  Youth Outlook
6/1 - Wednesday
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Pastor's Office Hours
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  Music Lessons
4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  Choir Party
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  Music Lessons
Ten burgundy candles on the worship table are in memory of those who lost their lives at the shooting at the Tops grocery store in Buffalo, New York, last weekend -- real people with real lives and names:

- Roberta A. Drury, 32, of Buffalo
- Andre Mackniel, 53, of Auburn, New York
- Geraldine Talley, 62, of Buffalo
- Heyward Patterson, 67, of Buffalo
- Pearl Young, 77, of Buffalo
- Margus D. Morrison, 52, of Buffalo
- Aaron Salter, 55, of Lockport, New York
- Celestine Chaney, 65, of Buffalo
- Katherine Massey, 72, of Buffalo
- Ruth Whitfield, 86, of Buffalo

Three smaller candles represent those wounded:
- Zaire Goodman, 20, of Buffalo
- Jennifer Warrington, 50, of Tonawanda, New York
- Christopher Braden, 55, of Lackawanna, New York

A separate red candle burns in memory of those who have died of Covid-19, and those who mourn them.

Our May Mission of the Month is Strengthen the Church, building up the UCC by providing the financial resources to be a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given to support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry and innovation: all strategies needed as we work through this current challenge and beyond. Gifts given to Strengthen the Church Renew the United Church of Christ! When sharing your gift please write STC in the memo section of your check, if giving online through our website ("Donate") or Facebook page ("Learn More"), make a note in the memo or notes section that the donation is for STC.

Book Study continues this evening at 6:00 p.m., join using the link below.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83747077903?pwd=OHovM UdWRmtsNlVaNDBQa0dT UlxZz09
Meeting ID: 837 4707 7903  Passcode: 752510
One tap mobile: +13126266799,,83747077903#,,,,*752510#
Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 837 4707 7903  Passcode: 752510

OTUCC choir is currently on break and will meet again in June to practice for the Ottawa Family Pride Festival performance.

Zoom Bible Study is on break for the summer.

Our Annual Meeting is Pentecost Sunday - June 5 - after worship. We invite you to join us as Leadership Table presents the last year in review, we'll vote on a proposed budget for the upcoming year and new leadership slate.

We do enjoy fellowship time after worship! If you are willing to host, even just coffee and lemonade, please sign up at the church or contact Wendy in the office. It would be especially nice to be able to have a little something on June 5 between worship and Annual Meeting.
We have been having an issue with people illegally dumping into our garbage dumpster. This prompted us to have a lock put on by Republic, now when the garbage is taken out you will need a key to unlock the dumpster, the key is attached to a purple key tag in the kitchen cupboard closest to the telephone.

The office will be closed Monday May 30 in observance of Memorial Day. Please have a safe holiday weekend as you remember loved ones who gave all. Maybe walk around downtown and look at the new banners holding pictures of local heroes.

For the month of May, PFLAG Ottawa meets Sunday May 29, the fifth Sunday of the month, from 2:30 until 4:00 p.m. At the meeting, Sarah Reckmeyer will give a special presentation about the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Two panels of the AIDS Quilt will be displayed in the sanctuary of Open Table Church during the Ottawa Family Pride Festival in June. In June and beyond, PFLAG Ottawa will return to its usual meeting date on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The NAMES Project Aids Memorial Quilt is coming to Open Table UCC and we need your help in hosting the display here at the church:

- Friday, June 3 and 10, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 4 and 11, from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 5 and 12, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sign-up for 1 hour time slots to monitor the sanctuary space making sure no one touches the Quilt and to help insure the space is respected. There will also be information provided to share about the Quilt.

**Reminder: Next Sunday worship is Zoom only.**

The sound of rushing wind. A fire spreading with all-consuming speed. A forceful energy that envelopes a crowd. Like a rock concert, a sporting event or even ...a worship service? Do you remember what a "full house" on Sunday morning felt like? The electric experience of a gathered crowd, close together, both giving and receiving as all share in the presence of something larger than themselves? We celebrate Pentecost each year and recall the birthday of the Church, when the message caught fire and spread beyond a small group of people and began to literally transform the world. That’s a worthy celebration, but what might happen if we acknowledge, this Pentecost Sunday, that the holy fire still burns in, through, and around us?

We crave interaction with others. Gathering in community makes that happen. With the great realignment well underway -- people moving to new communities and new jobs during the pandemic - congregations everywhere have a chance to re-form, to re-imagine, and re-create com- munity, welcoming new folks into their midst like never before! Just like the first Pentecost, our neighbors are eager, so we must engage! In the South Central Conference that looks like a church plant with the mission to revitalize an urban
neighborhood and fight gentrification by offering micro-loans to local entrepreneurs. It looks like a church leveraging technology to spread the gospel on a schedule that meets young families at convenient times in busy lives. And another congregation stands as a beacon of hope and the lone progressive Christian voice in a growing community where new folks are connecting with them weekly.

These are a few examples of what can happen when we're all together in one place. As you give to Strengthen the Church this Pentecost Sunday, may you receive the Spirit's fire and share it with boldness and innovation, too! All Together, our offerings will empower leaders, engage communities, and shape spaces that will change lives.

Rev. Phil Hodson  
Conference Minister  
South Central Conference, United Church of Christ

Office Hours: Mon. and Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Tues. - Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Phone: 815-433-0771  
Email: office@opentableottawa.org  
Address: 910 Columbus St., Ottawa, IL 61350  
OTUCC Website: www.uccottawa.org  
Facebook: Open Table UCC Ottawa  
Pastor's Office Hours:  
Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
pastor@opentableottawa.org

Open Table UCC  
Annual Meeting  
Sunday, June 5 after worship  
Please make every effort to attend, we will vote on new leadership and the proposed budget.