

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY

MAY 24, 2020 ☪ II:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

WITH THE COUNCIL OF CONFERENCE MINISTERS OF THE UCC



WE CENTER OURSELVES ON GOD

↑An invitation to stand ↓An invitation to sit
Congregational Responses are in **bold**.
Please silence all mobile devices.

GATHERING MUSIC

“Shall We Gather At The River”

Lowry

WORDS OF WELCOME

MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY

PRELUDE MEDITATION

“Glorious”

MaMuse

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”

~ Pope John Paul II~

CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsive

When we feel isolated and alone, O God, your word comes to us:

I will not leave you orphaned.

When we face an uncertain future, the Bible reminds us:

We walk by faith, not by sight.

When we are scared and anxious, we hear your whisper:

Be not afraid for I am with you.

We come to this time of worship remembering the promises of our God,
strengthened in hope and saturated with holy Love:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER

An Easter Prayer for When the Flower Fades

PRAYER OF LAMENT FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted:

**We lift up the hearts of those who see tomorrow not as a joyous celebration
but a painful reminder of sorrow and loss.**

Let us not forget that each life lost represents other lives that are left to pick up the
pieces:

**We lift up the widows and widowers, brothers and sisters, parents and
children who grieve asking for your peace and comfort to never leave them.**

Give strength we pray, and comfort those who have lost family or friends in public
service, ---each one loved greatly:

**Service to country, --- Service to people. -----Protecting God-given rights and
preserving freedoms.**

We recall the teaching of Jesus that greater love has no one than to lay down one's life
for others:

**May love, service, and compassion be the fruit of our hearts: -----Love of
God, -----Love of Neighbor.**

Let us cherish, nurture, and handle with care the freedom for which they fought and
died:

May we remember to pray for everyone, including those in leadership positions, so that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives, avoiding the atrocities of war.

With thankful hearts let us remember their sacrifice:

May we always seek justice, behave compassionately, and walk humbly with God and others remembering that we are one human race. We are all created by YOU, Great Creator, no person or nation greater than the other.

May their memory and their service, never be forgotten:

Let us remember them by also following Your command to serve others, especially the least amongst us; ---- the oppressed and marginalized; ----those without a voice and those who struggle with inner conflict

We lament our turning from your great commands O God:

Failing to love one another and causing You pain, rejecting Your gifts of life and love in so many ways.

We seek your forgiveness, again and again:

Again and again, you welcome us home, embracing us in Your love so that we too can truly love.

Loving God, creation, others and even ourselves so that life may fully exist, so that we build one another up as Christ taught us:

Come now, under the wings of love. Come now, into the warmth of love.

You are forgiven, you are loved, precious child of the Great Comforter!

Amen

~ Silence is kept ~

LORD'S PRAYER

Unison

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 and ever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Easter People, Raise Your Voices”

James/Smart

WE LISTEN AND REFLECT

CHILDREN'S TIME

"Nightlights"

CCM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 17:22-31

Lector CCM: Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, [and] so they would search for God and perhaps grope for [God] and find [God] —though indeed [God] is not far from each [and every] one of us. For "In [God] we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are [God's] offspring." Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now [God] commands all people everywhere to repent, because [God] has fixed a day on which [God] will have the [whole] world judged in righteousness by a man whom [God] has appointed, and of this [God] has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

MESSAGE

THINGS CHANGE, GOD DOESN'T!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Believe"

Miller

WE GO IN PEACE

↓BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"

Hopper/Gould

WE DEPART TO SERVE



5

Simple Things *You Can Do*

to make the world a better place for people with mental illnesses and their families

1 Be a friend

Provide companionship and compassion on the road toward recovery. Offer a ride to church or to a local support group. Listen without judgement. Pray for those you know with mental illnesses and for their family members.

2 Be an inspiration

Share your story. Has mental illness impacted you or your family in some way? Your story may empower others to seek treatment or have hope.

3 Watch your language

Pay attention to the words you use and avoid stigmatizing labels. Do not refer to people as "crazy," "psycho," "lunatic" or "mental."

4 Be a "Stigma-Buster"

Challenge negative attitudes toward mental illness among your friends and acquaintances and in the media.

5 Learn the facts

Educate yourself about the various mental illnesses. Attend a lecture or class or use the Internet. Good places to start include the National Alliance on Mental Illness, www.nami.org and the National Institute of Mental Health, www.nimh.nih.gov.



Did you know...?

Mental illnesses are medical conditions.

Research has shown that mental illness has a biological basis. Mental illnesses are brain disorders associated with changes in the brain's structure, chemistry and function, which in turn affects how a person thinks, feels and acts.

One in every four adults is affected by mental illness.

The National Institute of Mental Health reports that one in four adults in the U.S. experiences some kind of mental health disorder in a given year. However, the main burden of illness is concentrated in a much smaller proportion. Approximately 1 in 17 Americans, or about 13.6 million people, live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder.

Stigma prevents many people from seeking treatment.

Approximately 60 percent of adults and almost one-half of youth ages 8 to 15 with a mental illness received no mental health services in the previous year. In some locations, services simply are not available or are not affordable to the people who need them. In many cases, people avoid treatment because of the fear of stigma.

Treatment works and recovery is possible.

There is no "cure" for mental illness, but with effective treatment (which may include medication, therapy, other services and support), most people experience relief from their symptoms and live productive, fulfilling lives.

Most people with mental illness are not violent.

The most common form of violence by those who have mental illness is violence against themselves. People with serious mental illnesses are far more likely to be victims of violent crime than perpetrators of it.

UCC Mental Health Network

<http://mhn-ucc.blogspot.com>

Explores mental health and addiction through the lens of our Christian faith. Weekly posts about how our personal experiences affect our lives and how our spirituality supports our journey. Connecting those living with a mental health or addiction disorder and those on the journey with someone who does.

Mental Health Ministries

www.mentalhealthministries.net

Provides educational resources to help erase the stigma of mental illness in our faith communities.

The Caring Clergy Project website

www.caringclergyproject.org

Offers videos and other resources designed specifically for faith community leaders.

NAMI FaithNet

www.nami.org/FaithNet

A network of members and friends of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. It was established to help faith communities develop non-threatening, supportive environment for those with serious mental illness and their families. Subscribe to their free newsletter and explore their newsletter archives for many insightful articles about faith and mental illness.

Pathways to Promise

www.pathways2promise.org

An interfaith cooperative that provides assistance and resources, including liturgical and educational materials, program models and caring ministry with people experiencing a mental illness and their families.

The Congregational Resource Guide

www.mentalhealthministries.net/resources/faith_group_resources.html

An extensive and fully annotated list of more than 60 mental health ministry resources, including books and videos.

The Interfaith Network on Mental Illness

www.interfaithnetworkonmentalillness.org

Aims to increase awareness and understanding of mental illness among clergy, staff, lay leaders and members of faith communities and help them more effectively develop and nurture supportive environments for persons dealing with mental illnesses and their families and friends.

This resource guide was edited and designed by Joanne Kelly, member of the UCC Mental Health Network and cofounder of the Interfaith Network on Mental Illness.

NOTICES

Prayer Needs: Kelly Bedard, Holly Bell, Linda Cantilena, Derrice Combs, Kim Cook, Ruth Dwyer, Elan Foutch, Mike Heyser, Jeanne France Hvidding, Ann Kalinoski, Anne Kaylor, Mike Lorfing, David Ridenour, Scherry Sellers, Diana Shafer, Staci Shafer, Kathy Wallech.

Happy Birthday! Kristin Grosh's is the 28th, Scott Rhodes' is the 29th.

Records from the week of Sunday, May 17: Donations: \$8,590.00 (General Fund: \$3,265.00; Christian Ed.: \$10.00; Micah's Backpack: \$100.00; Mac & Helen Morton Memorial: \$5,000.00; Ridenour Memorial: \$215.00.) YouTube Online Service Views: 246 in March, 331 in April, 135 so far in May. There were 26 views last week.

Never miss a Sunday sermon! When you can't make it to church you can still watch the sermon. Go to our YouTube channel "Zion Reformed UCC." Streaming of the Sunday worship service begins at 11:00 am but you can view the videos of past services anytime.

Memorial Day Blessings to you and your family, please be safe as you commemorate this special civil observance and remember to continue practicing social distancing measures and guidelines specific to the coronavirus pandemic. Your health matters to us!

Summer Schedule Begins May 31st! Sunday Worship will begin at 10:00 am from this date through Labor Day. Remember when in-person services resume that there are no Sunday School classes during the summer schedule.

STAFF

Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Rev. Katie Penick, Interim Minister (240)418-8028; Susan Younkins, Church Administrator/Financial Recording Secretary; Lisa Saum, Treasurer; Claire Marie Moblard, Director of Music/Organist; Byron L. Stay, Choir Director.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this congregation is to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to celebrate the sacraments, to share Christian fellowship and unity within the congregation and the community, to render loving service toward all people, to strive for righteousness, justice and peace, and to grow in spirit and in membership. (Adapted from 1987/Approved Nov. 7, 2000)

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Mental Health Sunday: Written and spoken by Rev Brigit Stevens (Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences). All rights reserved, used with permission.

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Call To Worship: Written by Rev Lynn Bujnak (Vermont Conference) based on John 14:18a, II Corinthians 5:7, and Isaiah 43:5. Spoken by Rev David Popham (Hawaii Conference) and Rev Franz Rigert (Wisconsin Conference). All rights reserved, used with permission.

Lament for Memorial Day: Arranged by Michael Jones. Adapted from “A Memorial Day Prayer” and “13 Folds” by SkitGuys.com, and based on Matthew 5:4, John 15:13, Matthew 7:12, 1 Timothy 2:1-2 and Micah 6:8. Spoken by Michael Jones of Connections Six Eight UCC and Rae Smith of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved, used with permission.

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New Testament Lesson Lectors: Rev John Vertigan (Florida Conference) and Rev Chad Abbott (Indiana Kentucky Conference) reading from the NRSV Bible. All rights reserved, used with permission.

Message: "Things Change. God Doesn't." Written by Rev Marilyn Kendrix (Southern New England Conference). Preached by Rev Don Remick (Southern New England Conference), Rev Marilyn Kendrix (Southern New England Conference), and Rev Kent Siladi (Southern New England Conference). All rights reserved, used with permission.

Special Music: "I Believe". Lyrics based on an anonymous Jewish poem. Tune/Arrangement by Mark A. Miller, ©2012 by Choristers Guild. Performed by Chancel Choir, Christ Church, Summit NJ. Directed by Mark Miller, Minister of Music. Video edited by Jeff Shook. All rights reserved, used with permission of composer.

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