



Spring Creek United Church of Christ

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2024

We are an Open and Affirming, God-is still-speaking Congregation.

We embrace our diversity to make a divine difference together.

Wherever you are on life's journey, there is a place of welcome for you here.

Welcome to Spring Creek United Church of Christ!

3rd Sunday after Epiphany– January 21, 2024

*(Please stand as you are comfortable, at the places marked *)*

Meditation: "The Silver Trumpet"-Martin

Musician

Welcome

Pastor David

Hymn NCH 502, *Dear God, Embracing Humankind*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

*Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 62:5-12)

Come, let us proclaim

God is our rock and salvation.

Let us trust in God

And pour out our hearts.

For God is our refuge,

Our source of steadfast love.

Prelude "One Small Child"-Meece/Ijames (arr.)

Vocal Choir

***Gathering Prayer**

Worship Leader/People

We gather together, eager to listen and discern your Word, ready to learn from the stories of our faith, and prepared to grow from the lessons learned. Humbly, we offer our hearts and hands to serve you with love. Amen.

Confession

O God, we confess

We often walk our own path but fail to see flowers about to bloom.

We fail to look up and see the glory of birds in flight.

We paddle our own boat but fail to see a whale about to breach.

We miss your heavens reflected in the ever-changing blue waves.

We are numb to your call tugging on our hearts.

Forgive us, O God.

Help us to clear a path toward you.

Help us to release our grasp on the rudder to your boat.

Open our souls to the promise of your love.

Grant us courage to come and see.

Grant us faith to follow.

Amen.

***Prayers of the People**

Pastor David

***Lord's Prayer**

Pastor David/ People

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. Amen.

Hymn NCH 393, *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*, verses 1, 2, and 3

Acceptance and Welcome of New Members

Invitation and Introduction

Pastor

Reading: (adapted from John 15) – “I am the vine, you are the branches.” **Moderator**

Hear the words of Jesus:

I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Questions for Candidates

Pastor and Candidates

Welcome

Moderator and People

Moderator: Let us, the members of Spring Creek United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Moderator and People: We welcome you with joy to the life and mission of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers and look forward to sharing in the hopes and work of the church, as we grow together in faith.

Greeting of Christian Love

Pastor

Hymn NCH 504, *You Walk along Our Shoreline*, verses 1, 2, and 3.

Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

Worship Leader

3 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Sermon “Follow Me”

Pastor David

Hymn NCH 173, *You Have Come down to the Lakeshore*, all verses

Today's loose offering will be credited to church operations.

Offering: "Tempus Adest Floridum" -Traditional/Wiltse (arr.)	Bell Choir
*Offertory Response	(tune of Old Hundredth)
Congregation	

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

Prayer of Dedication	Pastor David
Announcements	Worship Leader
Lighting Candles for Peace	Pastor David
Benediction	Pastor David
<i>Postlude:</i> "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"-Walther	Musician

NCH – New Century Hymnal *The Pilgrim Press*

Pastor: David Sheridan	Production: Bob Tissot, Josh Hill
Musician: Tom Stein	
Worship Leader: Larry Hartzell	Ushers: Phil Floor & Larry Hartzell
Music: Deb Floor	

Prayer Requests

- We pray for **Leslie Carr**, who passed away December 27, and for **Mike and their family**.
- We pray for **Larry Hartzell's sister, Connie**, who is recovering from removal of both kidneys, and awaiting a transplant.
- We pray for **Vicki and Jim Crone**, as they await Vicki's test results concerning her health issues, and possible treatment.
- We pray for **Liz Schultz's** friend, **Mary**, and her sister, **Kathy**, who has been battling cancer for years, and now appears to have no more treatment options. We pray for Kathy's husband, **George and their family**.
- We pray for **Liz Schultz's** friend **Vicki**, whose 28-year old cousin died from suicide. We pray **for the entire family**.
- We pray for **Dan Mugavero** who has been readmitted to the hospital.
- We pray for **Larry and Laurice Hartzell's** dear friend **Lynette**, who had successful brain surgery to remove a tumor.
- We pray for **Gail**, a friend of **Ann Patel and Kathy Blosser**, who has now entered hospice care.

- Prayers for **Liz & Brent Schultz's friend** & long-time neighbor, **Shawn**, who has been diagnosed with ALS, and for his wife and six kids and their families.
- We pray for **Phil Adkins**, who continues to suffer with cardiovascular problems.
- We pray for **Todd**, brother-in-law of Pastor David and Leslie, who continues cancer treatment.
- We pray for **Virginia**, Pastor David's sister, who has been suffering from complications of COPD and Covid.



No Anniversaries

Birthday: Joanne Buss – 01/26

Attendance

12/31-46

01/07-45

1/14-5

Pastor David's Office Hours -- Wednesdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
or call the office for an appointment.

Emergency: 815/299-8263

Church Office hours –

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.