

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

September 7, 2014

Rally Sunday

Those who are able may stand where marked (*).

Gathering Music "This Little of Mine"

1. *This little light of mine;*
2. *Hide it under a bushel? NO!*
3. *Up on the mountaintop;*
4. *Out in the big wide world;*
5. *This little light of mine.*

Welcome and Announcements and Opening Prayer *Kim Smith*

Prelude and Ministry of the Acolyte

Responsive Reading: *Psalm 148*

One: "Thank you, God! You're wonderful!"
the angels sing in heaven.

**All: "Thank you, God! You're strong and good!"
sun, moon and stars join in.**

One: "Thank you, God, amazing God,
Creator of this awesome word!"

**All: "Thank you, God, for all
that your abundant love has made!"**

One: Look at the ocean, wide and deep;
it stays right where you put it.

**All: Big fish and little fish, crabs, whales and shrimp—
the oceans abound with your creatures.**

One: Summer rain, winter snow, wind and hail obey your voice,
mountains, valleys, apple trees
and pines that reach the sky!

**All: Bears, coyotes, cats and cows,
snakes and spiders, sparrows, eagles.**

One: Mighty rulers, simple folks,
men and women, girls and boys say

**All: "Thank you God! You're wonderful!
Thank you. Thank you! Thank you!!"**

*Hymn (*insert*) "We Are the Church"

Blessing of Those Who Teach

Children's Time 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Confession: **Great and Loving One, we are weak and proud. We injure one another out of willfulness and fear. We are slow to admit our need for you, and slower still to serve you. And still you invite us, whenever we're ready, to crawl into your lap and be loved. Out of your tender, abundant heart, you offer us forgiveness and a brand new start. Help us, Great and Loving God, to accept your forgiveness and rejoice in your kindness, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon and Gloria Patri #813

* Statement of Faith (*inside front cover of hymnal*)

Special Music

Moments of Concern and Celebration (please fill out a blue card)
Pastoral Prayer and Savior's Prayer ("trespasses")

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory and (*)Doxology #815 with Offertory Prayer

Scripture Matthew 18:1-5

Sermon "Welcome Home!"

*Hymn #87 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion *see insert*

*Hymn #185 "Jesus Loves Me"

*Benediction

*Response #764 "The Trees of the Field"

*Ministry of the Acolyte and Postlude

*We offer our thanks to Maeghan Clark
who is bringing us our special music today.*