

St. Martin United Church of Christ
Sunday, January 8, 2017
Dean Emmert, Music Director

**All that are able please stand at asterisk*

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

ONE: It is God's Spirit that calls us to this place.

MANY: **To offer God our prayers, our praise, our hearts and our lives of faith.**

ONE: Let this time of worship inspire us, inform us, challenge us, transform us, empower us and move us to deeper faith.

MANY: **May God speak to us in our thinking, in our discernment, in our silence, in our reflection and in our praying.**

ONE: Let us offer God all we have and all we bring.

MANY: **That God may bless us. That God may deepen our faith. That God may create in us new Spirit and commitment.**

ONE: May our worship raise us up to new heights and new vision.

MANY: **That when we are filled with God's Creative Spirit, we will be empowered to do amazing ministry as God's people.**

***Hymn of Adoration "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" #48**

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious, God, we begin a New Year full of hope, promise and expectation. We tend to look back, be weighed down by our past actions and living and feel burdened by our struggles and wanderings. We turn to You, searching for your grace, forgiveness and offer of new life. Accept and love us as we are, God, yet give us a vision of who we can be. Set our sights on what your future offers to us. Fill us with your Spirit, that we might be open to where you lead, guide and direct us. Make us a hopeful people that despite how life comes to us, we continue to look, focus and move forward. May the assurance of your love, your grace and your forgiveness be sufficient to make us new persons in the Spirit of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Give to us the power of your Good News that we may be renewed and live lives of faith, hope and promise.

Words of Assurance

The promises of God are true and can be trusted. God receives us as we are yet expects and empowers us to be changed, transformed and become new persons in the Spirit of Christ. The past is the past: ...we are forgiven ...we are loved ...we are given new life. We give thanks to God for this life-changing gift

I am thankful for

Greetings and Extravagant Welcome

Children's Time "Jesus Loves Me" Jesus Teaches Us to Share

Prayer Hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer" #478

Prayer of the People

Pastor: Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

Worshiping the Lord with Tithes and Offerings

*** Offering Response "Give Thanks"**

***Offertory Prayer**

Choral Selection

St. Martin Choir

The Written Word:

Mark 2:1-5

The Spoken Word "Do You Have a Hole-in-the Roof Spirit"

Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders

***Departing Hymn "How Firm a Foundation"" #411**

Pastoral Benediction

Commission and Blessing

ONE: We seek to be like the friends of the paralyzed man, who sought, Jesus.

MANY: **Not knowing exactly how to get their friend to Jesus, yet open to God's Creative Spirit in their midst**

ONE: We depart this day never fully knowing how God is at work in our lives yet remaining open to when and how God's Creative Spirit comes to us.

MANY: Let us not give up when we have challenges, hardships and symbolic blocked doors.

ONE: For God's Creative Spirit will help us to have that Hole-in-the-Roof Spirit that will get us where God wants us to be.

MANY: Do not let blocked doors have the final power. May God's Creative Spirit lead to holes in the roof and to new ways of being God's people and being God's church.

Threefold Amen

Postlude

In our Thoughts and Prayers - *Please Remember These People in Prayer:*
Karen Boemler, Virginia Ahlvers, Mary Ann Potthoff, Barbara Eckhardt, Sheila Zagari, Judy Cope, Rita Watterson, Della Lang, and Curtis Israel.

LEADERS TODAY		9:30 am
Ushers:	Marie Gates	
Reader: Don Self		Greeter: Fred Dishner
Nursery: Diana Ross		Children's Church: Meredith
Attendance for January 1, 2017 9:30 AM.		

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The URL of the St. Martin's Website is <http://www.stmartin-ucc-hr.50webs.com>

(Churchline and Bulletins are available for viewing/download in PDF format.)

Please sign your name in the green folder, pass it down the pew for everyone to sign, tear off sheet and place the sheet in the offering plate. If you have a suggestion or a question for Council, please leave a note in the suggestion box located in the narthex.

HIS WEEK: January 8– January 14

Today	9:30AM	Worship with Communion Children's Church
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
	8:20 AM	Fellowship Hour
Next Sunday	9:30AM	Worship & Children's Church
	11:00 PM	Lunch & Congregational Mtg

SANCTUARY FLOWERS In honor of Jane's birthday from Mom & Dad.

BULLETINS – Not sponsored

WELCOME AND THANK YOU TO our guest minister. Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders is a retired UCC clergy; he is the former Conference Minister of the South Central Conference serving there for nine years. He is a Missouri Mid-South Conference Search & Call Steward. When the Search Committee is appointed, he will be working directly with the Search Committee assisting them in their work searching for a new Pastor. He retired in July 2015, having served the UCC for 36 years. He is a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary: 1980-Master of Divinity – 2015 Doctor of Divinity.

CHURCH ENVELOPES – Please pick up your envelope box for 2016 in the narthex. If you do not see your name and want envelopes, please contact Esther McNamee.

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING --NEXT SUNDAY – January 15th - Lunch will be served by the Men's fellowship with the annual meeting at 12 noon. Please make every effort to attend.

BLANKET DRIVE The Confirmands and Sunday School Kids are collecting new blankets or lightly used blankets on January 8, 15, 22 and 29. for Feed My People.

NURSERY - Nursery is now available for children to go to immediately following children's time.

DONATION – You can donate to the church on our website <http://stmartin-ucc-hr.50webs.com> through the Paypal program. Click on “donation” tab and make your contribution to the current, or memorial, fund.

SCHNUCK'S SCRIPTS- are now available from Gary Malone. St. Martin receives 1-3% profit from this fundraising effort.

SHOP N' SAVE- scripts are available from Ginger. St. Martin receives 5% profit from this fundraising effort.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY-8) Jane Small, 10) Forest Downer, 11) Pam Bauer, 13) Shirley Ogden, Mary Patrick, John Cole, 14) Brittney Huck.