



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

Message from our Moderator

Dear Central,

I hope this message finds you well, enveloped in the Hope, Peace, Joy space of Advent we are now in. I would like to share two important "transition planning" outputs of Central's Council, Boards, and Committees that will begin in 2024:

- Welcoming Jess Cusick, our supply minister, on January 2nd
- Introducing our new worship service, *First Worship* (9:00 am), on January 7th

Welcoming Jess Cusick

I am delighted to share that Sunday worship and our pastoral care team will be supported by a part-time *Supply Minister* – Jess Cusick- who you will see in our pulpit twice a month during our "bridge" period (approximately January through April). Those who attended worship service via Zoom on December 17th had the chance to speak and Zoom chat with her! Please make time to meet and welcome Jess her first month during Coffee, Tea, and Conversation after she preaches on January 7th and 21st. You can watch Jess' short video intro here: Meet Jess! (https://youtu.be/I_kYSi7XjyA)

First Worship - a 9:00 am service



The first Sunday of January (7th) will begin with Central's *new* service - *First Worship* - at 9:00 am. *First Worship* is an intimate and contemplative service, enabled by simple worship elements, where communion is celebrated each week. Conversations about Central's early service began with some regularity earlier this year. Insights from planning around the pastoral transition supported the idea that the time is right to introduce something new to Central and our larger community.

Dear friends, so much change! I am thinking now of Rev. Thomas' sermon from December 3rd, where he so eloquently described the multi-phase nature of our transition while acknowledging the emotional dimensions that accompany such journeys. For those who may have missed it, it is available [here](https://youtu.be/FdgwY9VfHFo) (<https://youtu.be/FdgwY9VfHFo>). Updates on Central's transition activity will continue to be sent via email. We also have created a transition webpage, which you can visit anytime to get a sense of where we are in the process, answer FAQs, and more. Visit: central-ucc.org/transition (<https://central-ucc.org/transition>)

-Denise Chiavetta
Moderator