

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Rainbow Sunday
September 11, 2022

*** Some rise to their feet, some rise in their hearts—please rise as you are able.***

GATHERING BELL

At the sound of the bell, please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Let All Things Now Living (Ash Grove), arr Lloyd Larson

Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Paul Ashby

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**Whoever you are...and wherever you are on life's journey...
you are welcome here!**

OPENING REFLECTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Kristen Seiff

Some of us were raised to believe the point of religion is to feel absolutely miserable.

If you do not feel like a guilty worm – how do you get right with God?

Did not God create all of life and declare it was good – yes, even your life?

Help us to accept our goodness and God-ness as children of God.

That is just going half-way. The goodness of our Rainbow God celebrates the diversity of life in every aspect of creation.

Inspire us to be joyful people who celebrate the beauty of God in every color, shape, size and life.

**HYMN NCH 402

De Colores (Sing of Colors)

All

Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills in profusion are springing;
Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside my window their canticles singing;
Sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope we recall;
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.

Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.
Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares, who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Respond to each shared prayer request with "Peace, Shalom, Salaam."

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Kristen

OFFERTORY

Shalom Chaverim, arr John Carter

Martha

**DOXOLOGY (tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*)

All

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Kristen

Rainbow God, we are in awe of the gifts of creation. This universe and tiny blue planet is not ugly, flat, gray, or boring. You invite us to the party and parade that is life itself. For that, we say thank you. Amen.

**HYMN SPP 123

Draw the Circle Wide

All

Refrain

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

God the still point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. *refrain*

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. *refrain*

Let the dreams we dream be larger than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, opening every door. *refrain*

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9:8-13, Luke 11:33-36

Kristen

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

"No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness. Therefore consider whether the light in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays."

MESSAGE

A Rainbow Faith is a Joyful Faith

Paul

**HYMN NCH #39, vs. 1,2,3,5

In the Midst of New Dimensions

All

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? *Refrain*

As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams. *Refrain*

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again. *Refrain*

****BENEDICTION**

****UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION**

World Peace Prayer

All

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe!

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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev Paul Ashby
Kristen Seiff
Martha Jones

Pastoral Care

To call Pastor Paul:

- **His cell phone, 970-793-8638. [Paul prefers calls over texts]**
- *His extension at church, 970-242-0298, x104.*
- *Home landline, 970-200-2668. [Paul is always up until midnight, do not be shy about calling late when there is need.]*

To share a prayer request with the congregation, contact Beth Rakestraw, office@uccgj.org or 970-242-0298 x 105. **Deadline for publishing in the Sunday bulletin is Thursday noon.**

FCUCC Staff

senior pastor	revpaulashby@yahoo.com	Rev. Paul Ashby
choir & bell director	topcatkc@aol.com	Karen Caton
custodian		Anna Driggs
office administrator	office@uccgj.org	Beth Rakestraw
volunteer financial clerks	finance@uccgj.org	Nancy Palubicki & Martha Jones
music coordinator		Martha Jones

This Week at FCUCC**September 11 – September 18, 2022**

Sunday 11	9:30	Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	12:00	Pride Parade	Avalon Theater Parking Lot
Monday 12	5:00	Make Mondays Fun	pilgrim
Tuesday 13	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 14	1:00	Through the Bible Study	chapel
	2:00	Mission & Outreach Meeting	chapel
Thursday 15	11:30	Berna B's	Berna B's
	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
Friday 16	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
	6:30	Fellowship of the Grape [FOG]	Woodley residence
Sunday 18	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Church Council	chapel

Church office hours this week: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00.**Save the Dates:**

October 8 | In-Person "Empty Bowls" Fundraiser for Catholic Outreach

October 19- 22 | Friends of the Library Book Sale

October 23 | Fall Sunday Book Study Begins, *Christians Against Christianity, How Right-Wing Evangelicals are Destroying our Nation and Our Faith.*

November 8 | Election Day

November 27 | Advent Begins

December 18 | Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

Christmas Eve is on Saturday this year; Christmas Day on Sunday.

Contact: Beth Rakestraw, Office Administrator, office@uccgj.org

Guest WiFi Access | The name of our guest WiFi is FCUCCguest; the password is “welcomeall.”
Join us for Coffee after worship | You must be current on Covid vaccinations to join us for social events. Persons with underlying health conditions are encouraged to mask for indoor events.

March with Us at the Pride Parade! | **TODAY** | After Worship, join us to walk in this year's 10th Annual Pride Parade! We will be gathering with other parade participants at the parking lot behind the Avalon Theatre, near the corner of 7th and Main. Step off is scheduled for 12 Noon Gay Standard Time [i.e. we might be fashionably late!]. We'll head west on Colorado Ave to 3rd, then up and over to Main Street, then east on Main to 5th. Let's pack the entire route with rainbows!

COVID Update: Bivalent Booster Available Soon | Mesa County Public Health is preparing to offer the new Bivalent COVID-19 Booster vaccine. It has been formulated to fight against the Omicron variants that have spread throughout the U.S. In Mesa County, nearly all of the current COVID-19 cases involve the BA.5 Omicron variant. Visit the MCPH website, or check with your pharmacy to see if the Bivalent COVID-19 Booster is available yet.

Choirs Begin Rehearsing in Music Room | After a summer break, Cantabile Ringers rehearsals begin Tuesday evening September 13 at 5:30 pm. On Sunday, September 18th, the Chancel Choir begins rehearsing in the music room at 9:00 pm. New singers welcome!

Fellowship of the Grape [FOG] | This month's FOG event takes place at the Fruita residence of Larry and Janis Woodley, Friday, September 16, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Bring your favorite wine or alternative beverage and an appetizer to share. Call Janis Woodley or the church office to RSVP and get address and directions.

Mission & Outreach September Collection | This month we will continue to support Child and Migrant Services. We would like to collect icy-hot type patches and other items for muscle pain relief and/or any other items we've been collecting during the summer months, especially individual size Kleenex, hand cleanser, cough/throat drops, and lip balm. We also look forward to meeting the director of CMS, Nellie Garcia, when she visits our church on Sunday, October 8th!

September Collection for Catholic Outreach | “Oodles of noodles, and lotsa’ pasta is our September request ... to help our friends at Catholic Outreach feed all their hungry guests. But please, my friends, no pasta-in-cans, no ravioli, or spaghetti-os, in fact, no spaghetti, canned or dry; they already have lots of those!” The volunteers and pantry and kitchen coordinators at Catholic Outreach – and the many, many people they serve each day – are deeply grateful for our generosity. We're apparently one of the few churches in the Valley that regularly supports their food ministry.

Mission & Outreach Ongoing Collections for Solidarity, Not Charity | We currently collect hotel and personal size toiletries, water/milk jugs with their lids and plastic grocery bags for Solidarity, Not Charity.

Vision & Mission

As a progressive Christian community of faith, we seek to walk with compassion, inclusion, acceptance, bravery and understanding as Jesus did.

We **STRIVE** to:

- ◇ *be a welcoming congregation where you are safe to be who you are.*
- ◇ *be life-long learners that question and challenge each other to grow in faith, thought and*
- ◇ *actions.*

- ◇ *work for peace, equity and justice for all people*
- ◇ *protect and restore the integrity of our earth and all of creation.*
- ◇ *be change-makers.*