

**Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ**  
**Sixth Sunday After Epiphany**  
**February 12, 2023**

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*\*\* 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

*The Gift of Love, Hopson/Kim*

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

Ken Puhler

We all claim to want inner peace and happiness.

**Yet we often do things to undermine our own sense of peace and wellbeing.**

Jesus urged us to forgive our debtors as we have been forgiven.

**But what if we lack the compassion and forgiveness in The Heart of Jesus? It is difficult to let go of the list of those who have offended us or caused problems for us.**

Is there any value in having peace of mind? Do you miss the feeling of inner harmony?

**Help us to walk the path of compassion and forgiveness. And if we cannot walk, help us to crawl, stumble or lean toward what will heal our inner spirit.**

**\*\*HYMN Song Folder #46**

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Frances)*

All

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness ----- only light, and where there's sadness ever joy.

*refrain*

O Master, grant that I may never seek ----- so much to be consoled as to console - -  
To be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love, with all my soul - -

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselver that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

BAPTISM

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

Ken

## OFFERTORY

*A Heartsong Blessing, Stepanek/Martin*

Choir

**\*\*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**

Ken

**Holy One, let us discover the gift of grace. Life is a gift. Love is a blessing we can  
 celebrate and share. Use our resources to open doors to inner peace and gratitude within  
 us and within the world. Amen.**

**\*\*HYMN***God, How Can We Forgive (Hymn Tune: Leoni)*

All

God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?  
 How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?  
 When human loving fails and ev'ry hope is gone,  
 your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.

When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,  
 how can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?  
 The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.  
 A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.

Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,  
 when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?  
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.  
 As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

## SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:21-26 and Matthew 6:12

Ken

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

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And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

## MESSAGE

*“So, Who is On Your List?”*

Paul

**\*\*HYMN** Song Folder #27, vs 1-3, 5*Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands*

All

Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it;  
 protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;  
 be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands, like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye: our life is meant for caring.

Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

**\*\*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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**Acknowledgements**

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- ◇ *Gift of Love*. Tune: O Waly, Waly, an English folk melody. Adapted by Hal Hopson © 1972 and this arr. by Marianne Kim © 2018, Hope Publishing Co
- ◇ *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*. Text and tune: *Sebastian Temple* © 1967, OCP Publications.
- ◇ *Heartsong Blessing*. Words based on the poem "Resolution Blessing" by Mattie J.T. Stepanek © 2002 by Mattie J.T. Stepanek. Music by Joseph Martin, © 2011 by Hal Leonard – Milwin Music Corp.
- ◇ *Doxology*. Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, Germany, 1623. Arr. Mark Hayes © 2008, Lorenz Publishing Co.
- ◇ *God, How Can We Forgive*. Tune: *Leoni*, a traditional Hebrew melody, adapted by Meyer Lyon, 1770. Text: Ruth Duck © 1996, The Pilgrim Press.
- ◇ *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands*, Song Folder 17. Tune: *St. Columba*, an Irish melody. Text: Fred Kaan © 1989, Hope Publishing Co.
- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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**Today's Worship Leaders**

preacher	Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
liturgist	Ken Puhler
musician	Martha Jones

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**FCUCC Staff**

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

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**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.**

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**This Week at FCUCC**  
**February 12 – February 19, 2023**

<b>Sunday 12</b>	9:00	Choir Rehearsal	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Worship & Celebration Team Meeting	chapel
<b>Monday 13</b>	1:00	Property Team Meeting	chapel
<b>Tuesday 14</b>	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
<b>Wednesday 15</b>	1:00	The Story of God Video Study	chapel
<b>Thursday 16</b>	11:30	Berna B's	Berna B's
	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
<b>Friday 17</b>	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
<b>Sunday 19</b>	9:00	Choir Rehearsal	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Church Council	chapel

*Congregants are welcome to attend council meetings.*

**Church office hours:** Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00.

**Save the Dates:**

February 19 | FCC Hosts WeShelter Program through March 4  
February 21 | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
February 22 | Ash Wednesday  
February 26 | Spiritual Journey through 2023 Book Group begins  
April 2 | Palm/Passion Sunday  
April 9 | Easter  
May 2 – 11 | GJHS AP Testing at Church, Various Rooms  
June 15 –17 | RMC Annual Celebration in Grand Junction  
December 3 | First Sunday of Advent

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**Connections & Collections**

*Contact: Beth Rakestraw, Office Administrator, [office@uccgj.org](mailto:office@uccgj.org)*

*Want more information about church events? Contact Beth to sign up for church newsletters.*

**Connections ...**

**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.

**Tuesday Coffee Hours** | Enjoy a beverage, occasional snacks and good, not necessarily church-related conversation with lovely people, and make a new friend or two.

**Friday Coffee Hour** | Similar to Tuesday Coffee hours, except takes place via Zoom, so you don't have to leave your house and can attend in your PJs ... which the church admin shamelessly used to do ...

**The Story of God** | Gather with others and Pastor Paul on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays to watch this wonderful video series hosted by Morgan Freeman about people of different cultures and faiths tell "the story of God."

### **Collections ...**

**Catholic Outreach** | plain old white flour, and plain old white sugar.

**Solidarity, Not Charity** | hotel and personal size toiletries, water/milk jugs with their lids and plastic grocery bags (more bang for your dime!)

**Mission & Outreach First Quarter | Trail Lamp** | acrylic paint, acrylic brushes, watercolor paper, sets, and brushes.

**Helping Handbags** | Donate a purse, donate things you'd like to see in your purse (cosmetics, snacks, personal care items, spare change, etc), donate a handbag filled with things. Please leave things in the box on the shelves by the office.

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### **What's New?**

**Coffee Hour Update** | Coffee/Happy Hour will take place in The Gathering Space through March 5 because of the WeShelter winter housing program.

**The Return of Shrove Tuesday Pancakes** | Join us Shrove Tuesday, February 21 for a Mardi Gras themed pancake supper! Watch future Church Chats for more details.

**Spiritual Journey Through 2023** | This book study group meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, beginning February 26, to read and reflect on a book of daily spiritual readings called *Sacred Seasons, A Year of Meditations* by Beverly Lanzetta. Contact Pastor Paul with questions.