

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 22, 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, arr. Joel Raney

Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Paul Ashby

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ellen Bradley

When writers tried to describe the Holy City of God, they proclaimed no temples were needed because God is Light.

Those same writers with joy declared that our names are written in God's book of life.
Seek the peace of God that overcomes our fear and anxiety about the future.

May we taste the peace of God that helps us to see beyond our normal self-focused worries.

May the God of peace grant our hearts and minds the consciousness of tranquility to help us rest and be renewed on the spiritual journey.

As we walk with Jesus, lead us to pathways of peace.

**HYMN NCH 433

In the Bulb There is a Flower

All

In the bulb there is a flower; the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Paul

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

Ellen

OFFERTORY *Shall We Gather at the River?*, arr L. Shackley Martha

DOXOLOGY **Hal-le, hal-le hal-le-lu-ja. All

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION Ellen

Holy One, You have blessed us in ways we cannot measure. You are the hope that lifts our hearts. You are the energy of compassion in action. You are the songs of gratitude that inspire our joy. Open our hearts to receive your blessings as we strive to bless others through our gifts. Amen.

HYMN Song Folder #15, vs 1,4 *Shall We Gather at the River?* All

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angels feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. *refrain*

SCRIPTURE John 3:16-17 and Revelation 22:1-5 Ellen

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

MESSAGE *Why Not Have a Poster that Proclaims John 3:17?* Paul

**HYMN Song Folder #15, vs 1 *Let All Things Now Living* All

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
God's banners fly o'er us; God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

** BENEDICTION Paul

UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION *World Peace Prayer*

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!

Acknowledgements

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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher	Paul Ashby
liturgist	Ellen Bradley
musician	Martha Jones

FCUCC Staff

senior pastor	revpaulashby@yahoo.com	Rev. Paul Ashby
choir & bell director	topcatkc@aol.com	Karen Caton
music coordinator, organist/pianist	finance@uccgj.org	Martha Jones
custodian		Anna Driggs
office administrator	office@uccgj.org	Beth Rakestraw
volunteer finance clerk	finance@uccgj.org	Martha Jones

Pastoral Care

To call Pastor Paul:

- **His new 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.

Announcements

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 Hour after worship | You must be up to date with vaccinations to attend all church social events including Coffee Hour.

Annual Congregational Meeting | Our Program Year Annual Meeting will take place TODAY at the end of worship. This is the time when members of the congregation vote on the new proposed council for 2022-2023 and some proposed bylaws changes. It is important that we have as much participation as possible.

Fifth Sunday Potluck | bring a dish to share!

Dishwashers for Church Events Needed | As Fellowship & Hospitality (formerly Congregational Life) plans more events for our church family, we find ourselves in need of more help. In this case I hope to find four willing persons who can lift up to 30 pounds to rotate on Sundays to help us clean up and run the dishwasher. Your commitment would be for one Sunday a month, and after special events (would be scheduled in advance). Brief training will be provided. Please give it some thought and be generous with your time. I can be contacted by phone or email. ~Thanks, Barbara Eyler.

New Directory Update | Beginning next Sunday, May 29, and for several Sundays thereafter, a draft of the new directory will be available for your review. I'd like congregants to review their photos and contact information, make any necessary corrections, and initial next to the entries to show it has been reviewed. Your initials will also express your permission for your photo and contact information to appear in the directory. Arrangements for new photos or retakes can be made at that time.

Mission & Outreach May Collection | May is the 2nd month of the 2nd quarter of the year, and Mission and Outreach continues to focus on **Solidarity, Not Charity**. For May, we will be collecting “pouch foods.” What are those? Think of things that come in pouches, like apple sauce, tuna, chicken, dried foods.

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.

May Collection for Catholic Outreach | Canned Cream of Whatever Soups Cream of soup in every flavor, More to cook with, more to savor. So bring those soups, please, all the cream(y) ones, For the Catholic Outreach cooks, those are the dreamy ones!

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.*

This Week at FCUCC
May 22 – May 29, 2022

Sunday 22	9:00	Choir Practice	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Annual Meeting	sanctuary
	11:15	Happy Hour	pilgrim
Monday 23	5:00	Make Mondays Fun	sanctuary
Wednesday 25	1:00	Through the NT	chapel
Friday 27	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 29	9:00	Choir Practice	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:15	Fifth Sunday Potluck	pilgrim

Church Office Closed for Memorial Day | Monday, May 30

Save the Dates:

June 5 | Pentecost

June 9 - 11 | RMC Annual Celebration Business Meeting

June 18 | Women's High Tea

June 19 | Father's Day | Juneteenth

July 4 | Independence Day | Church Office Closed

August 12–14 | Church Camping Trip | Island Lake [on Grand Mesa]

September 5 | Labor Day | Church Office Closed

“Corona Time” Church office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00.