

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Epiphany Sunday
January 9, 2022

***Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING BELL

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

PRELUDE

Behold That Star, Talley/Hayes

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

Michael Petri

Do not be content to live a life of boring security and unending sameness.

But we do not like risks. Why do you think we have multiple insurance policies?

God calls us to boldly go where no one has gone before!

That sounds more like the original theme of Star Trek.

Actually, it began with Abraham and Sarah, then Moses and The Hebrews liberated from slavery, Jesus marching into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, and the disciples boldly going across the known world.

Holy One, grant us this year the gift of a spiritual journey that could be an inward awakening or an outward pilgrimage to distant places.

**HYMN NCH 160

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

All

Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ-child bring, Jesus the light of the world.

Refrain

We will follow the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus the light of the world.

Joyful, all you saints arise, Jesus the light of the world;
Join the triumph of the skies, Jesus the light of the world. *Refrain*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Jesus the light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Word, Jesus the light of the world. *Refrain*

Hail the Bearer of God's peace! Jesus the light of the world;
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus the light of the world.

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

Michael

OFFERTORY

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day, arr. John Leavitt

Martha

The verses of this traditional English carol progress through the story of Jesus told in his own voice. In the telling, Jesus repeatedly characterizes his life journey as a dance. A similar device was later used in the modern hymn "Lord of the Dance."

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

Michael

Holy One, Through the seasons of life knit us together with mutual love and caring. You have already blessed us with spiritual gifts and talents to share. Let us be warm, grateful joyful mirrors of Your radiant heart of hope. AMEN.

**HYMN NCH 159, vs 1-3

As with Gladness Those of Old

All

As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;
So, may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

Michael

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

MESSAGE

The Risk of Spiritual Journeys

Paul

**HYMN (tune: *Holy Manna*) *Dare to Live the Dream God Gives You*

All

Dare to live the dream God gives you, seek out paths as yet unknown,
for the Spirit leads you onward, and you never walk alone.

Refrain

Go in courage, walking humbly, bearing love none can destroy.
Doing justice, loving mercy, go with God, and go in joy.

When the dread of doubt assails you, and the road remains unclear,
yet our faithful God will guide you through the doubt and dread of fear. *Refrain*

Journey on with true companions, joining hands and sharing bread,
for we share a common journey and in friendship we are fed. *Refrain*

Dare to live the dream God gives us, brave the path, and face the fear,
for the Spirit will unite us; Christ himself is always near.

** BENEDICTION

Paul

UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION

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!

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev. Paul Ashby
Michael Petri
Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

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- ◇ *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*. A traditional English carol, likely 16th century. Arrangement by John Leavitt © 2013, Hal Leonard Corporation.
- ◇ *As with Gladness Those of Old*, NCH 159. Tune: *Dix*, Conrad Kocher, 1838. Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861. Words: William C. Dix, 1861. Word alterations © 1993, The Pilgrim Press.
- ◇ *Dare to Live the Dream God Gives You*. Tune: *Holy Manna*, William Moore, 1830. Text: David Bjorlin © 2020, GIA Publications, Inc.

This Week at FCUCC
January 9 – 16, 2022

Sunday 9	Epiphany Sunday		
	9:00	Start Up Choir	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:15	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	New Members Exploration Class	
Monday 10	1:00	Property & Finance	library
Tuesday 11	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 12	1:00	Mission & Outreach	chapel
Friday 14	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Saturday 15	10:00	Undecorating the Sanctuary	sanctuary
Sunday 16	9:00	Start Up Choir	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:15	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Church Council	
Monday 17	Church Office Closed for MLK Day		

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

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 treasurer/finance	finance@uccgj.org	Martha Jones

Announcements

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

How are you feeling today? | If you feel unwell for any reason, we encourage you to return home and let us know if we need to recruit some help for you during your recovery.

Guest WiFi Access | The name of our guest WiFi is FCUCCguest; the password is “welcomeall.”

New Members Exploration Class | TODAY | 11:15 am to 12:15 pm

Undecorating the Sanctuary | Saturday, January 15 | 10:00 am | We will meet Saturday, January 11 at 10:00 am to take down and pack away the church's Christmas decor. There will be plenty of tasks for people with varying abilities to be done to prepare our worship and other space for a new season and a new year!

Make Mondays Fun Again | Monday, January 17 | Pilgrim | 5:00 pm | All ages are welcome and we encourage everyone to bring a friend or friends. Feel free to drop in for part or all of the time! Please be sure to bring art projects, crafts, sewing/knitting/crochet, games, cards, a movie or anything

else that interests you. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Eyler, Kathy Viglianco or Linda Randolph.

December 2021 Boulder Wild Fires | Rocky Mountain Conference staff is gathering donations and will ensure the monies go to trustworthy agencies they have vetted. Our congregation will take special offerings in the month of January for this effort. To make a donation, make your check out to our church, but note “Boulder wildfires 2021” on your check's memo line [or outside of envelope if making a cash donation] and put it in the offering plate. Also, Kong Vong is selling her handmade “scrubbies” (for scrubbing pots and pans), money to be donated to the Colorado Wildfires fund, in Pilgrim Hall following Sunday services in January.

Mission & Outreach 1st Quarter 2022 Collection | The first quarter we will be focusing on RSVP, Retired Senior Volunteer Program. They are getting a lot of requests for painting projects so for the month of January we will collect **painters tape and stir sticks**. Plus if you are someone who enjoys painting this is a wonderful organization that could use your help. If you are interested in volunteering or asking for assistance their number is 970-243-9839.

January Catholic Outreach Collection | Pasta ... but NO spaghetti! | We're collecting a 100 boxes/bags of cappellini, cappelletti, macaroni, bucatini, ditalini, farfalle, fusilli, every twisty-shaped pasta you can imagine for Catholic Outreach this month. (They would also welcome canned tomatoes at Outreach to build their pasta delights.) Let's help everyone celebrate the New Year deliciously!

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.

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.*