

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Easter

April 17, 2022

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

ORGAN MUSIC FOR THE SEASON

Ellen Bradley

GATHERING BELL

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

PRELUDE

Lord of the Dance/Were You There, arr. Joel Raney

Martha

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

Kim Sutherland

On Friday, Jesus was dead and buried. "End of the story," said the Roman Empire.

On Sunday, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and several other women who followed Jesus, went to anoint the body.

The tomb was empty!

Today, we walk with them in awe, shock, wonder and amazement.

**HYMN NCH 233

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

All

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

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

Kim

OFFERTORY

Christ is Risen! Sing Alleluia! John Carter

Choir

**DOXOLOGY

Hal-le, hal-le hal-le-lu-ja.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Kim

God of new creation, let us experience the good news of Easter. Open our hearts to embody the endless Spirit of Christ's compassion. Let us empty our tombs of our anger, our greed, our worry, our clinging to the pains of the past that we may breathe in new life, new hopes, new revelations of Your Spirit. AMEN.

**HYMN Song Folder #68

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

All

Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.

Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples, huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen to companion former friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer; they expect no hopeful sign
'til Christ ends their conversation, breaking bread and sharing wine.

Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:1-12

Kim

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

MESSAGE

Rome Declared Death, The Women Proclaimed Life!

Paul

**HYMN NCH 231, vs. 1 & 2

Because You Live, O Christ

All

Because you live, O Christ the garden of the world has come to flower,
the shadows of the tomb are flooded with your resurrection power.
The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has ri - - - sen!

Because you live, O Christ the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,
 our cages of despair no longer keep us closed and life denying.
 The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
 O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,
 has risen, has risen, has ri - - - sen!

** BENEDICTION

Paul

UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION

Because You Live, O Christ, vs 3

All

Because you live, O Christ the rainbow of your peace will span creation,
 the colors of your love will draw all humankind to adoration.
 The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
 O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,
 has risen, has risen, has ri - - - sen!

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
 liturgist
 musicians

Paul Ashby
 Kim Sutherland
 Ellen Bradley, Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

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volunteer treasurer/finance	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.

This Week at FCUCC
April 17 – April 24, 2022

Sunday 17	9:00	Choir Practice	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:15	Happy Hour	pilgrim
Monday 18	5:00	Make Mondays Fun	sanctuary
Tuesday 19	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Friday 22	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 24	9:00	Choir Practice	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:15	Happy Hour	pilgrim

Save the Dates:

May 3 through May 12 | GJHS AP Exams
May 8 | Super Singing Sunday
May 22 | Annual Meeting

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

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 a special Easter Coffee Hour after worship | Our church’s bakers and providers have gone above and beyond to provide some special goodies for today! You must be up to date with vaccinations to attend all church social events including Coffee Hour.

Thank You for the Flowers for the Easter Altar | Do remember to take them home or give them to a friend who will take them home.

Dress Up Sunday | April 24 | Remember how, back in the day, we wore our "Easter best" [and usually most uncomfortable] clothing on Easter Sunday to church? All because that was the social and religious obligation ... But now that we are no longer socially and religiously obligated to dress for Easter success ... dressing up can be fun! So you are invited to wear what you consider your Easter best on April 24. You can dress the way you would have back in the day, or in your most contemporary finery ... let's make dressing up for Easter fun!

Introducing the Sally Shell Memorial Fund | The Mission and Outreach Team is establishing a Sally Shell Memorial Fund for memorial gifts that can be donated in her honor. This outreach fund will be collected through the end of 2022 and disbursed by the end of 2023 to bless those in need in our community. Checks can be made out to First Congregational with the note “Sally Shell Fund,” or you may give online at uccgj.org. Click on the Donate button, then Donate Now. In the dropdown menu, choose Sally Shell Memorial Fund. You may also donate by texting “\$[amount] Sally” to 970-822-0212.

Sharefest is Coming | Sign Up to Receive Services | Plan Now to Volunteer | Sharefest is when area churches participate in a weekend of service projects for those who need help in Mesa County. Please save Saturday, April 30 from 8-12 to participate in helping others. If you are in need of a service project at your home, the online sign up will be open March 18-April 18. The website is www.gjSharefest.com. If you need help with sign up, please contact Beth.

New Mission & Outreach Ongoing Collection | We have begun collecting hotel and personal size toiletries for Solidarity, Not Charity. Look for the marked bin on the collection shelf next to the main office.

Mission & Outreach April Collection | April begins the 2nd quarter of the year, and for this quarter, Mission and Outreach will focus on **Solidarity, Not Charity**, with each month concentrating on a different item. For April, we will be collecting canned soups with pop-off, pull tab lids.

April Collection for Catholic Outreach | Plain Tomato Sauce | Not the prepared, pre-flavored and expensive kind like Ragu or Bertollis. Not whole or diced tomatoes. Just plain old tomato sauce. Let's wow them again w/ 100 cans this month.

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.*