

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 28, 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

Minuet in G Major, Pezold

Max Reilly

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ken Puhler

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

OPENING REFLECTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Julie Krueger

God asks us to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with Them. I've been looking for the perfect church to do that. Any suggestions?

Why don't you try church X, it is near you.

I did, I thought it would be perfect. But, I saw the man who used to be my mechanic. He even sold me the tires on my car. He's been arrested for DUI.

Why don't you try Church Y, I've heard they have a wonderful music program.

I did, I thought it would be perfect. But, then I recognized the man who built my neighbors' family room. He was arrested for domestic violence.

Why don't you try Church Z. It's one of the largest in town.

I did, I thought it would be perfect. But, my daughter's old high school English teacher volunteers there. She was arrested for sleeping with some of the football players.

You can search and search for the perfect church and you will never find it. No church is perfect because they have "people" in them.

**HYMN NCH #547, vs 1-4

Amazing Grace

All

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ken

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Julie

OFFERTORY

Theme, Schumann

Max

**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

Julie

God, we bring these gifts, responding to your invitation to a fiesta of joy, where every seat is a place of honor. In this giving, we find ourselves not lessened, but newly joyful, truly honored, and deeply fed by your blessing. Amen.

**HYMN

For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table

Beth & All

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.

Refrain

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong. *refrain*

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free. *refrain*

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 29:22-26; Matthew 25:31-40

Julie

One given to anger stirs up strife,
and the hothead causes much transgression.
A person's pride will bring humiliation,
but one who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.
To be a partner of a thief is to hate one's own life;
one hears the victim's curse, but discloses nothing.
The fear of others lays a snare,
but one who trusts in the Lord is secure.
Many seek the favor of a ruler,
but it is from the Lord that one gets justice.

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them,

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

MESSAGE *Jesus In Jail* Ken

**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*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Ken

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.

**BENEDICTION Ken

**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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Prayer of Dedication adapted by ABR from *Service Prayers for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*, written by Maren C. Tirabassi, a UCC pastor, available at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-c-august-28>.

Today's Worship Leaders

"guest" preacher	Ken Puhler
liturgist	Julie Krueger
musician	Max Reilly

This Week at FCUCC

August 28 – September 4, 2022

Sunday 28	9:15	Choir rehearses anthems & hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
Tuesday 30	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
Wednesday 31	1:00	Through the Bible Study resumes WEEKLY	chapel
Thursday 1	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
Friday 2	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 4	9:30	Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
Monday 5	Labor Day Church Office Closed		

Church office hours this week: Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00.

Save the Dates:

September 8 -10 | RMC Conferencewide Committee on Ministry Retreat

September 10 | Pastor Paul's Covenant Celebration [i.e. Installation]

September 11 | Pride Parade

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.

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Paul is on vacation, if you have an urgent need or crisis, you can call him while he is on the road. Try both Paul's cell phone, 970-793-8638, and Pam's phone, 425-286-8169. Their Family and Friends Tour continues through Huntington, WV, Indianapolis, Springfield, Ill., and Kansas City. Paul will return to the office Wednesday, August 31.

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

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 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.

Pastor Paul and Pam Ashby’s Vacation | Paul and Pam Ashby’s vacation continues through August 30. Paul returns to the office Wednesday, August 31.

Invitation from Health and Wellness | Join the health and wellness group Thursday, September 1 for a round of cornhole. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 12:15, and beginners are welcome!

Mission & Outreach August Collection | For the month of August, we will continue supporting Child and Migrant Services by collecting insect repellent, sunscreen, calamine lotion, and bandanas. Some thoughtful additions to our collections list include individual size Kleenex, individual size hand cleanser, cough/throat drops, and lip balm.

August Collection for Catholic Outreach | As you know, our enormous collection of drinks – soda, juices, water, and more – in June was a tremendous hit at Catholic Outreach. We still have a few weeks of summer heat left. So, let’s match or exceed our June generosity, and collect another 100-200 cans/bottles/packets of liquid refreshment to share with our thirsty neighbors.

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.

Oddball Acrylic Yarn Leftovers Wanted | Pam Grout wants your acrylic yarn leftovers. Whatever you have left over from a project is ideal, regardless of how little or how great an amount. She does not need or want full skeins. You may drop them off at the church office or look Pam up in the church directory.

We Are Hiring a New Custodian | Although Anna continues to serve us well right now, she will be leaving us soon for a different opportunity. Do you know someone who has custodial skills and experience who would work for FCC 15 hours a week cleaning our building and overseeing our grounds maintenance? Please ask interested persons to email me at the church office, office@uccgj.org. The job is also posted on Indeed, Facebook Jobs and Mesa County Workforce. Thank you! ~Beth

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.*