

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 25, 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

Prelude in Bb minor, C. Maxwell Reilly

Max Reilly

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

Joanne Drake

We are all children of one Creator, who loves us all, poor and rich, old and young, powerless and powerful.

It is a gift to view the world with the eyes and heart of Jesus.

Fears about the future, fears about inflation, fears about the daily bad events on the news can distort our vision and blind us to goodness and God-ness in our lives.

Spirit of Jesus, help us to see more clearly. Open our eyes to not only see our neighbors in need but to act to help them in times of struggle.

Spirit of Jesus, let us awaken to the truth that all people need exactly what we need – food, shelter, clothing, medicine and community.

Spirit of Jesus, inspire us to understand the vast good fortune of people and events that protected us from ever being homeless.

**HYMN NCH #436, 1,3, 5

God of Grace and God of Glory

All

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
Crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior's ways,
From the fears that long have bound us – free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, make our broken spirits whole,
Make our broken spirits whole.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

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

Joanne

OFFERTORY

Original Improvisation

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

Joanne

Holy One, who dares to bless the poor and the poor in spirit, enable us to follow your compassion. Let the church use its voice, its resources, its leadership to bless the poor and the poor in spirit across our streets and across the earth. Amen.

**HYMN NCH 498

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

All

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Knelt at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet,
Jesu, you acted as servant to them. *refrain*

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are near and far away. *refrain*

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *refrain*

Loving puts us on our knees, showing our faith by our deeds,
serving the neighbors we have from you. *refrain*

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. *refrain*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 16:19-31

Joanne

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then,

father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

MESSAGE

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Paul

**HYMN

Together We Serve, words & music by Daniel Charles Damon

**BENEDICTION

**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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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev Paul Ashby
Joanne Drake
Max Reilly

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.**

- ◇ Please pray for the Woodleys; Larry is recovering from a heart valve surgery he had last Thursday.
- ◇ Charlie Kodis came home from the hospital last Monday and is doing better.

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.

COVID Update: Bivalent Booster Available at MCPH | Mesa County Public Health is offering the new Bivalent COVID-19 Booster vaccine. It has been formulated to fight against the Omicron variants that have spread throughout the U.S. Visit the MCPH website or call 970-248-6900 to make an appointment, or check with your pharmacy for availability.

Neighbors in Need Special Offering | Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. This year's "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. To find out more about the on-the-ground impact of your Neighbors in Need dollars, visit <https://www.ucc.org/giving>. You may make your donation at any time during the month of September up to and including World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022, using the special envelopes available on the Usher's Desk.

Mission & Outreach September Collection | This month we will continue to support Child and Migrant Services. We would like to collect icy-hot type patches and other items for muscle pain relief and/or any other items we've been collecting during the summer months, especially individual size Kleenex, hand cleanser, cough/throat drops, and lip balm. We also look forward to meeting the director of CMS, Nellie Garcia, when she visits our church on Sunday, October 9th!

September Collection for Catholic Outreach | “Oodles of noodles, and lotsa’ pasta is our September request ... to help our friends at Catholic Outreach feed all their hungry guests. But please, my friends, no pasta-in-cans, no ravioli, or spaghetti-os, in fact, no spaghetti, canned or dry; they already have lots of those!” The volunteers and pantry and kitchen coordinators at Catholic Outreach – and the many, many people they serve each day – are deeply grateful for our generosity. We're apparently one of the few churches in the Valley that regularly supports their food ministry.

Mission & Outreach Ongoing Collections for Solidarity, Not Charity | We currently collect hotel and personal size toiletries, and water/milk jugs with their lids for Solidarity, Not Charity.
Please stop bringing in grocery bags for right now! Thanks.

This Week at FCUCC
September 25 – October 2, 2022

Sunday 25	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
Tuesday 27	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 28	1:00	Through the Bible Study	chapel
Thursday 29	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
Friday 30	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 2	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship w/ Communion	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim

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

Save the Dates:

October 8 | In-Person "Empty Bowls" Fundraiser for Catholic Outreach

October 15 | Community Trash Pick Up Activity

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 6 | Daylight Savings Time Ends

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.

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

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.*