

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
July 3, 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

Sometimes a Light Surprises, arr. L. Shackley

Martha Jones

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

Michael Petri

Our faith revealed in the courage of the prophets and Jesus shows a way of life that is not timid, passive, reserved, mild mannered or wishy-washy.

Yet all of those words are used to describe the virtue of humility.

Humility is awakening to the vastness of creation as we gaze upon the lights spun across the night sky that share light from hundreds of millions of years in the past.

Humility is realizing God is God. We are not the center of the universe.

Humility is acceptance of reality.

Humility is openness to the grace of life that we can only accept as a gift.

**HYMN NCH 27

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

All

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, by every tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Eternal are your mercies, God; your truth stands ever high and broad; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Michael

OFFERTORY

How Can I Keep From Singing

Chancel Choir

**DOXOLOGY

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

All

Holy One, too often we share out of duty or a sense of obligation. Let us celebrate the gifts that enable us to do together what we cannot do alone. Amen

SCRIPTURE

2nd Kings 5:1-14

Michael

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.'

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, 'When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.' When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

MESSAGE

Generals Do Not Rule the World

Paul

**HYMN 564

We Are Not Our Own

All

We are not our own, Earth forms us, human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations, seeds of life divine.

We are not alone, Earth names us: past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us; dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us: we are not our own.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving, and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth and all things living, liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us on a way uncertain and unknown,
All the saints with prayer surround us: we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome, living stone upholding living stone,
Gladly showing all our neighbors we are not our own!

COMMUNION

**HYMN NCH 76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

All

Sent forth by God's blessing our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

** 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!

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev Paul Ashby
Michael Petri
Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

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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.**

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 Hot Dogs and Fixins 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.

NEW Mission & Outreach July Collection | Our third quarter project will be to support **Child and Migrant Services**. During the month of July, we will be collecting insect repellent, sunscreen, calamine lotion, and bandanas. We suggest that you pick one or two of these items and place them in the designated bins either in the Gathering Space on Sundays or on the shelves outside of the office. Thank you so much for supporting this important project!

July Collection for Catholic Outreach | Salad Dressings | Salad is a summertime favorite at Catholic Outreach. True, it’s only been a few months since we collected salad dressings for the Soup Kitchen, but it’s now all gone, and it is That Time of Year! Think we can do 200 bottles or packets this time around?

Cantabile Ringers on Summer Hiatus | Cantabile Ringers will not meet for rehearsal for July and most of August. Watch Church Chat and Tower Chimes for information about starting up again after summer is over.

A weight loss/healthy eating support group is still forming. | Begins meeting weekly on Thursdays, July 7, 12:15 to 1:15 pm in Mayflower.

Mission Moment Next Sunday | Pooka Campbell, a leader for Solidarity Not Charity, will join us during worship Sunday July 10 to provide info on the work her organization does in the Grand Valley. Please plan to stay for Happy Hour on that Sunday to help make 100 hygiene kits for this worthy organization.

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.

Sunday 3	Communion Sunday	
	9:30 Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00 Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00 Barbeque: Come eat!	pilgrim
Monday 4	Church office closed for Independence Day	
Tuesday 5	10:00 Womens' Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00 Men's Coffee	mayflower
Thursday 7	12:15 Weight Loss Support Group	mayflower
Friday 8	10:00 Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 10	9:30 Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00 Worship w/ Communion	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00 Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15 Worship & Celebration meeting	library

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

Save the Dates:

July 14 | Children & Youth Pool Party

July 24 | Hawaiian Shirt Sunday | New Members Class After Worship

July 31 | Fifth Sunday Potluck

August 5 | Children & Youth Event | Movies Under the Stars

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

September 5 | Labor Day | Church Office Closed

October 19- 22 | Friends of the Library Book Sale

November 27 | Advent Begins

Christmas Eve is on Saturday this year, Christmas Day on Sunday.

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.*