

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Juneteenth | Second Sunday After Pentecost
June 19, 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

Noel Nouvelet

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

Ken Puhler

Juneteenth reminds us that we all have souls under construction.

We live in a society and world where people hate for shallow and ignorant reasons.

We confess that we have the lifelong lesson of learning to love our neighbors as we would wish to be loved.

God help us, save us from the real enemies... fear, ignorance, greed, racism, and inordinate self-centeredness.

God help us, save us from the lie that our enemies are people of color, or GLBTQ persons, or people of other faiths or nations.

God grant us the vision of Jesus so we can truly see.

**HYMN NCH 402

De colores (Sing of Colors)

All

Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills in profusion are springing;
Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside my window their canticles singing;
Sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope we recall;
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.

Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.
Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares, who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

Ken

OFFERTORY *For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table* Pam and All on refrain
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace.
And God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

DOXOLOGY **Hal-le, hal-le hal-le-lu-ja. All

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION Ken

Holy One, all children are Your children. We thank you for fathers for mentors and teachers who live out this truth. Enable us to open our hearts and arms to the children in our family, our church, our community. Let us listen to their stories of life and guide them to have a life that overcomes fear, ignorance, greed, racism and selfishness. Amen

**HYMN *Draw a Wider Circle (tune: Noel Nouvelet)* All

Draw a wider circle or, perhaps, erase.
Spiral toward God's center, gravity of grace.
Raze former fences marking out and in—
holy and unholy, sanctity and sin.

Planets spin in orbit, centered on a star;
some will circle closely, some revolve afar.
From any distance light illumines each.
Through the void of darkness none is out of reach.

Do we measure margins just to feel secure,
casting out the different, hoping to be pure?
Christ is our center – bound'ry lines must fall.
God's light flows unhindered; grace abounds for all.

SCRIPTURE *Galatians 3:23-29, James 2:1-9* Ken

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

MESSAGE *Cutting the Roots of Hate* Paul

There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."

Lose your shyness, find your tongue; tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.

Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.

When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home:
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living working in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.

** 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

Paul Ashby
Ken Puhler
Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

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music coordinator		Martha Jones

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.

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.

In-person Women’s Coffee | In-person Women’s Coffee returns Tuesday, June 21, 10:00 am, Pilgrim Hall. **In-Person Men’s Coffee** | An invitation to start again? How about Tuesday, June 21, 10:00 am in the Mayflower Room. All men welcome.

New TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter forming at UCC! | Organizational Meeting TODAY | 11:15 am | Mayflower Room | Please join us – Greg Biehn, Kathy Viglianco and Julie Krueger – to learn more. We will meet at the church one time per week for one hour – tentatively Thursdays at noon. No potions, prescribed plans or preaching (we will leave that to Pastor Paul) just support for you on your individual road to improved health. Maybe it is time to start a new chapter? Hope to see you there!

New Directory Update | For the next several Sundays, a draft of the new directory will be available for your review. I’d like congregants to review their photos and contact information, make any necessary corrections, and initial next to the entries to show it has been reviewed. Your initials will also express your permission for your photo and contact information to appear in the directory. Arrangements for new photos or retakes can be made at that time.

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.

June Collection for Catholic Outreach | Beverages | Let’s collect at least 100 cans or bottles or cartons of juice and/or soda, cold drinks, soft drinks, soda-pop (or whatever y’all called it back home) to share with our thirsty friends here in the Valley.

Five for Five Offerings: Strengthen the Church | You may make your donation at any time during the month of June, using the special envelopes which will be made available to those who are worshipping in person, or you can make your donation online by visiting our website.

Sunday 19	Juneteenth Father's Day	
	9:30 Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00 Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00 Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15 TOPS Taking Off Pounds Sensibly	mayflower

Because Council has met twice this month already to address urgent business, the meeting originally scheduled for today has been cancelled.

Tuesday 21	5:30 Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 22	1:00 Through the NT Study	chapel
Friday 24	10:00 Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 26	Pride Sunday	
	9:30 Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00 Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00 Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15 Children's Event: Color Walk/Enstrom's Ice Cream	

Save the Dates:

July 4 | Independence Day | Church Office Closed
August 12–14 | Church Camping Trip | Island Lake [on Grand Mesa]
September 5 | Labor Day | Church Office Closed

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

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.*