

**Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ**  
**Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday**  
**January 15, 2023**

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*\*\* 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

*Go Tell It on the Mountain, arr Ridenour*

Choir

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

[From the Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King]

Betsy McLoughlin

I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.

**Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate:  
only love can do that.**

Let no person pull you so low as to hate them.

**The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and  
convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy.**

There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic. Nor popular, but  
he must take it because conscience says it is right.

**If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but  
whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.**

\*\*HYMN NCH #472

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

All

This was Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite hymn. Mahalia Jackson would often join Dr. King at demonstrations to lead in a  
soulful delivery of this simple, blues-inspired tune, meant to inspire civil rights activists and followers as they journeyed  
forward in their fight. And on April 4, 1968, Dr. King's last words were a request for this song.

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone,  
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

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

Betsy

OFFERTORY *Improvisation on "We Shall Overcome"*

Max Reilly

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

Betsy

**Holy One, Through the seasons of life knit us together with mutual love and caring. You have already blessed us with spiritual gifts and talents to share. Let us be warm, grateful, joyful mirrors of Your radiant heart of hope. AMEN.**

\*\*HYMN 570, vs, 1-3, 6 *We Shall Overcome*

All

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day.

We'll go hand in hand . . . . . some day . . . . .

We are not afraid . . . . . today. . . . .

We shall live in peace . . . . . some day . . . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 1:3-9

Betsy

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants in the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For anyone who lacks these things is short-sighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins.

MESSAGE

*The Gift of New Dreams*

Paul

\*\*HYMN (tune: *Holy Manna*) *Dare to Live the Dream God Gives You*

All

Dare to live the dream God gives you, seek out paths as yet unknown,  
for the Spirit leads you onward, and you never walk alone.

Refrain:

Go in courage, walking humbly, bearing love none can destroy.  
Doing justice, loving mercy, go with God, and go in joy.

When the dread of doubt assails you, and the road remains unclear,  
yet our faithful God will guide you through the doubt and dread of fear. *Refrain*

Journey on with true companions, joining hands and sharing bread,  
for we share a common journey and in friendship we are fed. *Refrain*

Dare to live the dream God gives us, brave the path, and face the fear,  
for the Spirit will unite us; Christ himself is always near. *Refrain*

**\*\*BENEDICTION**

**\*\*UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION**                      *Dare to Live the Dream God Gives You (refrain)*                      All

Go in courage, walking humbly, bearing love none can destroy.  
Doing justice, loving mercy, go with God, and go in joy.

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**Today's Worship Leaders**

preacher	Rev Paul Ashby
liturgist	Betsy McLoughlin
musician	Max Reilly

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**Acknowledgements**

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- ◇ *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, NCH 472. Thomas A. Dorsey © 1938, 1966, Hal Leonard Corporation.
- ◇ *Doxology*. Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, Germany, 1623. Arr. Mark Hayes © 2008, Lorenz Publ. Co.
- ◇ *Dare to Live the Dream God Gives You*. Tune: *Holy Manna*, William Moore, 1830. Text: David Bjorlin © 2020, GIA Publications, Inc.
- ◇ *We Shall Overcome*, NCH 570. This anthem of the 1960's civil rights movement was frequently sung at mass meetings and marches. Several sources have been cited as its origins. Harmonization by J. Jefferson Cleveland © 1981, Abingdon Press.
- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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**FCUCC Staff**

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office administrator	office@uccgj.org	Beth Rakestraw
volunteer financial clerks	finance@uccgj.org	Nancy Palubicki & Martha Jones
music coordinator		Martha Jones

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**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.**

## 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.

**Fifth Sunday Potluck** | Sunday, January 29, after worship. No special theme --just bring food and come hungry!

**Mission & Outreach First Quarter 2023 Collection** | For the first quarter of 2023, Mission and Outreach will be focusing on Trail Lamp, a local organization that empowers underrepresented youth through art and business mentorship. For the month of January, please choose from the following items: sketchbooks, graphite pencils, pencils, ink pens, and erasers. Most of these items can be found at Target or Wal Mart as well as at Michael's. As always, please place your donations in the designated bin across from the church office. Thank you! ~M & O team

**January Collection for Catholic Outreach** | We're continuing our collection of good ole' plain ole' Tomato Sauce for the CO cooks to use to prepare a variety of foods. Let's collect 100+ more cans, shall we?

**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. The sleeping mat makers would like for people to begin bringing plastic bags again.

## This Week at FCUCC

January 15 – January 22, 2023

<b>Sunday 15</b>	9:00	Choir Rehearsal	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	fellowship hall
	11:15	Church Council Meeting	chapel
<i>Congregants are welcome to attend council meetings.</i>			
<b>Monday 16</b>	<b>Staff Out of the Offices for the Martin Luther King Jr Holiday</b> Church open for regular business hours.		
<b>Tuesday 17</b>	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
<b>Thursday 19</b>	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
	1:00	Fellowship & Hospitality	library
<b>Friday 20</b>	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
<b>Sunday 22</b>	9:00	Choir Rehearsal	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	fellowship hall

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

### Save the Dates:

February 1 | The Story of God video and discussion group begins

February 5 | Baby Shower for Dana Brosig

February 19 | FCC Hosts WeShelter Program through March 4

February 22 | Ash Wednesday

February 26 | Spiritual Journey through 2023 Book Group begins

April 9 | Easter

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## **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.*