

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 21, 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

God of Grace and God of Glory, Paul Manz

Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrea Bartlett

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

God, where are you?

Sometimes I feel like I am alone and abandoned.

God, where are you?

Sometimes I feel like your love surrounds and nourishes me.

God, where are you?

God, give me the trust that, whether I feel alone and deserted, or whether I feel cherished and supported, you are here for me, for my community, for this earth.

**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.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore,
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Andrea

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Joanne

OFFERTORY

In the Garden, NCH #237

Beth & Congregation

****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

God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer, and grant that they may be used to spread healing, joy and love. Amen.

****HYMN NCH 11**

Bring Many Names

All

Bring many names, beautiful and good, celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God. Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day, planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play: Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child, feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled: Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care, calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair: Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move, saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have: Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known, joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home: Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

SCRIPTURE

Selected Readings

Joanne

Psalm 121, RSV

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold: he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.
The sun shall not smart you by day nor the Moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil and will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time forth, and forever more.

Psalm 42 1-5, Psalms Anew

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God.
My soul is thirsting for God, the living God. When can I enter to see the face of God?
My tears have become my food night and day, and I hear it said all day long: "Where is your God?"
I will remember all these things as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the joyous procession into the house of God,
with cries of gladness and thanksgiving, the multitude wildly happy.
Why are you so sad, my soul? Why sigh within me?

Hope in God; for I will yet praise my savior and my God.

1 John 4:16b, NRSV

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

MESSAGE

God, Who Are You? Who Am I?

Andrea

**HYMN NCH 32

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

All

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars,
How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?

God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave,
How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?

God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal,
How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook,
How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart,
How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Andrea

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.

**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

"guest" preacher
liturgist
musician

Andrea Bartlett
Joanne Drake
Martha Jones

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This Week at FCUCC

August 21 – August 28, 2022

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday 21 | 9:30 | Song leaders rehearse hymns | sanctuary |
| | 10:00 | Worship | sanctuary/YouTube |
| | 11:00 | Happy Hour | pilgrim |
| | 11:15 | Church Council Meeting | chapel |
| | After Happy Hour: Children's Movie: <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> | | youth room |
| Monday 22 | 5:00 | Make Mondays Fun Again | pilgrim |
| Tuesday 23 | 10:00 | Women's Coffee | pilgrim |
| | 10:00 | Men's Coffee | mayflower |
| Thursday 25 | 12:15 | Health & Wellness | mayflower |
| Friday 26 | 10:00 | Zoom Coffee Hour | zoom |
| Sunday 28 | 9:30 | Song leaders rehearse hymns | sanctuary |
| | 10:00 | Worship | sanctuary/YouTube |
| | 11:00 | Happy Hour | pilgrim |

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

Save the Dates:

September 5 | Labor Day | Church Office Closed

September 8 -10 | RMC Conferencewide Committee on Ministry Retreat

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

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

November 8 | Election Day

November 27 | Advent Begins

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 will go to Santa Fe, Amarillo, Tulsa, St. Louis, Huntington, WV, Indianapolis, Springfield, Ill., and Kansas City. Paul and Pam get to see the two newest family members who are 1 ½ and just turned 2. The two-year old is named after Uncle Paul.

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.**

Pam Gregory had hand surgery this past Thursday.

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.

Children's Movie Event | A children's movie event, *Sleeping Beauty*, will take place TODAY after Happy Hour. The movie should end around 1:30 pm.

Pastor Paul and Pam Ashby's Vacation | Paul and Pam Ashby's vacation continues through August 30.

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.

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. August's arrival means there's still another long month (or more) of summer heat to go. 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.

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.*