

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Thanksgiving Sunday
November 20, 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

A Thanksgiving Flourish

Choir and congregation

Congregation sing on cue

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise.
With joyful hearts and voices, your alleluias raise.
By God the rolling seasons in fruitful order move.
Sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds rain goodness, the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness. The valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with great fullness. All things with large increase.
God crowns the year with blessing, with plenty and with peace.

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

Ellen Bradley

Let all the earth sing with joy to the Creator.

We celebrate creation and lift our hearts with gladness.

The Creator carved the mountains and mesas – we are the work of an artist. We are the Creator's works of art.

We enter the presence of God in all places. We give thanks for the gifts of nature and this life-giving earth.

For the Creator has spread goodness across this earth and we sing of that love through all generations.

***HYMN NCH 422**

Come, O Thankful People, Come

All

Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin;
God our Maker does provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,
All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'er flowing stores.

These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow,
and for these our songs we raise, grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Beth Rakestraw

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

Ellen

OFFERTORY

We Gather Together (Kremser)

Martha Jones

**DOXOLOGY (tune: *Nun Danket*, NCH 419, vs. 3)

**All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ellen

Holy One, the images of the Webb telescope humble us with awe for the vastness, color and majesty of creation. We are children of Your creativity. Let these gifts produce a spirit of wonder, gratitude and joyful amazement. Amen.

**HYMN 425

For the Fruit of All Creation

All

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 100

Ellen

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

MESSAGE

Where Does Thanksgiving Begin?

Paul

**HYMN 419 (vs 1,2) Now Thank We All Our God

All

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

**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!

Acknowledgements

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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musicians

Rev Paul Ashby
Ellen Bradley
Martha Jones and Choir

FCUCC Staff

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Rev. Paul Ashby
Karen Caton
Matu Hedwall
Beth Rakestraw
Nancy Palubicki & Martha Jones
Martha Jones

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.

Fall Book Study | 11:15 | The book study, *Christians Against Christianity* by Obery Hendricks Jr, continues in the library after worship.

Annual Thanksgiving Potluck | Thursday, November 24 | 2:00 to 5:00 pm | Pilgrim Hall
Turkeys will be provided, but a sign up sheet is available in Pilgrim Hall for people to sign up to bring side dishes and desserts, and/or help with clean up. Your house guests are welcome too!

Bring Down the Christmas Decorations | Next Sunday | November 27 | After Worship | Reasonably strong backs and muscles needed to bring down boxes of Christmas decorations from upstairs storage in the CE Building. Please consider helping us with this task so that we can ...

Deck the Halls | Saturday, December 3 | 10:00 am -Noonish | There will be Christmas trees to assemble and decorate, wreaths to hang, tables to adorn, plenty of jobs for everyone of any age, size or ability. A soup lunch will be provided for workers. Join the fun!

Mission & Outreach December Collection | Mission and Outreach will be collecting warm hats, gloves, and socks in December, to be donated to Mutual Aid Partners, the agency we've been supporting this last quarter of 2022. They will be given out to families in need in our community. There will be a Warm and Fuzzy Tree in the Gathering Space during Advent where you can place your contributions. However, we wanted to let you early Christmas shoppers know now, so you can place these items on your Santa lists! It is also not too late to bring in feminine hygiene products as well as adult diapers to finish out November.

November Collection for Catholic Outreach | We will be collecting something a little different from before: kitchen basics, such as salt, pepper, canned cream of mushroom soup. Watch Tower Chimes and Church Chat for more detail.

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.

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.**

**This Week at FCUCC
November 20 - 27, 2022**

Sunday 20	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Fall Book Study	library
	12:00	Church Council Meeting	chapel
	6:00	Transgender Day of Remembrance	gathering space

Tuesday 22	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 23	1:00	Through the Bible Study	chapel
Thursday 24	Church Office Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday		
	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
	2:00	Thanksgiving Potluck	pilgrim
Friday 25	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 27	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour/ Bringing Down The Christmas Decor	pilgrim
	11:15	Fall Book Study	chapel

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

Save the Dates:

November 27 | Advent Begins

December 18 | Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

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.*