

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
October 23, 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

Sun Song, Reilly

Max Reilly

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

Andrea Bartlett

In the heart of love, let us welcome everyone. We are not here because we are perfect people.

We bring our fears, our limitations, our flaws and failures.

Let us listen together to hear the good news for our life.

The way of compassion, goodness and love flow each day, unfailing as the dawn.

Without the flow of compassion, goodness and love we would only experience and suffer chaos and violence.

Source of life, let the way of compassion, goodness and love flow to us, with us and through us.

**HYMN SF 1, vs. 1,2,4

Gather Us In

All

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken. Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now and we shall awaken. We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty. Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly. Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining. Now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever. Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bones.

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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Rachel Seiff

OFFERTORY

Bwana Awabariki, arr Susan T Nelson
(*May God Grant You a Blessing*)

Cantabile Ringers

**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

Andrea

Holy One, save us from the constant temptation to compare ourselves with others. We can only discover discontent in envy. We can only take detours to delusion by thinking only those who agree with us should have the right to vote. Grant us the gift that is contentment. Let that rare gift create in us a heart of generosity in all that we share. Amen.

**HYMN SF 27

Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

All

Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it;
Protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;
Be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands, like bread we break for sharing;
Look people warmly in the eye: our life is meant for caring.

As at communion, shape your hands into a waiting cradle;
The gift of Christ receive, revere, united round the table.

Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest measure;
In love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:9-14

Andrea

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

MESSAGE

The Game You Can Never Win

Paul

**HYMN SF 6, vs. 1,2

As a Fire is Meant for Burning

All

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors ev'rywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, list'ning Spirit, we would live to God's delight.

****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	Rev Paul Ashby
liturgist	Andrea Bartlett
musician	Max Reilly

FCUCC Staff

senior pastor	revpaulashby@yahoo.com	Rev. Paul Ashby
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volunteer financial clerks	finance@uccgj.org	Nancy Palubicki & 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.

Fall Book Study | TODAY | 11:15 | The book study, *Christians Against Christianity* by Obery Hendricks Jr, begins today. This study will examine the ongoing threat of Christian nationalism in

our nation. It is also a spiritual growth study to have us look at the actual teachings and actions of Jesus in contrast to right-wing distortions that delete the love and compassion of Jesus.

Fifth Sunday Fall Potluck | Next Sunday after worship. Bring a dish of your favorite fall food [or any favorite] to share.

Divine Desserts Auction | Sunday, November 6 | Happy Hour | Some FCC pet lovers decided to have a Divine Dessert Auction as a start for a new fund we're calling the "St. Francis Pet Care Fund." It will be for emergency use by our members, and is another way to support our church family. There will be an auctioneer and his lovely assistant, and we're hoping that you will be willing to make something for the auction. We'll have a sign-up sheet in Pilgrim Hall, or you can email Pam Gregory or Beth Rakestraw to let us know what you'd like to contribute, dessert-wise. Also, we hope you will come hungry and bid generously.

Mission & Outreach October Collection | The Mission and Outreach team will be focusing on Mutual Aid Partners for the last quarter of 2022. For the month of October, we will be collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, and razors. You may place your contributions in the designated bin near the church office or leave them in the Gathering Space on Sundays. Thank you!

October Collection for Catholic Outreach | The shelves in the food pantry at Catholic Outreach that usually abound with **bottles of salad dressing** are sadly nearly empty right now. Let's replenish them – and it doesn't have to cost an arm and a leek. The Dollar Store has lots of bottles for only \$1.25 apiece. Or your favorite grocery-store may have it on sale in preparation for holiday festivities. Let's see if we can manage 100 bottles this month.

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.**

This Week at FCUCC
October 23 – October 30, 2022

Sunday 23	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Fall Book Study	mayflower
Monday 24	5:00	Make Mondays Fun	pilgrim
Tuesday 25	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 26	1:00	Through the Bible Study	chapel
Thursday 27	11:30	Berna B's	Berna B's
	12:15	Health & Wellness	library
Friday 28	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
	11:00	Worship & Celebration Meeting	library
Sunday 30	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Fifth Sunday Fall Potluck	pilgrim
	11:15	Fall Book Study	chapel

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

Save the Dates:

November 6 | Daylight Savings Time Ends | Divine Desserts Auction

November 8 | Election Day

November 27 | Advent Begins

December 18 | Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

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

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.**

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.*