

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Hawaiian Shirt Sunday | Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 24, 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

Beach Spring, arr. Max 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

It is easy to give up after one try.

We tried and it didn't work.

Justice does not happen without effort.

But what if we fail over and over again?

Pray for the energy of endurance. Persist in your efforts. Keep your heart connected to the deep well of God's compassion.

Holy One, bless us with strength.

Holy One, bless us with a strong will to bring goodness to our earth.

Holy One, make us Your persistent children.

**HYMN - Song Folder #2

All Are Welcome

All

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hope and dreams and vision, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: *refrain*

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *refrain*

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

Andrea

OFFERTORY

Improvisation on Endless Song

Max

**DOXOLOGY

Hal-le, hal-le hal-le-lu-ja.

All

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Andrea

God of justice, move our hands, our feet, our hearts to walk as children of peace, justice and mercy. Save us from the temptation to surrender to the bad news we encounter week after week. Motivate us with the Spirit of courage to cling to what is good, what is real, what is true. Amen

HYMN NCH 476

My Life Flows on in Endless Song (How Can I Keep from Singing)

All

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
it sounds an echo in my soul – how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging;
since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
all things are mine since I am Christ's – how can I keep from singing?

SCRIPTURE

Luke 11:1-10 and Luke 18:1-8

Andrea Bartlett

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.'

For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

MESSAGE *The Power of Persistence* Paul

**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

** 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	Rev Paul Ashby
liturgist	Andrea Bartlett
musician	Max Reilly

Acknowledgements

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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.**

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.

New Members/Inquirers Class | TODAY | After Worship | Library | Everyone is welcome to sit in and learn the highlights of UCC history, regardless of whether you are a member or not or intend to join the congregation.

Fifth Sunday Potluck | July 31 | After Worship | Pilgrim | The theme of our regularly scheduled Fifth Sunday Potluck is “Locally Grown.” Bring a dish to share that features products grown or made on the Western Slope or in Colorado.

Important Information About Upcoming Children's Event | Per the church’s Safe Church Policy, two volunteers are needed for the August 5 “Movies Under the Stars” Children & Youth Event. If you want to volunteer, please let Marie Koontz know at 970-270-2579. If we are unable to secure at least two volunteers, the event will be cancelled.

Mission & Outreach July Collection | Our third quarter project will be to support Child and Migrant Services. During the month of July, we will be collecting insect repellent, sunscreen, calamine lotion, and bandanas.

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.

July Collection for Catholic Outreach | Salad Dressings | Salad is a summertime favorite at Catholic Outreach. True, it’s only been a few months since we collected salad dressings for the Soup Kitchen, but it’s now all gone, and it is That Time of Year! Think we can do 200 bottles or packets this time around?

Sunday 24	Hawaiian Shirt Sunday		
	9:15	Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:00	New Members Class	library
Monday 25	5:00	Make Mondays Fun	pilgrim
Tuesday 26	10:00	Womens' Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
Wednesday 27	1:00	Through the NT Study	chapel
Thursday 28	12:15	Health & Wellness Group	mayflower
Friday 29	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 31	Fifth Sunday Potluck		
	9:30	Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Fifth Sunday Potluck	pilgrim
	11:00	New Members Class	mayflower

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

Save the Dates:

August 5 | Children & Youth Event | Movies Under the Stars

August 12–14 | Church Camping Trip | Island Lake [on Grand Mesa]

August 15–17 | 2022 Jubilee at La Foret [i.e. summer camp for adults]

September 5 | Labor Day | Church Office Closed

October 19- 22 | Friends of the Library Book Sale

November 27 | Advent Begins

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.*