

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 18, 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

Opus 10 No. 1, Chopin

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

Carolyn Holmgren

Don't you hate it when you cannot find your glasses or scissors, or that one thing you just had in your hands?

It has to be right here. This is where I put it! Where could it go?

Things do not simply disappear. But they do get lost.

But I swear those glasses, scissors, book, pen, papers, bills, shopping lists, comb, socks were just right here!

Somebody must have moved them. Could it be the wind, the dog, gravity or the spouse? Could I have forgotten where I left it?

What a relief to find that one thing I was looking for... Now I can relax. Now I can be at peace.

What a joy to find what was lost.

Especially, if it is a lost person who finds their way to God and good.

**HYMN - Song Folder #2, vs 1, 4, 5

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

Carolyn

OFFERTORY

Original Improvisation

Max

**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

Carolyn

God who seeks and finds, bring our human family together. Too often we get lost in divisions created by anger, fear, ignorance and greed. Let the energy of compassion draw us back home to the way of love. Amen.

**HYMN

For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table

All

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.

Refrain

And God will delight when we are creators of justice
and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong. *refrain*

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free. *refrain*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-10

Carolyn

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than

over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

MESSAGE *The Joy of Finding Things that are Lost* Paul

**HYMN *God's Great Love is So Amazing* (tune: *Converse*) All

God's great love is so amazing! See — a shepherd with his flocks!
Ninety-nine are safely grazing; one is lost among the rocks.
That good shepherd goes and searches till he finds the one astray.
So God says to fill our churches with the ones who've lost their way.

God in love is always seeking! See — a woman with her broom!
For a single coin she's sweeping every corner of the room.
When it's found she calls each neighbor, telling friends from all around.
So God says to search and labor till God's precious ones are found.

God keeps waiting, searching, yearning! See — a father's heartfelt joy!
Thankful for his son's returning, he runs out to greet his boy.
To the angry older brother, hear the father's patient call.
So God says to love each other, for in Christ, God loves us all.

**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!

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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev Paul Ashby
Carolyn Holmgren
Max Reilly

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.

COVID Update: Bivalent Booster Available at MCPH | Mesa County Public Health is offering the new Bivalent COVID-19 Booster vaccine. It has been formulated to fight against the Omicron variants that have spread throughout the U.S. Visit the MCPH website or call 970-248-6900 to make an appointment, or check with your pharmacy for availability.

Mission & Outreach September Collection | This month we will continue to support Child and Migrant Services. We would like to collect icy-hot type patches and other items for muscle pain relief and/or any other items we've been collecting during the summer months, especially individual size Kleenex, hand cleanser, cough/throat drops, and lip balm. We also look forward to meeting the director of CMS, Nellie Garcia, when she visits our church on Sunday, October 9th!

September Collection for Catholic Outreach | “Oodles of noodles, and lotsa’ pasta is our September request ... to help our friends at Catholic Outreach feed all their hungry guests. But please, my friends, no pasta-in-cans, no ravioli, or spaghetti-os, in fact, no spaghetti, canned or dry; they already have lots of those!” The volunteers and pantry and kitchen coordinators at Catholic Outreach – and the many, many people they serve each day – are deeply grateful for our generosity. We're apparently one of the few churches in the Valley that regularly supports their food ministry.

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.

FCUCC Staff

senior pastor revpaulashby@yahoo.com
choir & bell director topcatkc@aol.com
custodian
office administrator office@uccgj.org
volunteer financial clerks finance@uccgj.org
music coordinator

Rev. Paul Ashby
Karen Caton
Anna Driggs
Beth Rakestraw
Nancy Palubicki & Martha Jones
Martha Jones

This Week at FCUCC
September 18 – September 25, 2022

Sunday 18	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Church Council	chapel
Tuesday 20	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 21	1:00	Through the Bible Study	chapel
Thursday 22	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
Friday 23	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 25	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim

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

Save the Dates:

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, *Christians Against Christianity, How Right-Wing Evangelicals are Destroying our Nation and Our Faith.*

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.

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.*