

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Second Sunday after Christmas
January 2, 2022

***Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING BELL

At the sound of the bell, please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Cwm Rhondda, setting by Pamela M Robertson

Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Paul Ashby

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**Whoever you are...and wherever you are on life's journey...
you are welcome here!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Palubicki

Throw open the doors to the future that we may walk fully into God's new day.

Sometimes I do not even notice a new year other than having a new calendar.

Let this be a new season that we enter with courage and hope.

**Sometimes the only courage or risk a new year brings is to catch myself and tear up
checks that are mistakenly dated January 2021.**

Breathe in the gift of life. Even in times of struggle there is goodness and God-ness in each day.

Grant us courage for the living of our days.

**HYMN NCH 436

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.

Set our feet on lofty places, gird our lives that they may be
armored with all Christ-like graces, in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, in the quest for liberty,
in the quest for liberty.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Respond to each shared prayer request with "Peace, Shalom, Salaam."

Paul

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

Nancy

OFFERTORY

Canticle of the Turning, Cooney/Hayes

Martha

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

Nancy

Holy One, thank you for the gift of life. What a joy it is just to breathe, to reflect, to learn, to love, to be with friends, to bear witness to the passing of time and ponder the vastness of this evolving cosmos. AMEN.

**HYMN NCH 432 (tune: *O Waly, Waly*) 'Tis Winter Now; the Fallen Snow"

All

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow has left the heavens all coldly clear;
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow, and all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn; new life within the keen air breathes;
God's beauty paints the crimson dawn, and clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths.

And though abroad the sharp winds blow, and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,
Home closer draws its circle now, and warmer glows the light within.

O God, who gives the winter's cold, as well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in your love enfold, and keep us through life's wintry days.

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Nancy

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

MESSAGE

Embrace the New Year with Courage

Paul

COMMUNION

**HYMN NCH 164

Arise, Your Light Is Come

All

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today!

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

** BENEDICTION

Paul

UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION

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!

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev. Paul Ashby
Nancy Palubicki
Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

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- ◇ *Canticle of the Turning*. Music: Rory Cooney. Arrangement for piano: Mark Hayes © 1990 and this Arr. © 2018 GIA Publications.
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- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Sunday 2	Communion Second Sunday of Christmas	
9:00	Start Up Choir	sanctuary
10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
11:15	Happy Hour	pilgrim
Monday 3	5:00 Make Mondays Fun Again	pilgrim
Tuesday 4	5:30 Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 5	4:30 Mission & Outreach	mayflower
Friday 7	10:00 Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 9	Epiphany Sunday	
9:00	Start Up Choir	sanctuary
10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
11:15	Happy Hour	pilgrim
11:15	New Members Exploration Class	

“Corona Time” Church office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00.

FCUCC Staff

senior pastor	revpaulashby@yahoo.com	Rev. Paul Ashby
choir & bell director	topcatkc@aol.com	Karen Caton
music coordinator, organist/pianist	finance@uccgj.org	Martha Jones
custodian		Anna Driggs
office administrator	office@uccgj.org	Beth Rakestraw
volunteer treasurer/finance	finance@uccgj.org	Martha Jones

Announcements

Contact: Beth Rakestraw, Office Administrator, office@uccgj.org

How are you feeling today? | If you feel unwell for any reason, we encourage you to return home and let us know if we need to recruit some help for you during your recovery.

Guest WiFi Access | The name of our guest WiFi is FCUCCguest; the password is “welcomeall.”

Save the dates | January 12 | "Through the New Testament" study begins | January 15 | Un-decorating the Sanctuary | January 17 | MLK Day

Help with Boulder County Fires | Rocky Mountain Conference staff is gathering donations and will ensure the monies go to trustworthy agencies they have vetted. Our congregation will take special offerings in the month of January for this effort. To make a donation, note “Boulder wildfires 2021” on your check or envelope and put in the offering plate. We hope we can gather all donations by January 9.

Make Mondays Fun Again | Monday, January 3 | Pilgrim | 5:00 pm | All ages are welcome and we encourage everyone to bring a friend or friends. Feel free to drop in for part or all of the time! Please be sure to bring art projects, crafts, sewing/knitting/crochet, games, cards, a movie or anything else that interests you. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Eyler, Kathy Viglianco or Linda Randolph.

New Members Exploration Class | Sunday, January 9, 2022 | 11:15 am to 12:15 pm | If you are interested, please let Rev. Paul or Beth know.

Undecorating the Sanctuary | Saturday, January 15 | 10:00 am | We will meet Saturday, January 11 at 10:00 am to take down and pack away the church's Christmas decor. There will be plenty of tasks for people with varying abilities to be done to prepare our worship and other space for a new season and a new year!

December 2021 Tornado Disaster Relief | Cash is the best way to contribute to recovery from the December tornadoes in Kentucky. Visit <https://support.ucc.org/severe-storms-2021>. Designate Severe Storms 2021 – December Tornadoes. One can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note “2021 Severe Storms” on your check in the memo section, or in an attached letter.

Pastoral Care

To call Pastor Paul:

- **His new 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.

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.*