

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost
October 30, 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.

ANTHEM

With a Pure Heart, Stewart/Purifoy

Chancel Choir

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

Joanne Drake

Hope inches us forward when we are tired.

Hope lifts us when we fall.

Hope challenges us to persevere when faced with obstacles.

Hope reminds us that God has helped us make it this far on life's journey.

Hope awakens us to the reality of change and to embrace a new future.

Hope moves us out of places of despair.

Hope calls us to grow our spirit.

Hope tells us we are Children of God.

**HYMN NCH 376

God, We Thank You for Our People

All

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.

Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,
hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;
though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.
Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame
You transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!

By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Marie

The Saints Song, Courtesy of Sharyl Peterson, Fall 2022

The saints go marching one by one, hurrah! Hurrah!
The saints go marching one by one, hurrah! Hurrah!

The saints go marching one by one, they try to be kind to everyone,
And the saints go marching here ... marching there ... marching ev-ery-where.
(Bum, bum, bum ...)

The saints go marching two by two, hurrah! Hurrah!
The saints go marching two by two, hurrah! Hurrah!
The saints go marching two by two, they try to love God with all they do,
And the saints go marching here ... marching there ... marching ev-ery-where.
(Bum, bum, bum ...)

The saints go marching three by three, hurrah! Hurrah!
The saints go marching three by three, hurrah! Hurrah!
The saints go marching three by three, Let's all be saints, yes, you and me,
And the saints go marching here ... marching there ... marching ev-ery-where.
(Bum, bum, bum ...)

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

Julie Krueger

OFFERTORY AND DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

Mozart KV 570, Movement II

Max

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Joanne

Holy One, we like to label people saints or sinners, good or bad, right or wrong. Enable us to see the reality of goodness amid our flaws and failures. Help us to let go of the need to be perfect or to expect perfection from others. We acknowledge that we offer our gifts as people who are saints and sinners, good and less than good, sometimes right and sometimes wrong. We celebrate our acceptance as a gift of grace. Amen

**HYMN NCH 562

Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You

All

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter – flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer – gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

REMEMBERING SAINTS IN OUR CIRCLE OF LIFE

Paul

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:18-27

Joanne

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

MESSAGE

Are You A Saint?

Paul

**HYMN NCH 299, vs 1-3

For All the Saints

All

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might:
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true and bold,
live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and share with them a glorious crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**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	Rev Paul Ashby
liturgist	Joanne Drake
musician	Max Reilly

FCUCC Staff

senior pastor	revpaulashby@yahoo.com	Rev. Paul Ashby
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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.

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

Fifth Sunday Fall Potluck | Join us for food, even if you didn't bring a dish. There will be enough!

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.

It's Fall Clean Up Time! | Saturday, November 12 | 9AM until 1PM | lunch after | Tasks for all abilities will be available. Please sign-up ASAP in advance for your favorite chores before or after worship over the next couple of weeks. Sign up sheets are available on the table by the double doors just inside Pilgrim Hall. Please indicate any tools and supplies you can bring to the event.

Liturgists Needed | A new sign up sheet for the end of 2022 through the first half of 2023 is available for people who are willing to read during services. Instruction/training is available. Questions? Contact Michael Petri.

Do You Have a Heart for Ecology/Recycling? Volunteers are needed to drop off the church's recycling once a week, and possibly every other week. The recycling can be picked up on Sunday after worship or Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 3 pm. To inquire, contact Beth. Thank you.

Mission & Outreach November Collection | The Mission and Outreach team continues to focus on Mutual Aid Partners for the last quarter of 2022. **During the month of November, we will be collecting feminine hygiene products as well as adult diapers.** You may place your

contributions in the designated bin near the church office or leave them in the Gathering Space on Sundays. Thank you!

November Collection for Catholic Outreach | Finish up bringing in those bottles/jars of **salad dressing** and watch Tower Chimes and Church Chat for details about the November collection!

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 30 – November 6, 2022

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
Tuesday 1	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 2	1:00	Through the Bible Study	chapel
	2:00	Mission & Outreach	chapel
Thursday 3	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
	1:00	Fellowship & Hospitality	library
Friday 4	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Saturday 5	Daylight Savings Time Ends –Fall back one hour.		
Sunday 6	9:00	Choir Practice	music room
	10:00	Worship w/ Communion	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Fall Book Study	chapel

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

Save the Dates:

November 8 | Election Day

November 12 | Fall Work 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.*