

**Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ**  
**New Years' Day**  
**January 1, 2023**

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*\*\* 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

*In Dulci Jubilo, arr. Emily Lund*

Martha Jones

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

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.

**Each new year is an invitation to let go of both spiritual and material clutter in our lives.**

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 129, vs 1,2

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

All

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow, asleep within the manger now.  
Christ is born today; Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
God has opened heaven's door, and you are blessed forevermore.  
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this!

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

Nancy

OFFERTORY

*Noel Nouvelet, arr John Carter*

Martha

\*\*DOXOLOGY

**Glo - - - - ria. In excelsis deo. Glo - - - - ria. In excelsis deo.**

All

**\*\*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 434**

*All Beautiful the March of Days*

All

All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go;  
the hand that shaped the rose has formed the crystal of the snow,  
has sent the silver frost of heaven, the flowing waters sealed.  
and laid a silent loveliness on hill and wood and field.

O'er brilliant fields of sparkling snow the radiant morns unfold;  
the solemn splendors of the night burn brightly through the cold.  
Life mounts in every pulsing vein, love deepens 'round the hearth,  
and clearer sounds the angel hymn, "Good will to all on earth."

O you from whose unfathomed law the year in beauty flows,  
yourself the splendid vision seen in crystal and in rose.  
The passing days with grace declare, and passing nights proclaim,  
in everchanging words of light, the wonder of your name.

**SCRIPTURE**

2nd Corinthians 5:17 and Philippians 4:4-8

Nancy

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**MESSAGE**

*Surviving the Season of Clutter*

Paul

**INVITATION TO LET GO OF A BURDEN, WORRY, DISTRACTION OR CLUTTER IN OUR LIFE.**

**\*\*HYMN**

*As the Old Year Passes (tune: Noel Nouvelet)*

All

As the old year passes we look back, reflect:  
times of joy and promise, times we'd best forget.  
God of the ages help us walk your way.  
Help us greet your future, seize tomorrow's day.

As the old year passes sorrow wells within:  
loved ones no more 'round us, all that could have been.  
God of compassion, heal each ailing heart.  
Guide us to your future where new life may start.

As the old year passes we grieve our struggling world.  
Climate ever-changing, fighting too-often heard.  
Jesus, you call us to cherish all you give.  
Call us to your future where all in peace, might live.

## \*\*BENEDICTION

\*\*UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION *As the Old Year Passes* (tune: *Noel Nouvelet*) All

As the new year dawns now we would give you praise.  
Faithful God, come lead us onward in new ways.  
We'll love and serve you in the faith of Christ,  
in your Spirit's future; people of new life.

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### Today's Worship Leaders

preacher	Rev Paul Ashby
liturgist	Nancy Palubicki
musician	Martha Jones

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### Acknowledgements

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### FCUCC Staff

senior pastor	revpaulashby@yahoo.com	Rev. Paul Ashby
choir & bell director	topcatkc@aol.com	Karen Caton
custodian	custodian@uccgj.org	Matu Hedwall
office administrator	office@uccgj.org	Beth Rakestraw
volunteer financial clerks	finance@uccgj.org	Nancy Palubicki & Martha Jones
music coordinator		Martha Jones

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### 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](mailto:office@uccgj.org) or 970-242-0298 x105. **Deadline for publishing in the Sunday bulletin is Thursday noon.**

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### Announcements

Contact: Beth Rakestraw, Office Administrator, [office@uccgj.org](mailto: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.

**Mission & Outreach First Quarter 2023 Collection** | For the first quarter of 2023, Mission and Outreach will be focusing on Trail Lamp, a local organization that empowers underrepresented youth through art and business mentorship. For the month of January, please choose from the following

items: sketchbooks, graphite pencils, pencils, ink pens, and erasers. Most of these items can be found at Target or Wal Mart as well as at Michael's. As always, please place your donations in the designated bin across from the church office. Thank you! ~M & O team

**Church Administrator on Vacation** | I will be on vacation Monday, January 9 through Saturday, January 21. I am driving to Texas to visit with family and friends, for the first time in over 4 years. During those two weeks, some volunteer office angels are needed in the office to handle phone calls, answer basic questions, answer the door and receive money from renters and tenants. I know Carolyn Holmgren has spoken to several people in advance about fulfilling the office angel role, especially when I need to be out of the office --this is a good opportunity to try it on for size. If you can be present for a 9 to 12 or 12 to 3 shift Monday through Thursday, please let me know, [office@uccgj.org](mailto:office@uccgj.org). Also there will be one Church Chat email sent out for the full two weeks on Monday, January 9, and the deadline for that will be Saturday, January 7. Church Chat will continue on its regular Thursday schedule January 26.

**January Collection for Catholic Outreach** | Watch January Church Chats for information about what we are collecting next!

**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. **Since Walmart is discontinuing the use of plastic bags beginning January 1, the sleeping mat makers would like for people to begin bringing plastic bags again.**

**A Note from the Finance Team** | If you have made a donation in 2022, you will receive a year-end statement by the end of January. You should not file your taxes until you have this statement in hand. We will distribute them by email if the church has your email address. We will also distribute printed copies on Sunday mornings around the middle of January and will mail those not picked up.

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**This Week at FCUCC**  
**January 1 – January 8, 2022**

<b>Sunday 1</b>	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:15	Worship & Celebration	library
<b>Monday 2</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>		
<b>Tuesday 3</b>	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
<b>Thursday 5</b>	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
	1:00	Fellowship & Hospitality	library
<b>Friday 6</b>	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
<b>Sunday 8</b>	9:00	Choir Rehearsal	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Undecorating the Sanctuary, etc	
	11:00	Happy Hour	fellowship hall

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

**Save the Dates:**

February 19 | FCC Hosts WeShelter Program through March 4

February 22 | Ash Wednesday

April 9 | Easter

## **Vision & Mission**

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*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.*