

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Communion Sunday | Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 7, 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

Prelude in Bb minor, C. Maxwell 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

Rachel Seiff

God is creating and recreating our world; let us share in the work of love.

With faith, we pray for the wisdom to discern what needs to be done.

With faith, we reflect on the path that Jesus would take.

With faith, we follow in the path of compassion walked by Jesus.

With faith, we share our spiritual gifts with the church and our community.

With faith, we say yes to our calling to be a healer of the brokenness we encounter.

**HYMN NCH #314

Community of Christ

All

Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor,
take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world 'round:
disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rachel

OFFERTORY

Improvisation on Leoni, C. Maxwell Reilly

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**

Rachel

God of healing and hope, some days it takes faith just to get out of bed. Other days we dance through the obstacles. Grant us the faith we need to handle the challenges of both good and bad days. Grant us the faith to share in the work of compassion and mercy. Amen.

****HYMN NCH 313**

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

All

Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care,
We, O God, your sons and daughters, your enduring witness bear.
In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard.
Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, living Word.

Like a tree beside the river, drawing life from holy streams,
Fill us with your love forever; recreate our hopes and dreams.
Through the storms of life sustain us by the wisdom of your grace.
May the changing of the seasons find us in your warm embrace.

We, beside the living waters, drink from your eternal life.
Give to all, your sons and daughters, faith that rises over strife.
O — Living God, most glorious, strengthen us for life today.
By the hope of timeless promise guide your church upon the Way.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Rachel

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

MESSAGE

The Proof of Faith

Paul

****HYMN**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets (tune: Hymn to Joy)

All

God, You spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine wind and rain.

We, created in your image, would a true reflection be
of Your justice grace and mercy and the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship, joined in one community.
When we blur Your gracious image, focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as Your people, we move onward toward Your goal.

God, Your will is still creating, calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion, fashion us with loving care.
Thus new creatures in Your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

COMMUNION

Music during communion: Prelude in C major BWV 924

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Paul

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.

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!

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Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev Paul Ashby
Rachel Seiff
Max Reilly

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Paul is on vacation, if you have an **urgent** need or crisis, you can call him while he is on the road. Try both Paul's cell phone, 970-793-8638, and Pam's phone, 425-286-8169. Their Family and Friends Tour will go to Santa Fe, Amarillo, Tulsa, St. Louis, Huntington, WV, Indianapolis, Springfield, Ill., and Kansas City. Paul and Pam get to see the two newest family members who are 1 ½ and just turned 2. The two-year old is named after Uncle Paul.

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

This Week at FCUCC**August 7 – August 14, 2022**

Sunday 7	9:30	Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship w/ Communion	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:00	Worship & Celebration	library
Monday 8	5:00	Make Mondays Fun	pilgrim
Tuesday 9	10:00	Womens' Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
Wednesday 10	2:00	Mission & Outreach	chapel
Thursday 11	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
Friday 12	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
	5:30	Church Camping on Grand Mesa Island Lake State Park	
Sunday 14	9:30	Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim

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

Save the Dates:

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.

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.

Pastor Paul and Pam Ashby’s Vacation | Paul and Pam will be on vacation August 8 through August 30.

Mission & Outreach August Collection | For the month of August, we will continue supporting Child and Migrant Services by collecting insect repellent, sunscreen, calamine lotion, and bandanas. Some thoughtful additions to our collections list include individual size Kleenex, individual size hand cleanser, cough/throat drops, and lip balm.

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.

August Collection for Catholic Outreach | As you know, our enormous collection of drinks – soda, juices, water, and more – in June was a tremendous hit at Catholic Outreach. It was getting hot, and folks who must spend much of their time outdoors and/or on the streets were suffering. So we offered them “a cup of cool water,” as Jesus encourages us to do, and they were refreshed and glad. August’s arrival means there’s still another long month (or more) of summer heat to go. So, let’s match or exceed our June generosity, and collect another 100-200 cans/bottles/packets of liquid refreshment to share with our thirsty neighbors.

We Are Hiring a New Custodian | Although Anna continues to serve us well right now, she will be leaving us soon for a different opportunity. Do you know someone who has custodial skills and experience who would work for FCC 15 hours a week cleaning our building and overseeing our grounds maintenance? Please ask interested persons to email me at the church office, office@uccgj.org. The job is also posted on Indeed and Facebook Jobs. Thank you! ~Beth

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.*