

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost
November 6, 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, 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

Janis Woodley

Where do we experience grace in this spiritual journey called life? Consider the gifts of the Spirit...

Through love we are connected to others and find our true self.

Joy gives us renewed energy.

Peace enables us to live in harmony.

Patience reminds us to breathe, to reflect, to rest.

Kindness opens every door to friendship.

Goodness restores our sense of trust.

Faithfulness seeks to be ever aware of the light of God.

Gentleness embraces all of life with compassion.

Self-Reflection allows us to be honest with ourselves and others.

****HYMN NCH 401**

O God in Whom All Life Begins (tune: Ellacombe)

All

O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.

Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.

Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray,
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

Ken Puhler

OFFERTORY

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

Joanne

God of ever flowing life, we offer our gratitude for the Spiritual gifts that make life worth living. Inspire us to use our strengths and talents to add goodness to our world. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 15:1-2, 10-20

Joanne

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat."

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

MESSAGE

I Believe in Good

Paul

**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.

COMMUNION

God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
 flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;
 we, our children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;
 great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race,
 known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
 probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
 facing us with life's destruction of our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
 children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you,
 may our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;
 great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

**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!

Acknowledgements

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Today's Worship Leaders

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|-----------|----------------|
| preacher | Rev Paul Ashby |
| liturgist | Janis Woodley |
| musician | Max Reilly |

FCUCC Staff

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| senior pastor | revpaulashby@yahoo.com | Rev. Paul Ashby |
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| music coordinator | | Martha Jones |

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.

Divine Desserts Auction | TODAY | 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 | 9 AM until 1 PM | 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.

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 | We will be collecting something a little different from before: kitchen basics, such as salt, pepper, canned cream of mushroom soup. Watch Tower Chimes and Church Chat for more detail.

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.

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.**

This Week at FCUCC
November 6 - 13, 2022

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|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |
| Tuesday 8 | Election Day | | |
| | 10:00 | Women's Coffee | pilgrim |
| | 10:00 | Men's Coffee | mayflower |
| | 5:30 | Cantabile Ringers | music room |
| Wednesday 9 | 1:00 | Through the Bible Study | chapel |
| | 2:00 | Mission & Outreach | chapel |
| Thursday 10 | 12:15 | Health & Wellness | mayflower |
| Friday 11 | 10:00 | Zoom Coffee Hour | zoom |
| Saturday 12 | 9:00 | Fall Cleanup Work Day | everywhere! |
| Sunday 13 | 9:00 | Choir Practice | music room |
| | 10:00 | Worship | 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 20 | Transgender Day of Remembrance

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.*