

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday of Easter | Mother's Day
May 8, 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 ... **GET READY TO SING!!!!***

OPENING HYMNS

All

All Are Welcome, Song Folder #2, vs 1, 4, 5

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hope and dreams and vision, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: *refrain*

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *refrain*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You, NCH #4, vs 1-3

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

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

Judy Jones

Holy One, help us to see you more clearly in every reflection of compassion and care across the earth.

Holy One, we want to love You more fully and to see You more clearly in the joyful healing heart of Jesus.

Save us from the images created by Michelangelo's ceiling that pictures God as old, stern, harsh and ready to throw thunderbolts in a pose of hyper-masculinity.

Love and acceptance is not a finger pointing toward us but arms open wide to invite an embrace.

Liberate us from images that distort our awareness of divine grace, peace and compassion.

**HYMN NCH 277, VS 1, 3, 4

Holy, Holy, Holy

All

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubin and seraphim bow before you only,
from the beginning, God eternally.

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Judy

HYMNS DURING OFFERING

All

There is a Balm in Gilead, NCH #553, vs 1

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Amazing Grace, NCH # 547

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

**DOXOLOGY

Halle, Halle, Halle

All

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Judy

Holy One, bless us with friends and family members who share the gifts of love and acceptance. Help this church and every church to be a living embodiment of the compassion of Christ. Use our gifts to generate the energy of mercy, peace and understanding. AMEN.

HYMNS

All

Jesus Loves Me, NCH #327

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know, walking with me on my way.
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.

When the Gifts of God Surprise Us (tune: Beach Spring)

When the gifts of God surprise us and our joy must find a voice,
when the earth is brimmed with glory and compels us to rejoice:
sing for beauty in abundance, sing for mysteries we share
sing for marvels that revive us, sing for wonder ev'rywhere.

When relationships are broken and no call for peace is heard,
when our differences define us, and division seems assured:
sing to join our scattered voices, sing to name how we agree.
Sing to bridge all that divides us. Sing to form community.

When injustice grows around us and the truth gives way to lies,
when the violent build an empire and the strong suppress the wise:
sing down jails of hate that cage us. Sing down idols we hold dear.
Sing down strongholds of oppression. Sing down fortresses of fear.

When the love of God defines us and relationships are healed,
when injustice is defeated and the reign of Christ revealed:
sing with breath the Spirit give us. Sing for justice that will be.
Sing down praise through endless ages. Sing for grace that sets us free.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 66:9-13 and Mathew 13:33-34

Judy

Shall I open the womb and not deliver? says the Lord; shall I, the one who delivers, shut the womb? says your God. Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom. For thus says the Lord: I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing

stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing.

MESSAGE *Getting God off the Sistine Chapel's Ceiling* Paul

**HYMN NCH #2 *Glory, Glory Hallelujah* All

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down. *(repeat)*
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. *(repeat)*
Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down. *(repeat)*
I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down. *(repeat)*
I am climbing Jacob's ladder, since I laid my burdens down. *(repeat)*
Every round goes higher, higher, since I laid my burdens down. *(repeat)*

** BENEDICTION Paul

UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah* All

Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down!

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher Paul Ashby
liturgist Judy Jones
musician Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

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FCUCC Staff

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custodian		Anna Driggs
office administrator	office@uccgj.org	Beth Rakestraw
volunteer treasurer/finance	finance@uccgj.org	Martha Jones

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.

This Week at FCUCC
May 8 – May 15, 2022

Sunday 8	Mother's Day	
	9:00 Choir Practice	sanctuary
	10:00 Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:15 Happy Hour	pilgrim
Monday 9	1:00 Property & Finance	chapel
Tuesday 10	5:30 Cantabile Ringers	music room
	5:30 Church at Graff Dairy	Graff Dairy
Wednesday 11	1:00 Through the NT	chapel
Friday 13	10:00 Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 15	9:00 Choir Practice	sanctuary
	10:00 Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:15 Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:00 Bylaws Q&A	mayflower
	After Bylaws Q&A, Council Meeting	chapel

All congregants are welcome to attend council meetings.

Save the Dates:

May 22 | Annual Meeting
May 29 | Fifth Sunday Potluck
May 30 | Church Office closed for Memorial Day
June 5 | Pentecost
June 9 - 11 | RMC Annual Celebration Business Meeting
June 19 | Father's Day | Juneteenth

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

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 Hour after worship | You must be up to date with vaccinations to attend all church social events including Coffee Hour.

New on the Sign Up Hub Table | Sign up to be a greeter/usher! This is a great way to get to know many of the people who attend our church. Have questions? Contact Shirley Kodis.

Bring a Friend | Graff Dairy | Tuesday, May 10 | 5:30 pm | Join us at this very popular church event to enjoy wonderful ice cream or maybe a hotdog! Graff Dairy is located at 581 29 Road in Grand Junction. We'll be there until around 7:00 or so. Lots of outdoor seating available.

Annual Congregational Meeting | Our Program Year Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at the end of worship. This is the time when members of the congregation vote on the new proposed council for 2022-2023 and some proposed bylaws changes. It is important that we have as much participation as possible. Please save the date on your calendar and join in the governance of our congregation. A meeting agenda and other materials will be sent via email May 9. A Bylaws Q&A will take place in Mayflower on Sunday, May 15.

Mission & Outreach May Collection | May is the 2nd month of the 2nd quarter of the year, and Mission and Outreach continues to focus on **Solidarity, Not Charity**. For May, we will be collecting “pouch foods.” What are those? Think of things that come in pouches, like apple sauce, tuna, chicken, dried foods.

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.

May Collection for Catholic Outreach | Canned Cream of Whatever Soups | Cream of soup in every flavor, More to cook with, more to savor. So bring those soups, please, all the cream(y) ones, For the Catholic Outreach cooks, those are the dreamy ones!

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.*