

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
New Members Sunday | Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 31, 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

Arioso, GF Handel

Ellen Bradley

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

How do we measure success in American society?

Success is measured by money and a job with status.

Can you live a life that is successful with just enough to cover the bills, or a job that has no status?

Perhaps but that is not what we want for our family members.

Yet Jesus did not even have enough money to go to a Rent-a-Donkey.

**Living a God-Life may be different from living a Good Life. Grant to us the gift of a life
that has joy, purpose, fun, rest, friendship, community, service and hope. Amen**

**HYMN – NCH #22

Sing Praise to God

All

Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!

Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!

Gladsome rejoice --- organ and trumpet and voice –
joining God's great congregation.

Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.

All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.

God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:

amen, amen never ending.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Nancy

OFFERTORY

Fantasia, W.A. Mozart

Ellen

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**

Nancy

God of all life, as we dedicate these gifts, we thank you for the gift of life. Help us to live a life with joy, purpose, fun, rest, friendship, community, service and. hope. 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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:13-21

Nancy

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

MESSAGE

The Difference Between the Good Life and the God Life

Paul

****HYMN NCH 76**

Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

All

Sent forth by God’s blessing our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God’s realm and to answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

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!

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Rev Paul Ashby
Nancy Palubicki
Ellen Bradley

Acknowledgements

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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 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
July 31 – August 7, 2022

Sunday 31	Fifth Sunday Potluck	
	9:30 Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00 Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00 Fifth Sunday Potluck	pilgrim
	11:00 New Members Class	mayflower
Tuesday 2	10:00 Womens' Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00 Men's Coffee	mayflower
Wednesday 3	1:00 Through the NT Study	chapel
Thursday 4	12:15 Weight Loss/Healthy Eating Support Group	mayflower
	1:00 Fellowship & Hospitality	library
Friday 5	10:00 Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
	5:30 Children & Youth Event Movies Under the Stars: <i>Mulan</i>	
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

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

Save the Dates:

August 12–14 | Church Camping Trip| Island Lake [on Grand Mesa]

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.

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.

Fifth Sunday Potluck | July 31 | Today | Pilgrim | Please join us and be our guest if you did not bring a dish; there's always enough food to go around.

Upcoming Children's Event | Movie Under the Stars | Glade Park Volunteer Fire Department | August 5 | Meet at church at 5:30. Bring camp chairs or a blanket. **Can You Help?** | Per the church's

Safe Church Policy, two volunteers are needed for this event. If you want to help, please let Marie Koontz know at 970-270-2579.

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 | To Be Announced. Watch Church Chat for more information.

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.*