

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 4, 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

Kremser, arr. John Carter

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

Andrea Bartlett

Let us be committed to the way of justice and peace in our families, our work, our own time for renewal.

Help us to see more clearly the places of grace that are along our path.

In this desert – we offer our gratitude for two rivers!

In this desert – we celebrate the trees that offer shade in the summer and the continuous gift of clean air.

God calls us to be like a beautiful, productive, tree planted by a desert stream.

Grant us the courage to share our greatest strengths with others.

**HYMN NCH #421

We Gather Together

All

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
to live in community, seeking God's will.

We come now, as sisters and brothers, confessing
the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
you call us, O Savior, to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom, to follow or stray,
Empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

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 Andrea

OFFERTORY *Morning Has Broken*, arr. Larry Shackley Martha

**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 Andrea

Ever-giving God, we dedicate ourselves and our gifts to make our world a green and vibrant place. Enable us to be not simply productive but to be people of joy and gratitude. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 1 Andrea

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on the law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

MESSAGE *The Gift of Trees* Paul

**HYMN NCH 313, vs 1 *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.

COMMUNION

**HYMN NCH 313, vs 2 & 3 All

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.

**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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- ◇ *Kremser*, a 16th century Dutch melody, arr by John Carter © 1991, Hope Publishing Co.
- ◇ *We Gather Together*, NCH 421. Tune: *Kremser*, 16th century Dutch melody arr Edward Kremser, 1877. Text: a 16th century Netherlands folk hymn, translated by Theodore Baker, 1894. Adaptation by Lavon Bayler © 1992, The Pilgrim Press.
- ◇ *Morning Has Broken*. Tune: *Bunessan*, a traditional Gaelic melody, arr. by Larry Shackley © 2001 Hope Publishing Co.
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- ◇ *Like a Tree Beside the Waters*. Text © 1994, James Martin. Music: Ray Hopp; © 1990 Selah Publishing Company.
- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher	Rev Paul Ashby
liturgist	Andrea Bartlett
musician	Martha Jones

This Week at FCUCC

September 4 – September 11, 2022

Sunday 4	9:15	Choir rehearses anthems & hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
Monday 5	Labor Day Church Office Closed		
Tuesday 6	10:00	Women's Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
Wednesday 7	1:00	Through the Bible Study	chapel
Thursday 8	12:15	Health & Wellness	mayflower
	4:00	RMC CCoM Retreat Begins	
Friday 9	9:00	RMC CCoM Retreat Continues	
	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Saturday 10	12:30	Pastor Paul's Covenant Celebration	sanctuary
Sunday 11	9:30	Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	12:00	Pride Parade	Avalon Theater Parking Lot

Church office hours this week: Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 to 3:00.

Save the Dates:

October 8 | In-Person “Empty Bowls” Fundraiser for Catholic Outreach

October 19- 22 | Friends of the Library Book Sale

October 23 | Fall Sunday Book Study Begins, *Christians Against Christianity, How Right-Wing Evangelicals are Destroying our Nation and Our Faith.*

November 8 | Election Day

November 27 | Advent Begins

December 18 | Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

Christmas Eve is on Saturday this year; Christmas Day on Sunday.

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

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.

A Very Special Day | You are invited to a Service of Covenant and Installation for Pastor Paul that takes place this coming Saturday, September 10 at 12:30 in our Sanctuary. A potluck meal will follow the service in Pilgrim. Please bring a generous dish to share, as some guests will be in attendance.

Next Sunday is Pride Sunday | For next Sunday, wear a T-shirt with a justice message, and wear or bring your best walking shoes, because then ...

March with Us at the Pride Parade! | After Worship on Sunday, September 11, join us to walk in this year's 10th Annual Pride Parade! We will be gathering with other parade participants at the parking lot behind the Avalon Theatre, near the corner of 7th and Main. Step off is scheduled for 12 Noon Gay Standard Time [i.e. we might be fashionably late!]. We'll head west on Colorado Ave to 3rd, then up and over to Main Street, then east on Main to 5th. Let's pack the entire route with rainbows!

Mission & Outreach September Collection | This month we will continue to support Child and Migrant Services. We would like to collect icy-hot type patches and other items for muscle pain relief and/or any other items we've been collecting during the summer months, especially individual size

Kleenex, hand cleanser, cough/throat drops, and lip balm. We also look forward to meeting the director of CMS, Nellie Garcia, when she visits our church on Sunday, October 8th!

September Collection for Catholic Outreach | “Oodles of noodles, and lotsa’ pasta is our September request ... to help our friends at Catholic Outreach feed all their hungry guests. But please, my friends, no pasta-in-cans, no ravioli, or spaghetti-os, in fact, no spaghetti, canned or dry; they already have lots of those!” The volunteers and pantry and kitchen coordinators at Catholic Outreach – and the many, many people they serve each day – are deeply grateful for our generosity. We’re apparently one of the few churches in the Valley that regularly supports their food ministry.

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.

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.*