

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Pride Sunday | Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 26, 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

Noel Nouvelet, arr John Carter

Max Reilly

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth Rakestraw

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**Whoever you are...and wherever you are on life's journey...
you are welcome here!**

OPENING REFLECTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Paul

Queer One. Fabulous One. Fluid and ever becoming One:

Do not allow us to make our ideas of you into an idol.

You are as close to us as our own breath and yet, your essence transcends all that we can imagine.

You are mother, father, and parent. You are sister, brother, and sibling. You are the transgender and gender-fluid person, you are the same-gender-loving and bisexual person – You are each of us—made in your image, incapable of limiting your vast expressions of beauty.

Embodied in us, your creation, we recognize our flesh in all its forms is made holy in You. With thanksgiving, we celebrate your manifestation in all its glorious forms.

Blessed are our bodies. Blessed is our love. Blessed are we when we celebrate that which the world turns away. Fill our hearts with a pride rooted in resistance to all that seeks to destroy.

May we delight in the ways you have created us: diverse, unique, surprising, and beautiful.

Thanks be to God!

**HYMN NCH 402

De Colores (Sing of Colors)

All

Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills in profusion are springing;
Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside my window their canticles singing;
Sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope we recall;
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.

Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.
Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares, who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Beth

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

Paul

OFFERTORY

Improvisation

Max

**DOXOLOGY

Hal-le, hal-le hal-le-lu-ja.

All

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Paul

May these offerings help kindle fires of change. May the spark of God's love light the love in our hearts, that they may burn brightly through the day. May the flames of love warm those who are lonely, those who feel rejected, those who feel cast out because of who they are or who they love. May these flames, flames of radical love, guide them into the arms of love. Amen.

**HYMN

Draw a Wider Circle (tune: Noel Nouvelet)

All

Draw a wider circle or, perhaps, erase.
Spiral toward God's center, gravity of grace.
Raze former fences marking out and in—
holy and unholy, sanctity and sin.

Planets spin in orbit, centered on a star;
some will circle closely, some revolve afar.
From any distance light illumines each.
Through the void of darkness none is out of reach.

Do we measure margins just to feel secure,
casting out the different, hoping to be pure?
Christ is our center – bound'ry lines must fall.
God's light flows unhindered; grace abounds for all.

SCRIPTURE

Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Luke 18:15-17

Paul

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love
all the wealth of one's house,
it would be utterly scorned.

People were bringing even infants to Jesus that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children

come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kin-dom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kin-dom of God as a little child will never enter it.'

MESSAGE *Made in The Image of God –Not Your Image of the Image of God* Beth Rakestraw

**HYMN NCH 294, vs 1,2,4-6 *There's a Spirit in the Air* All

There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working in our world."

Lose your shyness, find your tongue; tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.

Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.

When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home:
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living working in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.

** BENEDICTION Beth

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

"guest" preacher Beth Rakestraw
liturgist Paul Ashby
musician Max Reilly

Acknowledgements

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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.

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.

NEW Mission & Outreach July Collection | Our third quarter project will be to support Child and Migrant Services. During the month of July, we will be collecting insect repellent, sunscreen, calamine lotion, and bandanas. We suggest that you pick one or two of these items and place them in the designated bins either in the Gathering Space on Sundays or on the shelves outside of the office. Thank you so much for supporting this important project!

What Our Kids Have Done | With a palette of many colors, God created our world. Using “our little eyes”, we have been looking and remembering all the colors of his creation: the colors of the sky, rainbow, birds, bees, bugs, and butterflies. The many colors of all the animals in the world and how God colored humankind in many colors and shades. Like the Bible said, God created all and everything created was “Good.” We invite you to drop into our classroom and see our display - a small sample of God’s creation.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter | Begins meeting weekly on Thursdays, July 7, 12:15 to 1:15 pm in Mayflower.

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.

Yummy Cherries!! Ron and Ellen Bradley have a bumper crop of Bing cherries in their backyard and right now they are at their best. They are dark red, juicy, and sweet. They invite their FCC friends to come over any time and pick as many as you can use and take them home. “Don’t be shy. Come over anytime, just walk around to the backyard and start picking! Even if we aren’t home! 619 Shadowbrook Dr. (north of Patterson across from Cross Orchards)

Church Office Coverage Needed | I will be taking vacation Thursday, July 7 through Saturday, July 16, which means some volunteer office coverage is needed. If you are able to volunteer for a shift, please email me at office@uccgj.org. Thank you! ~Beth

This Week at FCUCC
June 26 – July 3, 2022**Sunday 26****Pride Sunday**

9:15 Song leaders rehearse hymns

sanctuary

10:00 Worship

sanctuary/YouTube

11:00 Happy Hour

pilgrim

11:15 Children’s Event: Color Walk/Enstrom’s Ice Cream

Monday 27	5:00	Make Mondays Fun	pilgrim
Tuesday 28	10:00	Womens' Coffee	pilgrim
	10:00	Men's Coffee	mayflower
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Thursday 30	1:00	Fellowship & Hospitality	pilgrim
Friday 1	10:00	Zoom Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 3	9:30	Song leaders rehearse hymns	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship w/ Communion	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim

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

Note the church office will be closed Monday, July 4 for Independence Day.

Save the Dates:

July 24 | Hawaiian Shirt Sunday | New Members Class After Worship

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.

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.*