

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 24, 2021

***Please rise in body or in spirit.*

GATHERING BELL

At the sound of the bell, please quieten yourselves and prepare for worship.

PRELUDE *Prelude from Suite Bergamasque (selections), Claude Debussy*

Max Reilly

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Rev. Paul Ashby

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Palubicki

When you are practicing generosity, you should feel a little pinch when you give.

That pinch is your stinginess protesting.

If you give away your old coat that you would not be caught dead wearing, that is not generosity.

There is no pinch in letting go of what we can replace.

It is good to give away a coat that may keep someone warm but it does not touch the struggle we face in spiritual growth...

Let us struggle to free ourselves from the constant temptation to grasp, clutch and hold back our gifts.

**** HYMN SPP 179**

We Lift Up Our Hearts

Mark Long with congregation

We lift up our hearts, we lift up our hearts, we lift up our hearts to the Living One! *repeat*

We center our lives, we center our lives, we center our lives in the ground of Christ! *repeat*

We open our minds, we open our minds, we open our minds to the Spirit's wind! *repeat*

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIAL

Jeanette Ford

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Nancy

OFFERTORY

*Bwana Awabariki, arr Susan T Nelson
(May God Grant You a Blessing)*

Cantabile Ringers

****DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures high and low.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Praise God for all that Love has done,

Creator, Christ and Spirit One.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Nancy

Holy One, bless us with the joy of generous hearts and spirits. Let us sense Your calling in our lives to share our gifts with the world. Grant us the courage to be disciples of generosity. Amen.

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.

HYMN NCH 563

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

Mark and congregation

We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night and, wear, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears, and warhorns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor,
that all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,
that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 126

Nancy

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:14-15

Nancy

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."

MESSAGE

Share Your Light

Paul

**HYMN NCH 562

Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You

Mark and congregation

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.

** SPOKEN BENEDICTION

Paul

** UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION

Mark and congregation

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	Rev. Paul Ashby
liturgist	Nancy Palubicki
song leader	Mark Long
musicians	Max Reilly

FCUCC Staff

senior pastor	revpaulashby@yahoo.com	Rev. Paul Ashby
choir & bell director	topcatkc@aol.com	Karen Caton
music coordinator, organist/pianist	finance@uccgj.org	Martha Jones
custodian		Anna Driggs
office administrator	office@uccgj.org	Beth Rakestraw
volunteer treasurer/finance	finance@uccgj.org	Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

Call to Worship from Gelek Rinpoche, Tibetan Buddhist Tradition
 Unless otherwise noted, music reprinted and/or streamed with permission. OneLicense #A-709231.
 All rights reserved.

- ◇ *We Lift Up Our Hearts*. Words and music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan © 2004 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ.
- ◇ *Bwana Awabariki*. A traditional Swahili song arr by Susan Nelson © Agape, a division of Hope Publishing Company.
- ◇ *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*. Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, Germany, 1623. Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Public domain.
- ◇ *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*. Tune: *Endless Song*, attrib to Robert Lowery, 1869. Public domain. Text: Ruth Duck © 1983, rev. 1992 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
- ◇ **Take My Gifts*, NCH 456. Tune: *Talavera Terrace*, Colin Gibson, 1991. Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991. Tune and text © 1992, Hope Publishing Co.
- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*, NCH 581. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

This Week at FCUCC**October 24-31, 2021**

Sunday 24	9:00	Start Up Choir	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Happy Hour	pilgrim
	11:00	"Sources of Strength" Presentation	mayflower
Tuesday 26	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 27	1:00	Fall Book Study	chapel
Friday 29	10:00	Coffee Hour	zoom
Sunday 31	9:00	Start Up Choir	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	5 th Sunday Potluck	pilgrim

"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."

Save the dates | November 1 | Make Mondays Fun Again | November 2 | Election Day | November 7 | Fall Cleanup | November 7 | Daylight Savings Time Ends | November 14 | Stewardship Sunday | November 25 | Thanksgiving Day Potluck

Adult Education Opportunity | TODAY after service | Mayflower | Erica Kitzman will introduce and discuss a new program, Sources of Strength, that she has been instrumental in bringing to youth in the Grand Valley. Sources of Strength is "a best practice youth suicide prevention project designed to harness the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture, ultimately preventing suicide, bullying, and substance abuse." This is in advance of the training being offered at St. Matthew's on November 11 and 12 that was mentioned in the October 7 and 14 Church Chats.

Fifth Sunday Potluck is BACK | Please join us next Sunday, October 31st for our first 5th Sunday potluck of 2021!



Fourth Quarter Mission Project | Time for Cranberry Sauce | We have done a fantastic job of bringing in mashed potatoes and gravy packets. Please bring in cranberry sauce for the next three weeks to complete the Thanksgiving sides for the Salvation Army Thanksgiving baskets.

Fall Clean Up Sunday | November 7 | We will be working on a variety of projects both outdoors and indoors to clean and winterize the grounds and spruce up some interior spaces. Tasks for all abilities will be available. Please sign-up in advance for your favorite chores before or after worship services in October. Chicken chili, sandwiches and drinks will be available. All are invited to wear work clothing to the worship service.

Fall Book Study | For this year's Fall Book study, Pastor Paul continues to lead us in a discussion of *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee. The wisdom of this book is in the subtitle, "What racism costs

everyone and how we can prosper together.” We will meet in-person and over Zoom simultaneously on Wednesdays at 1-2pm.

Empty, Clean Gallon Jugs | Mission & Outreach is collecting clean, empty plastic gallon milk or water jugs for Solidarity, Not Charity. Please bring your thoroughly rinsed jugs and put them on the collection shelves near the office. *Every jug you bring in for SNC's use saves them \$1.* Thank you.

October Catholic Outreach Collection | As the weather cools, and the leaves turn, minds and stomachs turn to thoughts of comfort foods ... spaghetti ... chili ... tomato soup (with grilled-cheese sandwiches, of course) ... lasagna ... tacos ... and more! And the basic staple for making all of these is: tomato sauce!!! A tisket, a tasket, let's get some tomato sauce in our basket. Let's set our goal at a minimum of 100 cans for this month!

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.

- ◇ Beth and Beverly thank you for the prayers. The appointment appears to have been successful.
- ◇ Continue to pray for folks struggling with Covid.

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.*