

**Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Halloween | All Saints Sunday
October 31, 2021**

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

GATHERING BELL

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

PRELUDE

Arioso (Thanks Be to Thee), G.F. Handel

Martha Jones

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

Julie Krueger

On All Saints Day we celebrate the many great souls that pointed us toward the Light.

**It is easy to stumble in the night on the road of life. We have times when we feel lost,
sad or alone in the dark.**

In the darkness of confusion remember the people who were radiant with love and encouragement.

**We search our hearts and embrace the help and hope given to us by family members,
friends, teachers, church members and the caring souls whose light crossed our path.**

We thank the Creator for all the saints whose blessings are planting the seeds of love this very day.

Let the seeds of their love grow and take root within us.

** HYMN NCH 376

God, We Thank You for Our People

Pam Gregory with congregation

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.

Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,
hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;
though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.
Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame
You transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!

By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.

Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

THE NAMING OF OUR SAINTS

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIAL

Mary Endres

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Julie

OFFERTORY

Shall We Gather at the River, arr Joel Raney

Martha

**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

Julie

God of love, we offer our gratitude for the people who taught us the lessons of love. As we remember the spiritual gifts of those who lived a love of faith, hope and love, let us embrace the goodness they shared with us. Help us to reflect the radiance of loving kindness to those who share this journey called life. 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 297

Give Thanks for Life

Pam and congregation

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
Yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for those who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,
Who touched the truth, who burned for what was right, Alleluia, Alleluia!

And for our own, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
A love not changed by time or death or dread, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain
that lies in darkness does its life retain
in resurrection to grow green again, Alleluia, Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12: 9-18

Julie

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

MESSAGE

The Spiritual Lesson of Halloween

Paul

**HYMN NCH 299

For All the Saints

Pam and congregation

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might:
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may your people, faithful, true and bold,
live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and share with them a glorious crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, for peace we long.
Steals on the ear, the distant festal song.
Then hearts are brave again and faith grows strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

** SPOKEN BENEDICTION

Paul

** UNISON SUNG BENEDICTION

Pam 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	Julie Krueger
song leader	Pam Gregory
musician	Martha Jones

FCUCC Staff

senior pastor	revpaulashby@yahoo.com	Rev. Paul Ashby
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Acknowledgements

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This Week at FCUCC

October 31 - November 7, 2021

Sunday 31	9:00	Start Up Choir	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	5 th Sunday Potluck	pilgrim
Monday 1	5:00	Make Mondays Fun Again	pilgrim
Tuesday 2	*****ELECTION DAY*****		
	5:30	Cantabile Ringers	music room
Wednesday 3	1:00	Fall Book Study	chapel
	2:00	Congregational Life	library
	4:30	Mission & Outreach	mayflower
Friday 5	10:00	Coffee Hour	zoom
Saturday 6	Daylight Savings Ends set your clocks back one hour before bed.		
Sunday 7	9:00	Start Up Choir	sanctuary
	10:00	Worship w/ Communion	sanctuary/YouTube
	11:00	Fall Clean Up	everywhere!

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

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 14 | Stewardship Sunday | November 25 | Thanksgiving Day Potluck

Fifth Sunday Potluck is BACK | Please join us TODAY for our first 5th Sunday potluck of 2021! Visitors welcome –there will be plenty.



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.

November Catholic Outreach Collection | They are asking for canned vegetables, canned fruit, and cream soups, if possible. We will collect these through November 14, Stewardship Sunday, when we will bless them together, before they are delivered to the Outreach kitchen.

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.

Gail Mosher's surgery went well and she is recovering at home.

All Saints Day
Rev. Sharyl Peterson

Honoring the Saints has been a feature of Christian worship from the very beginning of the church, when the names of local Christian martyrs were included in Sunday prayers. Over time, special days were set aside for remembering not just the martyrs, but other exemplary Christians whom individual Christian communities proclaimed to be saints by consensus. In the 4th century, “All Saints Day” was set aside to remember and honor these extraordinary people.

When the church became centralized, local saint making was replaced by a more universal and church-controlled official process called “canonization.” Eventually, only the “official saints” were liturgically commemorated as models of faith. Many seemed too lofty to imitate, however, and a gulf open between saints and “ordinary” Christians.

In the 16th century, when the Reformation led to a separation of the Roman Catholic Church from the “Protestant” (protesting) churches, the Reformers reclaimed sanctity. They retrieved Paul's teaching that saints are all whom God justifies through grace by faith alone. Rather than a posthumous honor for the extraordinary few, sainthood is the common calling of *all* who are baptized. This was a favorite insight of the Puritans (our UCC forebears) who routinely called each other “saints.”

Like many faith observances, the actual date of All Saints Day has changed several times since it was first observed. Today, it is usually celebrated on the Sunday closest to November 1st. And today, All Saints Day is a time when the church honors those who did not just die for their faith, but who live/lived it.

Those we celebrate on this All Saints Day are people who loved/love their God. They are a people whose strong faith is consistent with their behavior. They usually don't work big “miracles,” but create small ones in the way that they treat other people. We give thanks to God for their lives. And we hope that we, in our turn, may live in such a way that our faith too will shine in the world.

The Departed Saints of First Congregational United Church of Christ

These are the departed saints from our congregation since November 4, 2018 (the day of our most recent All Saints remembrance) until the present:

Jan Scheevel
Jack Roberts
Betty Ellrick
Nancy Price
Al Albrethsen
Rose Moore
Ann Dorn
LaRue Wooters
Jim Fox
Joe Skinner
Ralph Dorn
Norm McLoughlin
Lu Warden
Audrey Forsman
Alice Elder
Judy Lauer
Frank O'Brien
Mildred Gobbo
Heather Holly

