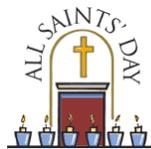




First Congregational UCC

May the grace and love of God enfold and hold you as we enter the homestretch of 2021. October holds many holy moments for us as a church.

- We will continue the **Sermon Series on God’s Calling**.
- Our Oasis Ministry will offer opportunities for growth with **Artful Prayer on October 14** and **book discussion on Richard Foster’s *Celebration of Discipline* beginning October 25th**. We continue to offer **Sacred Conversations on Race Wednesdays at 3 p.m.** on Zoom and **Drumming as a Spiritual Practice October 14 and 28 at 11 a.m.**
- **Bible Study** is holy ground of sharing and caring ~ Tuesday nights on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. and a hybrid Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 11 a.m.
- We will honor our **LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters on October 10th ~ National Coming Out Day ~ during the 11 a.m. worship**. Please invite family members and friends who have had the courage to name their true, created-in-God’s-image self to join us in-person or online.
- **We will celebrate All Saints Day on October 31st**. *If you have a saint who passed away in your life you would like a candle lit for and name read aloud, please let me know **by October 17th!!!***



October 31st at noon, our Finance Team will lead a hybrid Budget meeting. You can join either in-person in the sanctuary or on Zoom.

Please remember that one of my top priorities is to offer you God’s love. If you would like to talk, if you want to share what is roaming around your heart or explore the season of your soul, please let me know. There is always a place and space for one-on-one conversations. Pastoral Care is vital to my calling and I look forward to talking with you sometime soon.

May God’s love be with you every day. ~ Pastor Wes

Office Hours

Pastor Wes:

Mon.-Thurs.: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Terri Chapman:

Mon. & Thurs.: 10:00 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Mark:

Mon. – Fri.: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Greg:

Tues. – Sat.: various hours



- **Outdoor worship ~ 9 a.m.** in the Oasis Center. **Masks are encouraged.**
- **On-line worship ~ 10:55 a.m.** Livestream on Facebook, YouTube and our website.
- **In-person, in-the-sanctuary with masks, social distancing.**
- **Zoom Coffee Hour at noon.**

Worship in October

Every Sunday we worship at 9 a.m. in the Oasis Center, at 10:55 a.m. in-person in the sanctuary, and at 10:55 a.m. online (Facebook, YouTube, Website)



October 3 ~ World Communion Sunday ~ We continue the "Calling" sermon series by focusing on **Genesis 12:1-4** ~ call of Abraham and Sarah. We will celebrate Holy Communion, connecting the altar to tables around our community to communities around the world.

October 10 ~ National Coming Out Day ~

We will focus on **1 Samuel 1:10-11, 2:1-10** ~ Hannah's call to God. We will honor the courage of our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters who courageously live the image of God in which each is created.



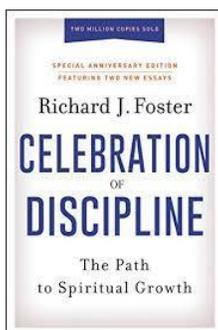
October 17 ~ We continue with Hannah's story, focusing on her son, Samuel; his call from God in **1 Samuel 3:1-10**.

October 24 ~ We conclude the sermon series on "Calling" with God's calling to Mary to be the God-bearer in **Luke 1:26-37**.

October 31 ~ ALL SAINTS Day ~ We will honor the people we loved who are now in God's eternal embrace. We will lean into the wisdom of **Isaiah 25:6-10**.



NEW FALL SERIES BEGINNING OCTOBER 25 Mapping Your Spiritual Life



This is a five-week journey that is a space for you to discover a richer spiritual life infused with joy, peace and a deeper understanding of God. During this series we will read and discuss one of the best modern books ever written on Christian spirituality, The ***Celebration of Discipline*** by Richard Foster, which explores the central spiritual practices of the Christian faith.

We will learn about and discuss three movements of the Holy Spirit, which together contribute to a balanced spiritual life:

- the inward practices of prayer, meditation and study, which offer avenues for personal examination and change;
- the outward practices of simplicity, solitude, submission and service, which prepare us to help to make the world a better place;

Join the Zoom Conversation



Sunday Coffee Hour at Noon ~

You are **always welcome** to join in the conversation and connect with other members.

COLLAGE Tuesdays @ 11 a.m. ~

Collage is our LGBTQ and Ally Group. All are welcome to join our Collage group on Zoom for support and faithful discussions.

Tuesday Bible Study @ 6:30

p.m. ~ We meet on Zoom to discuss the Bible passage for the upcoming Sunday.

Wednesday Bible Study @ 11

a.m. ~ **HYBRID** in the Oasis Center to discuss the Bible passage for the upcoming Sunday.

Wednesday @ 3 p.m. ~ Sacred Conversations on Race (SCOR)

***Zoom links available through
Pastor Wes.**

- the congregational practices of worship, guidance and celebration, which bring us nearer to one another and to God.

The program will be held in the Oasis Center on Mondays from 4:00 until 5:30 p.m. on October 25 and November 1, 8, 15 and 22. You are welcome to join us in person or through Zoom each week.

Vice Moderator Jim Butterworth will serve as facilitator for the series and will be joined each week by a variety of clergy including Pastor Wes and Reverends Craig Collamer and Jeff Jones.

We will read selected book chapters in preparation for weekly meetings, and participants will be invited to suggest questions that will guide our discussions. This format is designed so that we will be able to explore deeply the questions you may have and provide new insights that will come through our reflection and sharing together. We hope you will be able to join us for this exciting fall series.

Please email Jim Butterworth at jbutterworth@albany.edu with questions at any time and by October 15 to indicate your interest in participating so that the church may provide you with a copy of the book in advance of the first meeting.



Peace and Justice Network News

Green Team News: (Tour Organic Farm – November 3, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.)



Fall is upon us, and our local organic farms are about to burst with fresh produce! Have you considered buying locally for the freshest products, organic certified products, and saving on emissions because the items have not been trucked in from another state or country?

Below are links to several well-known area organic farms. Some offer CSAs (a subscription service, described below), others offer online ordering, and many will deliver to locations as stated on their websites. Each is different, and some team together to offer you, the consumer, more options. All will be fresh and tasty. Pick what works for you!

One idea is to share a CSA, such as Blumenberry Farm offers. What is that? CSA means "Community-Supported Agriculture." It's a partnership between a farm and its community. CSA members pay a subscription fee at the beginning of the growing season, which the farm then uses to buy seeds and supplies. In return, the farm harvests "the cream of the crop" for members and delivers it each week to a pick-up location. The CSA model creates a direct connection between farmers and eaters.

We are planning a tour of Blumenberry Farms on November 3rd, between 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. This tour will provide participants with an opportunity to learn more about local organic farming. Details to follow!

Some useful links:

- <https://blumenberryfarms.eatfromfarms.com/>
- <https://www.jessicasorganicfarm.com/>
- <https://groveladderfarmllc.grazecart.com/store>
- <https://the-homestead-hydroponic-farm.square.site/>



Sacred Conversations on Race

We continue our Sacred Conversations on Race on Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

There is ALWAYS space and place for you to join in this conversation. We pray that in the coming months, you will participate. If you have questions, let Pastor Wes know.



First UCC Women



The First Congregational Women's Association is prayerfully planning to reconvene on the first Tuesday of every month in October, November, and December this fall. We gather at 11:30 a.m., have a simple sandwich/salad lunch, and enjoy a special program.

Please join us on Tuesday, October 5 at 11:30 a.m. in Syster Hall. Pastor Wes Bixby will share slides of God moments and a sneak peek at his upcoming 52-Week Devotionals for Husbands coming out in December.

Community Meal



We continue our monthly ministry of serving and providing a hot, nutritious and balanced community meal at St. Paul Lutheran Church. While Sandy Smith cooks our meal to share, **we need your home-baked brownies** for the dessert. **We need help setting up and serving the meal** at St. Paul's Fellowship Hall from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 26**. We will wear masks and we will be careful.

If you can help in any way, please let me know. Your offerings of food & fellowship to is very much appreciated.

Volunteer and/or inquire for more details: Carol Hagglund at carolhagglund@gmail.com.

Voting Information

There has been much in the news in recent weeks about voting laws and how they have changed in many states. There have been some changes in FL, too. In late April, the Florida Legislature passed SB90, an election administration bill revising certain sections of the FL Election Code. On May 6, 2021, Governor DeSantis signed the bill into law, with immediate effect. An information fact sheet can be found online at sarasotavotes.com or copies are available in the narthex. Contact Jeannie Mitchell at 941-724-0774 and she will mail you a copy.

You can renew/request a mail in ballot by:

- ✓ Phone: 941-861-8618 *(They are very helpful and courteous.)*
- ✓ Online: www.sarasotavotes.com



To be on the safe side, check your voting status sooner rather than later.

There has been some confusion about mailing and drop boxes. Mail in ballots, can indeed, be mailed in. There will also be drop boxes at each election office, Sarasota, Venice and North Port.

We will provide more information as it becomes available.....**Stay tuned.**

Ready Readers

Ready Readers is a book discussion group that meets on the second Thursday of every month at noon in the Oasis Center. The books we read are chosen from a yearly list provided by the Florida UCC Women and selected by the chair of the organization's Reading for Renewal. Our group reads the list and descriptions of approximately 30 books and votes on the ones we would like to read for the following year. Current lists of possible selections are available in the Syster Hall library as are several present and previously selected books.



Monthly selections are posted in the newsletter and the midweek message. We welcome and encourage the participation and input of new members even if you are not able to attend every meeting. For more information and further updates, contact Sandy Smith at sandysmithvi@gmail.com or 340-227-5121.

Please join us Thursday, **October 14, at noon in the Oasis Center.** We will be discussing *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict. New members are always welcomed.

Stitches of Love & Friendship

In preparation for winter, we will be sharing with our neighbors in South Dakota, a box filled with all sorts of lovingly-made warm items.

- ✓ **Please bring your handmade-with-love items to the church by October 10** and thank you for including your name.



*For those not familiar, we knit items such as hats, scarves, mittens and anything handmade to be shared primarily with the **children of the reservations and Native Americans of South Dakota.** We knit (or crochet) in our homes, on our travels or wherever you feel inspired. Should you need patterns, needles or yarn, I have them. Thank you for your help with this project.—Ethel Rudy*

Kings And Queens Bridge

Kings and Queens Bridge resumes **Monday, October 11, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 9 of the Education Building.** We welcome new players who are interested in playing contract bridge for fun.



Please contact Ethel Rudy at 941-727-0122 or email Ethel at ethelhr@verizon.net whether you are a new or returning player.

Artful Prayer



Please join Rev. Donna Papenhausen on Zoom on **Thursday, October 14, at 2 p.m.** in an artful prayer exercise. In keeping with Pastor Wes' series on "calling," Donna is offering "**42 Degrees, Discovering Your Calling.**"

All that is needed is paper, pencil, colored markers/pencils or crayons. Come with an open heart and willing hands—no previous art experience is necessary.

October Birthdays



October Anniversaries



- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 10/2 | Andy Garland
Ann Mosher
Joshua Starcher | 10/15 | Peter Burroughs
Jeane Gomoll-Hilficker
Allyn Jones |
| 10/3 | Lynne Woodman | 10/17 | Ethan Bixby
Josh Burch
Elizabeth Rundlett |
| 10/7 | Wally Beckstrom
Bob Proctor | 10/18 | Kathy Combs |
| 10/9 | Lee Brockmann
Melanie Kalisak
Marge Lothian | 10/20 | Barbara Brady
Melvin Kestner
Rick Steele |
| 10/10 | Kathy Kulakowski | 10/21 | Ruth Bieber
Karen Crane
Elaine Zelows |
| 10/11 | Vanya Beachler
Vonda Leonard | 10/22 | Gib Mitchell |
| 10/12 | Jean L. Kerrigan
Sherry Mange
Kenneth Martin | 10/25 | Margo Light
Gregory Matthews |
| 10/13 | Lois Wilkins | 10/26 | Juliana McFarlane |
| 10/14 | Wes Curry | 10/30 | Bruce Woolley |

- 10/9 Michael & James Cross
- 10/11 Charles & Madge Potts-Williams
- 10/12 Jane & James Hunder
- 10/13 George & Diana Cubberly
- 10/15 Nathan & Bonnie Richards
- 10/16 John & Jeane Gomoll-Hilficker
- 10/18 Jeff & Sandy Smith
- 10/25 Bob & Pamela Gore-Meade



In Loving Memory

Carole Sue Metcalf
Pat Barkhuff
Lois Voltz



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC CHURCH
1031 Euclid Ave
Sarasota, FL 34237
www.uccsarasota.com



The 2021 Flower Chart is ALWAYS ready for YOU! Do you have a special occasion coming up this year? Would you like to celebrate on an upcoming Sunday service?

Each Sunday, there is an opportunity for two bouquets. **The cost is \$40 per bouquet, payable to the church.** Please sign up for a Sunday by emailing admin@uccsarasota.com We are grateful for the fresh flowers every Sunday that bring the beauty of God's creation into our worship space.

STAFF

Senior Minister.....Rev Dr. Wes Bixby
Minister of Music.....Gregory Chestnut
Campus ManagerMark Swain
Media Specialist.....Douglas Kingsley
Office AdministratorTerri Chapman
Bookkeeper.....Pam Hendrickson
Collector..... Gordon Quimby

OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Moderator..... Carol Fields
Vice Moderator Jim Butterworth
Past Moderator Warren Bacon
Co-treasurers... Robin Reich & Michael Johnston
Pastor Emeritus..... Dr. John Syster
Contributing Photographer Susan Moore
Online Newsletter Carol McCloud, Wes Curry

We are an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ in the Florida Conference of the UCC.

Telephone: (941) 953-7044; Fax: (941) 952-5245
Email: office@uccsarasota.com; Website: www.uccsarasota.com

We are worshipping on-line via Livestreams each week at 10:55 a.m. and the service is posted to our website for streaming by 1 p.m. each Sunday afternoon.