

Aug 27, 2023~ 11:00 a.m.

First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



PRAY for all people.

ASK GOD TO HELP THEM ...  
AND GIVE THANKS FOR THEM.

1 Timothy 2:1, NLT

PRELUDE

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

arr. Mark Hayes

INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: Pour out Your presence upon us, O God.

Many: **Saturate and soak our souls to overflowing.**

One: Interrupt our ways with Your wisdom that stops us in our tracks.

Many: **Tickle our ears this morning with Your truth.**

One: Let our worship set a tone for every hour this week.

Many: **It is good to be here! Alleluia and Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*How Great Thou Art*

**O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed. Refrain**

*Refrain* **Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art! Refrain**

OPENING PRAYER ~ We instruct on silence.

**God, break through the noise that is around us *and* within us. We are tossed to and fro by breaking news, dingy notifications on our phones, calls, and emails that endlessly flood our inbox. We swim in a sea of words. So, we pause to be still this morning in Your presence.**

*Silence.*

**Even in the quiet of this room, we notice the hum of the air conditioner, the rustling of feet, and honestly our own inner voice saying, “Well, now that I have your full attention, there are a few flaws I’ve been meaning to talk to you about.” Help center and calm us, as we open our hearts to You again.**

*Silence ~ focusing on your breathing slowly in and out.*

**Breathe on us breath of God, fill us with life anew. Continue to guide us with prayerful awareness and alertness to You. Now and in the days to come. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet, Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise. Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 4

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup>proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. <sup>6</sup>As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

SERMON

Poured Out

OFFERING/ANTHEM

*The Name of Jesus*

Craig Courtney

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*How Can I Say Thanks*

**How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me? Things so undeserved, yet you gave to prove your love for me; the voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude. All that I am, and ever hope to be; I owe it all to you.**

**To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things you have done. With your blood you have saved me; with your power you have raised me; to God be the glory for the things you have done.**

**Just let me live my life let it be pleasing unto you; And if I gain any praise, let it go to glorify you. With your blood you have saved me; with your power you have raised me; to God be the glory for the things you have done.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Solace*

Scott Joplin

## ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ SUNDAY, August 27, 2023

Please note on **Sunday, September 3rd, Labor Day Weekend**, we will have **ONE** Service at 11 am in Syster Hall and online. It is also birthday Sunday! While Greg is on a well-deserved vacation, we welcome **Cynthia Roberts-Greene** to play for us.

Do you have a special occasion coming up this summer? Do you enjoy the **flower arrangements** in the sanctuary each Sunday? If so, we have **the following Sundays available September 10th one opening, September 24th one opening and October 1st two openings, October 15th two openings October 29<sup>th</sup> one opening**. Please contact the church office to reserve a Sunday.

**Family Promise Francis House Volunteer Opportunities** ~ An expectant **mother with two children, ages 8 and 18 months** moved into Francis House the weekend of August 12. She is currently working so Family Promise congregations will help her by supplying a hot healthy meal once each weekend. First Congregational, UCC will supply meals in September with the help of our volunteers. Volunteers who are interested will also be attending one of two possible training events so that they can interact with the mother and children. Thank you for the support of time, money, food and supplies that so many of you have given to Family Promise. We ask for your prayers as the search for a center/shelter continues so that the shelter program for families can be started again. If so, please contact **Ellen Marsey or Dotty Reed** and they will be glad to add you to the year-round list and/or send you a current list of specific volunteer opportunities.

**LGBTQ+ Grief Support Group** ~ A safe place to find strength and hope through the sharing and support of other grieving LGBTQ+ individuals. Not a therapy group, but an open discussion with others suffering the loss of someone close to them, whether a spouse, partner, friend, or family member. A twice monthly meeting to share, and to listen, and to find your voice. Meetings in the **Oasis Center** ~ Contact Cas @ [casbgroup1234@gmail.com](mailto:casbgroup1234@gmail.com)

**COLLAGE visit from Tom Edwards, September 10, Syster Hall** Tom Edwards, LGBTQ+ Sarasota School Board member, will be speaking to COLLAGE on September 10, 12-1:00, in Syster Hall. He will share his thoughts on professional and personal experiences in the LGBTQ+ community. All church members are invited. Feel free to bring a friend. In lieu of a full luncheon, snacks will be available.

**Sacred Conversations on Race** Continues on **September 13**: “The Urgency of Intersectionality” - TED Talks by Kimberle’ Crenshaw. **September 27**: “We Need to Talk about an Injustice” - TED Talks by Bryan Stevenson All are welcome! You can join either in person in the **Oasis Center or on Zoom**. Please see Jim Crumel for more information.

SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) News ~ SURE is thrilled to announce that we have hired **Mackenzie Grimes** as our Lead Organizer! Mackenzie is a Sarasota native, holds a Master's Degree, and has been a teacher at Booker High and Riverview High for the past 9 years.

Mackenzie is a smart, gifted, and energetic leader with a heart for justice in Sarasota. She has everything we were looking for except specific experience in the role. That is where our second hire comes in. We are also thrilled to announce that **we have hired Rev. Ryan McBride as our Temporary Executive Director!** As a previous Lead Organizer for SURE, Ryan brings experience and leadership to our organization that the CLT, Board, and Hiring Committee agree will help them to stabilize SURE and accomplish the above-mentioned goals. He will primarily work to oversee, mentor, and train Mackenzie for the next 12-18 months. As this “New Thing” springs up among us at SURE, we invite you to mark your calendars for **Monday, September 18th, at 6 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ.** We will hold our kickoff as well as a meet and greet with our new SURE staff! We will host our annual House Meeting after both services on **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> in Syster Hall.**

**COLLECT WATER** ~ As you travel this summer, **please collect water from wherever you visit!** Remember, you can gather water from local Florida areas or exotic/exciting places like Iowa! We will have a gathering of the waters on October 29<sup>th</sup>, and we need YOUR help.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, August 27

Sunday Worship, 8:45 am, chapel  
Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Syster Hall** and online  
Fellowship Time (ice cream treats), noon, Syster Hall

### Monday, August 28

*Greg Chestnut on vacation through September 12*  
Covenant Groups Conversation, 11 am, Zoom  
Hunger Group, 2 pm, Zoom

### Tuesday, August 29

Tuesday evening Bible Study, 6:30 pm, Zoom

### Wednesday, August 30

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11 am, Oasis Center and Zoom

### Sunday, September 3 ~ Welcome Cynthia Roberts-Greene

**ONE SERVICE** ~ Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Syster Hall** and online  
Birthday Sunday following worship

*We encourage you to subscribe to the weekly **Midweek Message** via your email to keep connected with activities in the church.*

## **First Congregational United Church of Christ**

**Sherry Glover:** Monday/Tuesday: 10 am to 1 pm &

Wednesday/Thursday: 10 am to 2 pm

**Pastor Wes:** Monday-Thursday: 9 am to 4 pm

**Greg Chestnut:** Tuesday-Friday: 10 am to 4 pm, Saturday daytime

*Phone:* (941)953-7044 *Our website:* [www.uccsarasota.com](http://www.uccsarasota.com)

*We are a **Creation Justice; Open & Affirming; and Racial Justice***  
*Congregation of the United Church of Christ*



**MINISTERS:**      **All the Members**

**STAFF:**      Dr. Rev. Wes Bixby, Pastor: [wdbixby@yahoo.com](mailto:wdbixby@yahoo.com)  
Gregory Chestnut, Minister of Music: [gchest@aol.com](mailto:gchest@aol.com)  
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Mark Swain, Campus Manager

**Morning Meditations** posted every weekday: on Facebook & Pastor Wes' blog ~  
**[www.gracetraces.blogspot.com](http://www.gracetraces.blogspot.com)**