

Aug 6, 2023~ 11:00 a.m.

First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan. Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife, Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:1-11

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God.

SERMON

The Doxology is our Theme Song

OFFERING/ANTHEM

I Will Sing with the Spirit

John Rutter

INVITATION to COMMUNION

ANTHEM

Sing Forth Rejoice

John Amner

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

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain **This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight: Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blessed; Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. *Refrain*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gavotte in F Major Giovanni Battista Martini (1706-1784)
Dr. Marsha Kindall-Smith, pianist

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ SUNDAY, August 6, 2023

We welcome Heidie Heath as our Financial Clerk. Heidie has been working for the last few weeks and is doing a fantastic job. Heidie Heath moved to Bradenton 7 years ago. She and her husband, Glen, of 46 years have lived in nine states and have four grown sons. Bradenton is now their home. Welcome, Heidie!! If you have questions about your intention of giving/pledge, please contact the church office. **Additional note: your 1st and 2nd Quarter Giving Statements have gone out via mail and email. If you have not received it, please let us know.**

Pastor Wes will be on vacation, August 7-13th. On Sunday, August 13, we welcome **Dr. Christine Hoffman** to lead/preach at **both the 8:45 am and 11 am worship services.** Pastor Wes will return to the office on August 14th.

Sacred Conversations on Race will resume on **August 9th at 3 pm.** August 9: "How Racism Makes Us Sick" - TED Talks by David R Williams August 23: "How to Have a Voice and Lean into Conversations about Race" - TED Talks by Amanda Kemp. All are welcome! You can join either in person in the **Oasis Center or on Zoom.** Please see Jim Crumel for more information.

Ready Reader meet on Thursday, August 10th at noon to discuss ~ *Bless Your Heart, Rae Sutton* by Susannah B. Lewis. Sometimes what your life is missing is an eccentric group of older ladies to take you under their wing. When Rae Sutton's mama passes away and leaves her the house where she grew up, Rae can't imagine how the little old place might restore her broken life. Mourning the loss of her marriage, she takes the house and settles back into her tiny hometown with her 14-year-old daughter. There she's embraced by her mother's close-knit circle of friends, the Third Thursday Ladies. Rae relies on the unlikely family she's found and begins to wonder if her future holds more hope than she ever could have imagined.

Do you have a special occasion coming up this summer? Do you enjoy the **flower arrangements** in the sanctuary each Sunday? Please contact the church office to reserve this week.

Family Promise Francis House Volunteer Opportunities. We are so thankful for the folks who have signed up to be on the church's year-round Family Promise list of volunteers, but we can always use more people. Perhaps you missed that signup opportunity and would like to have your name added to the list. Or perhaps you would like to volunteer for a specific need. 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.

OUR MISSION Helping Our Neighbor – Alta Vista Elementary School Our sweet school just across the street has many needs that we fill each year with our \$7,000 donation. With your

generosity, we help provide student and classroom supplies and for those most in need, clothing. Prayerfully consider what you can share by writing a check to the church with "Alta Vista School" written on the memo line. Blessings and many thanks, Your Mission Team Jan Andersen, Gretchen Friend Jones, Jan Kamm, Nancy Taylor, Terri Crawford. This **Thursday, August 10** is the first day of school. The Mission Team invites members and friends of the church who are available to show up on Thursday from **7:30 - 8:30am** to "cheer the kids" as they arrive for their first day of school! You can bring pompoms or posters or just your presence!

Our very own, Gary LaParl is having an art show at Art Ovation Lobby Art Studio Aug. 15 - 21! Gary will be the Artist in Residence at Art Ovation Hotel at 1255 N. Palm Ave in Sarasota from August 15 -21. He will be in the Art Ovation Lobby Studio from 4PM to 8PM daily with a **Public Reception on Friday, August 18 from 5PM to 7PM**. The exhibit is called "Portraits from a Stolen Past," and will feature oil paintings and oil collage works based on vintage portraits.

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**

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 29th, and we need YOUR help.

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 6

Sunday Worship, 8:45 am, chapel

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Syster Hall** and online

Birthday Sunday, noon, Syster Hall

Reading the Bible in a Year, 1 pm, Oasis Center and Zoom

Monday, August 7

Pastor Wes on vacation

Tuesday, August 8

Drumming as a Spiritual Practice, 3 pm, Chapel

LGBTQ+ Grief Support, 6 pm, Oasis Center

Wednesday, August 9

Sacred Conversations on Race, 3 pm, Oasis Center and Zoom

Thursday, August 10

Ready Readers, noon, Oasis Center

Sunday, August 13 ~ Dr. Christine Hoffman Preaching

Sunday Worship, 8:45 am, chapel

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Syster Hall** and online

*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

*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
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Heidie Heath, Financial Clerk: finances@uccsarasota.com
Mark Swain, Campus Manager

Morning Meditations posted every weekday: on Facebook & Pastor Wes' blog ~

www.gracetraces.blogspot.com