



September 2023



First Congregational UCC

Renovating our Faith

As our sanctuary renovation continues—and I pray concludes *soon*—it has made me think what we are witnessing in our sacred space is a metaphor for faith. Our faith is under constant construction.

On July 30th, I started the sermon by saying your ears never quit growing. It is also true, I believe, that our soul and relationship with God continues to grow. We are continually under construction in the ways we experience the Eternal. We should all get a shirt that says, “Pardon my dust, my soul is being renovated”.

Reflecting on the past few months, I think about the preparation of coming up with a plan for the sanctuary and all the work that went into that stage. I wonder, do you have a plan for growing your faith? For some, Sunday morning worship provides that opportunity. For others, mission work in the community helps stretch their soul. Others meet with a spiritual director (if you are interested in this, we can connect you to one). Still others prefer to participate in small groups or book conversations. Looking at the dwindling days of 2023, what is the plan for your spiritual growth? **Come talk to me if this question awakens YOUR curiosity.**

Office Hours

Pastor Wes:

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

Sherry Glover:

Mon.-Tues.: 10:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wed.-Thurs.: 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Mark:

Mon. - Fri.: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Greg:

Tues. - Sat.: various hours



Worship With Us

- **Worship ~ 8:45 a.m.** in the Chapel
- **Worship ~ 11:00 a.m. in person in Syster Hall or Sanctuary and livestreamed** on YouTube and Facebook.

Pastor Wes Vacation Days:

October 2 – October 8

Greg's Vacation Days:

August 28 – September 11

After the plan, comes *making ready the space*. We didn't just start tearing up tile (although that is often what you see in home improvement shows). Many hands moved furniture, protected items, removed baseboards, and countless other tasks. This reminds me that spiritual growth and renovation takes time. It doesn't happen immediately or instantly in the blink of an eye.

Next, came the *noise* of removing tile and installing the new T-Loop System. This was a reminder that our growing faith can be **messy**. I wonder if our Sunday clothing needs to be exchanged for a pair of paint-stained jeans and torn shirt when we are working with God on our faith/soul/life. Note that the renovation of our relationship with God is always a two-way street. We are never alone. And it can help to have others share the workload. I never saw just one person here as a volunteer or on the work crew, there were always at least two. Something to consider as we renovate our faith.

Next, the new tile was *put in place*. This, too, took time, measuring and measuring again just to make sure. I know I sometimes can rush through my devotional time to get to my "real" work of pastoral ministry. But what if tending to my relationship with God is as vital and important for any other activity or ministry you or I or we do together?



Church

Rededication

In September, I pray, we will celebrate and rededicate our sanctuary to the glory of God. **Worship remains one of our core values as a church.** Worship is being awake and aware and granting access to God's presence, practicing openness and prayer, and letting God's love loose in our lives. Worship is vital and is our weekly encounter with the Eternal.

I do pray that if you are interested in exploring further the ongoing and unfolding renovation of faith and life with God, you will come talk to me. I look forward to seeing you in worship in the days and weeks ahead.

With God's love ~ *Wes*

Worship

8:45 a.m. ~ In the Chapel ~ Half hour service with a blend of hymns, scripture, reflection, and interaction all in the beautiful intimacy of the Chapel.

11 a.m. ~ Syster Hall featuring our chancel choir & Livestreamed (*YouTube, Facebook*)

September 3 ~ ONE Service for Labor Day Weekend at 11 a.m. in Syster Hall and online. We will remember the great cloud of witnesses who are surrounding and sustaining us every day as described in Hebrews 12. Holy Communion will be celebrated as part of our service. We welcome Cynthia Roberts-Greene as our guest pianist while Greg is on vacation.



September 10 ~ Since January, we have been *renovating* our Core Values. We began this work at the Leadership Retreat in January. Next, each of the Leadership Teams and our three Covenants reviewed the current Core Values (which are over 10 years old). In late Spring, a wordsmithing group chaired by Jim Butterworth created a document presented to Council in August. On this Sunday, we will connect our Core Values to John 15 and to the truth that Christ is the vine, and we are the branches! We welcome Cynthia Roberts-Greene as our guest pianist while Greg is on vacation.

September 17 ~ Rededication of Sanctuary (*tentative*) ~ we listen to 2 Samuel 6:16-19 ~ David dancing before the Ark of the Covenant as a vision for how our worship moves us with the Spirit.

September 24 ~ Rededication of Sanctuary *fall back date* OR Part Two of the Dedication ~ we turn to the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 17:1-7 ~ hearing how our geography impacts our spirituality.

October 1 ~ World Communion Sunday ~ Rev. John Vertigan, Conference Minister, will be with us as we celebrate Christ's table that connects us all around God's earth!

Choir News

We are grateful for our outstanding Summer Choir that has led and enlivened our summer worship services. They have faithfully arrived early each Sunday to rehearse and prepare hymns and anthems that contribute meaning to our worship. **A huge thank you to our faithful choir.**



As we move into the season, our choir will begin regular **Wednesday Night rehearsals** on **September 13th at 7 p.m.** There are many special Sundays ahead as we learn new music and celebrate the Fall festivals and holidays. If you like to sing and have ever thought about joining our choir, **NOW IS THE TIME.** We welcome new members with a variety of musical experience to rehearse with us each Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. in the Reed Chapel and Music Center. Come and join in the fun, fellowship, spirit, and challenge of singing with our choir.

Support Project 180's Valuable Work Helping Prisoners Transition Back to Community Life

The Peace & Justice Team invites you to attend the **Project 180 Strong Voices Lecture Series** on **October 16th** and **19th** at **Michael's on East**.

Information and tickets ~ \$40

www.project180reentry.org/lecture-series/

Let's build a First Congregational table for this worthy organization! Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; program and lunch at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Barbara Smith-Bacon if you plan to attend either or both luncheons.

Background: Project 180, located in our Outreach Building, seeks to ease the transition for County residents released from prison, and to help break the statistical cycle of about 76% returning to prison due to the challenges of re-adjusting to life beyond bars. Project 180 provides residential and non-residential support, including:

- workforce education and financial literacy classes for inmates
- an annual reentry lecture series for the general public
- information and referrals for felons seeking housing, programs, and employment
- a comprehensive, whole-life Residential Program for men in recovery



Strong Voices Lecture Series Offerings

October 16th ~ Re-Entry at Project 180: Hear current and former Project 180 residents describe the everyday life of a returning citizen—life prior to release, the hurdles they've overcome, what surprised them most, and what the future holds.

October 19th ~ Criminal Justice Debt on the Road to Re-Entry: Professor Laura I. Appleman, JD, discusses how criminal justice costs—fees, fines, court costs, probation payments, mandatory classes, and non-payment penalties—overwhelmingly affect reentering citizens and can lead to years of indebtedness.



Prof. Appleman, JD, is a member of the faculty at the College of Law at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon where she is the Van Winkle Melton Professor of Law and a University Research Integrity Officer. Appleman is a member of the Yale Law School Executive Committee, a member of the Bar of the City of New York and has worked with the Brennan Center for Justice on issues of indigent defense and criminal procedure.

Join the Zoom Conversations



COLLAGE 2nd & 4th 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 discussion.

Tuesday Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m. ~ We meet on Zoom to discuss the upcoming Sunday Bible passage.

Wednesday Bible Study @ 11 a.m. ~ **HYBRID** in the Oasis Center to discuss the upcoming Sunday Bible passage.

SCOR (Sacred Conversations on Race) 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 3 p.m. ~ **HYBRID** in the Oasis Center.

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

Gathering Water

On **October 29th** we will continue our Gathering-of-the-Waters tradition, a tradition dating back to October 1999 when Dr. John Syster was our pastor.

As you travel, you are encouraged to bring water from the locations you visited. Then, during the service, all those with water will be asked to come forward, empty it into a large crystal bowl, and tell us it's origin. The water will then be boiled and saved for future uses where the love of the congregation will be symbolically represented.

Are you thinking this doesn't apply to you because you're not traveling? Don't despair! There may be places close to home you want to highlight. Have you recently moved to a new home? Share water from there. As Pastor Wes has indicated, you can even share water from Iowa!



Lake Louise

Welcome Heidie Heath ~ Financial Clerk



Please offer a warm welcome to Heidie Heath, our new Financial Clerk. Heidie has been working for the last several weeks and is doing a fantastic job.

Heidie moved to Bradenton seven years ago. Together Heidie and Glen, her husband of 46 years, have lived in nine states and raised four sons.



~ 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.

To date we have received \$5,885—only \$1,015 from our goal!

With your generosity, we help provide student and classroom supplies and clothing for those most in need.

Prayerfully consider what you can share by writing a check to the church with "**Alta Vista School**" on the memo line.

Blessings and many thanks from your Mission Team
Jan Andersen, Terri Crawford, Gretchen Friend Jones, Jan Kamm, Donna Taylor

Save the Date ~ November 4th Native American Blanket Ceremony

A free workshop to honor Indigenous Peoples' History and Culture
Saturday afternoon, November 4th in Syster Hall

Sponsored by the Racial Justice Mission Group



Introducing the Food and Hunger Group

The Food and Hunger Group has been formed to address issues of hunger and poverty and will be part of the Peace and Justice Team addressing local hunger in the following ways:

- Working with our folks that serve at the **St. Paul Lutheran Church Community Meal**
- Restarting the monthly collection of food items for **All Faiths Food Bank**
- Coordinating/assisting with collections for **Second Chance Last Opportunity (SCLO)** and **Family Promise**

Additionally, we will address domestic and international issues of hunger and poverty through our participation in **Bread for the World**, a grassroots Christian organization that addresses hunger and poverty through letters, calls and emails to Congress.

You will see communications from the Food and Hunger Group in upcoming Mid-week messages and newsletters. If you are interested in helping with these efforts, please contact Ellen Marsey (epmarsey99@gmail.com) or Mike Keane (mkeane8@gmail.com).



Food Collection ~ All Faiths Food Bank



The newly established **Food and Hunger Group** is very pleased to be restarting the monthly collections for All Faith's Food Bank that were stopped during Covid. The **collections will start on October 1** and take place the **first Sunday of every month** thereafter.

All Faiths would appreciate any items in jars and/or cans along with items that have a long shelf life like pasta, pudding, Jello etc. The old standby items of peanut butter, jelly, and spaghetti sauce are also needed. The rule of thumb for donating is, "if you would enjoy having it, they would appreciate having it." This collection is not a time to empty your cabinet of items you don't like that are nearing their expiration date, but rather a time to give what you think people will enjoy with an expiration date of mid-2024 or later.

There will be a basket in the narthex labeled **ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK**.

Please place your items in the basket or next to it if the basket is full.

First Congregational, UCC is a generous congregation. We thank you in advance for your donations.



NEW TO FCUCC ~ OUR PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Do you enjoy knitting? Lindsey Huddleston and Carol Hagglund are hosting a Prayer Shawl Ministry group where knitters will gather in people's homes once a month to socialize, share knitting information and knit prayer shawls. These shawls will be available to anyone for both happy and sad occasions. The Lay Visitation Group will be one of the ways the shawls are given to shut-ins, church members and members of the broader community on behalf of our congregation.

The first meeting will be **September 22nd from 2-3:30 p.m.** Text or call Lindsey Huddleston (630-338-9294) or Carol Hagglund (813-767-3782) for the location or more information.

Good News
Family Promise Francis House



An expectant mother with two children, ages 8 and 18 months, moved into Francis House the weekend of August 12th.

She is currently working. Family Promise congregations will help her by supplying a hot 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 or two possible training events to be able to interact with the mother and her children.

Thank you for your support of time, money, food, and supplies given to Family Promise.

We ask for your prayers as the search for a center/shelter continues to again provide the shelter program for families.



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 will be at
First Congregational UCC
1031 S. Euclid Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34237
For more information:
Contact Cas @
casbgroup1234@gmail.com

CREATION JUSTICE NEWS



The Green Team currently has oversight of the butterfly garden at First Congregational United Church of Christ back by the labyrinth. This involves planting, watering, and weeding as we help new plants to adapt to their garden home.

When a plant or tree is not doing well in the garden, we replace it with a plant native to Florida. In general, a Florida native plant is one that existed within the state boundaries prior to European settlement. Why is it important to plant Florida native plants? They have existed here for thousands of years and have adapted to the climate and soil conditions. That helps to reduce the need for fertilizing and irrigating.

Another reason for planting native plants in the butterfly garden is that specific indigenous species of butterflies rely on particular plant species. For thousands of years, butterflies have drawn nectar and found sustenance from native plants and trees. They also lay their eggs there.



If we want to preserve the wonderful diversity of our Florida butterflies, we will continue to supply the plants and trees that are part of our native heritage. For more information on the importance of native plants on our campus, see

<https://www.fann.org/info/why-plant-native/bringing-nature-home-why-native-plants-matter/>

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT NEWS



COLLAGE Visit to Allendale UMC



On July 30th a busload of COLLAGE folks and allies traveled to Allendale UMC in St. Petersburg where Drag Queens and Trans folks participated in the worship service.

It was a wonderful opportunity to experience and appreciate the ways in which God uses diverse methods to deliver the message of **LOVE!**

*Mamma Rose (of Rose Dynasty Foundation)
with Gib & Jeannie Mitchell*

Upcoming plans for COLLAGE include:

- **September 10th** ~ Tom Edwards, Sarasota School Board Member, sharing his community work experiences as a gay man.
- **October 8th** ~ Coming Out Day Luncheon
- **October 13th** ~ Annual Conference, Orlando—COLLAGE Workshop/Discussion
- **October 21st** ~ Project Pride SRQ—COLLAGE Community Outreach Booth

RACIAL JUSTICE COVENANT NEWS



Sacred Conversations on Race (SCOR)

SCOR meets the **second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 3 p.m. (HYBRID) in person at the Oasis Center or on Zoom.**

September 13th

"The Urgency of Intersectionality"
TED Talks by Kimberle' Crenshaw



Civil Rights Advocate

September 27th

"We Need to Talk about an Injustice"
TED Talks by Bryan Stevenson

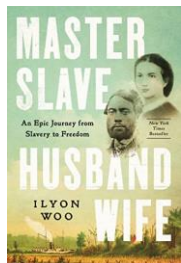


Public Interest Lawyer

If you have any suggestions, please let Jim Crumel and Pastor Wes know. In the meantime, please know there is **ALWAYS** space and place for you to join in this conversation.

Ready Readers ~ September 14th & October 12th

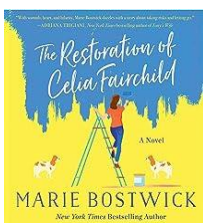
Thinking about joining a book club? We meet on the **second Thursday of every month at noon in the Oasis Center**. We welcome and encourage the participation and input of new members even if you are not able to attend every meeting. For more information and further updates, contact Sandy Smith at sandysmithvi@gmail.com or 340-227-5121.



September 14th

Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo. The remarkable true story of Ellen and William Craft, who escaped slavery through daring, determination, and disguise, with Ellen passing as a wealthy, disabled White man and William posing as "his" slave.

With three epic journeys compressed into one monumental bid for freedom, ***Master Slave Husband Wife*** is an American love story—one that would challenge the nation's core precepts of life, liberty, and justice for all—one that challenges us even now. Throughout this story she reminds us of the paramount importance of truth and human values, especially in these darkest of times.



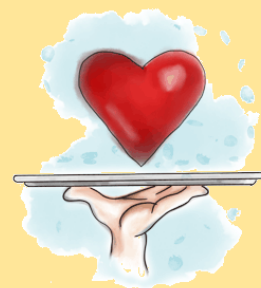
October 12th

The Restoration of Celia Fairchild by Marie Bostwick. Celia Fairchild, known as advice columnist "Dear Calpernia", has insight into everybody's problems—except her own. Still bruised by the end of a marriage she thought was her last chance to create a family, Celia receives an unexpected answer to a "Dear Birthmother" letter.

The Restoration of Celia Fairchild is an unforgettable novel of secrets revealed, laughter released, creativity restored, and waves of wisdom.

Community Meal ~ September 26th

The monthly community meal that we continue to provide at St. Paul Lutheran Church feeds those who are hungry and in need of fellowship. Our guests are treated to a Sandy Smith home cooked meal. The home-baked items provided by our church family add a sweet treat that is heartily enjoyed. What's not to like about homemade brownies/cake served with plenty of ice cream?



Our mission is to feed the hungry and offer fellowship to our guests—serving love!



Kathy Combs
Matt Jacobs

Please volunteer with on-site set-up/serving/clean-up functions at St. Paul's Fellowship Hall. We also need your **home-baked items (brownies and frosted cakes—9x13 size)**.

Please join us on **September 26th from 4-6:30 p.m.** Thank you for all you do for those in need.

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



SURE ~ Save The Date

Monday, September 18th ~ 6 p.m.
SURE KICKOFF
First Congregational UCC



**See additional SURE News on Page 12*

Kings & Queens Bridge ~ No meetings in September/October

Ethel Rudy, who has graciously organized our bridge gatherings for the past ten years, is resigning as she is moving to Ohio to be near her daughter.

If anyone is interested in taking Ethel's place as the bridge organizer, please let the church office know. We thank you, Ethel, for the ways you have enriched us through your many contributions.



Artful Prayer Resumes ~ October 12th at 2 p.m. ~ Oasis Center



Looking for ways to renew your prayer practice in fun creative ways? Artful Prayer may be for you! No art experience required.

Variety of fun one-hour sessions may include poetry, drawing, movement, or music centered around a prayer theme such as gratitude, praise, healing, or exploring your spiritual direction.

Sessions are in person and on Zoom. Supplies are provided when attending in person. Watch the newsletter and weekly messages for specific session information and supply list.

Mark your calendar now for upcoming fall sessions:

October 12th ~ Rev. Donna Papenhausen

November 9th ~ Lindsey Huddleston

December 14th ~ Dawn Swain



September Coffee Fellowship ~ provided by Peace & Justice

(Lee Brockmann, Maria Duprez, Laurie Etter, Carol Hagglund, Sarah Melcher, Carol Rescigno, Lucy Tobias, Barbara Smith-Bacon—chair)

First UCC Women's Luncheon ~ October 3rd

Have you ever driven north on I75 and seen the vast growth of kudzu, "the weed that ate the south," on both sides of the highway? Every tree and bush and flower are covered by this invasive plant. What is the antidote to this and other plants gobbling up our world?

The **First UCC Women and the Green Team** have assembled an Environmental Panel: ***Why we must plant native flora in our gardens and be wary of invasive plants that destroy ecologies.***



Join us on **Tuesday, October 3rd, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.**
Luncheon costs ~ \$12

Panelists:

Mira Hardy, Executive Director of Friends of Myakka

Tom Heitzman, Sweet Bay Nursery

Lee Amos, Land Steward Manager, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast

After the program, members of our Green Team will show us the native plants on our campus.

Sign up after either Sunday service or call the church office at 941-953-7044.

In Loving Memory



Dr. Fran Durocher ~ friend of our church

Norma Fuller

Gail Johnson

Harold Kuhn

Esther Meade

Sandra Moody ~ Sister of Lee Smith

Joseph Semidei

Lavilla Watson

Supporting One of Own

UUCS Arts Council presents...

BRENDA ROBINSON

OUR STORIES ARE IN OUR SCARS

SEPTEMBER 17
- OCTOBER 12
2023

OPENING RECEPTION:
SUNDAY, SEP 17
11:30 AM-12:30 PM

EVENING RECEPTION:
FRIDAY, SEP 22
5-7 PM

LEXOW GALLERY
Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL

*"See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it?" ~ Isaiah 43:19*

SURE UPDATE To all Member Congregations:

We want to thank you for your continued support of SURE during the past three years. It is no secret that our organization has been through some staff turnovers. This has caused difficulty in gaining ground on our issues, developing leaders, and growing our organization. But God is indeed doing a new thing in our midst!

WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS

At our May 15th meeting, the board voted in a Custodial Leadership Team (CLT) consisting solely of past SURE Co-chairs. This group of clergies got together to bring back stability, leadership, and vision to our organization. The CLT has already been at work interacting with the hiring committee and bringing leadership to the SURE Board. The CLT consists of the following leaders:

*Rev. Carla McCook ~ St. Margaret of Scotland Episcopal
Rev. Vincent Smith ~ Trinity CFC
Rev. Wes Bixby ~ First Congregational UCC
Rev. Patrick Miller ~ Bethlehem Bible Church
Rev. John Walter ~ Retired pastor
Rev. Wayne Farrell ~ St. Boniface Episcopal
Rev. Keturah Pittman ~ SURE Director of Clergy Engagement*

In addition to this group of leaders, the hiring committee has been hard at work looking for a solution to our staffing needs. We are excited to bring you news that, in addition to the leadership of the CLT, **we have brought on not one, but two staff members!**

First, we are thrilled to announce 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 nine 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 that role. That is where our second hire comes in.

We are thrilled to announce **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 are excited about the fresh vision God is bringing to our organization! Whether it's been ten years since you've been involved with SURE or you have remained fully committed to our efforts, we want you to please join us on September 18th as we relaunch with a renewed vision, enthusiasm, a resolve.

September Birthdays



9/1	Robert Bryant	9/16	Evelyn Crooks Joy Sicks
9/2	Christy Boyer Dale Moore	9/19	Joann Evans Nancy Kavanagh
9/3	Linda Short	9/20	Timothy Christensen Madge Pott-Williams Eric Kuhn
9/4	Kit Leggett	9/23	Lucy Tobias
9/5	Barbara Mask Charles Williams	9/24	Joslyn Kirkegaard
9/6	Ellen Marsey	9/25	Marcia Knight Nancy McElroy Nate Snyder
9/7	James Althouse	9/26	Jan Andersen Judith Marville
9/8	Pam Gansch-Boythe Richard Miller Carmen Ramsey Maggie Revere	9/27	Susan Pallatto
9/9	Gary Larson	9/28	Sandra Davenport Jennifer Mitchell Connie Toops
9/12	Guy Spencer June Wolgemuth	9/30	Carrie Metzger
9/13	Deborah Woods		
9/14	Sharon Rump		

September Anniversaries



9/2	Page & Carol McCloud
9/7	Warren Bacon & Barbara Smith-Bacon Donald & Dorothy Dumford
9/8	Woody Fletcher & Jennifer Walker
9/15	Lee & Bettye Smith
9/20	Richard & Toska Strong
9/22	Lori & Kelly Daniel
9/27	Lloyd & Melanie Kalisak
9/29	Doug & Julie Chismar
9/30	Becky May and Bobbi Miller

90+ Wise Birthdays

~ **Card Shower** ~



9/1 ~ Robert Bryant

9/5 ~ Barbara Mask

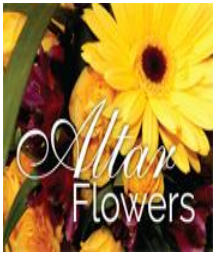
9/12 ~ Guy Spencer

9/19 ~ Joann Evans

Please let Sherry in the office know if you are going to be celebrating a 90+ Wise birthday.



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



The 2023 Flower Chart is NOW ready for YOU! Do you have a special occasion coming up this year? Would you like to celebrate at 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 Manager Mark Swain
 Media Specialist Douglas Kingsley
 Bookkeeper Pam Ganshe-Boythe
 Financial Clerk Heidie Heath
 Office Administrator Sherry Glover

OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Moderator Nancy Morris
 Vice Moderator Harold Mezile
 Past Moderator Jim Butterworth
 Co-treasurers Robin Reich & Dale Woodling
 Pastor Emeritus Dr. John Syster
 Contributing Photographer Susan Moore
 Newsletter Carol McCloud, Evelyn Crooks

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 Livestream each week at 11 a. m. and the service is posted to our website for streaming by 1 p.m. each Sunday afternoon.

