

October 29, 2023 ~ 11:00 a.m.
First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



1031 S. Euclid Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237 ~ (941) 953-7044
www.uccsarasota.com

Flowers given by: **Jillian Salvitti**, in honor of **Lydia Ulby's 21st birthday**

PRELUDE

The Water is Wide

arr. Chris de Silva

INVITATION to WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN

Crashing Waters at Creation

#326

Crashing waters at creation ordered by the Spirit's breath, First to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death.

Parting water stood and trembled as captives passed on through, Washing off the chains of bondage channel to a life made new.

Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the One foretold, Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.

Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul. Well spring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

GATHERING of the WATERS and PRAYER ~ *You are invited to bring your water forward, pour into the bowl, and share from where you drew the water!*

From the east and west, the north and south, You gather us, O God. You bring and blend our lives together like the water in this bowl. Thank you for the places and people we have encountered on our travels this year. Thank you for the moments we discovered the beauty of creation to the warm welcome of hospitality while away from our warm beds. Thank you for the diversity of Your creation and this corner of the spinning Earth called Sarasota. We give thanks for this church where we find ourselves, can be ourselves, and can become more fully ourselves in Your image. Continue to let Your spirit surf over the waters of life individually and collectively. Continue to cause waves of faithfulness to flow forth in our words, actions, living our covenants and core values. Bless us to be Your people in these days. Amen.

SOLO

Wade in the Water
Lauren Patsos, soprano

arr. Mark Hayes

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19, *selected verses*

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³ Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life. ⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." ⁸ He got up

and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. ⁹ At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

SERMON

The Wildernesses of Life

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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The Paradox of Generosity

Pauline Geary

OFFERING/ANTHEM

Behold! God the Lord Passed By

Felix Mendelssohn

*DOXOLOGY/PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*CLOSING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#439

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing, Our present help amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and power great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth without an equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choosing. You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus sets us free! With mighty power to save, victorious o'er the grave, Christ will prevail triumphant.

And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us, We will not fear for God has willed the truth to triumph through us. The powers of evil grim, we tremble not for them; their rage we can endure, for lo, their doom is sure: one little word shall fell them.

That word beyond all earthly powers forever is abiding; the Spirit and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us siding. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill; God's truth shall triumph still; God's reign endures forever.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F

Dietrich Buxtehude

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ SUNDAY, October 29, 2023

Please remember Daylight Saving Time ends early next Sunday morning. When you go to bed on **Saturday, November 4, remember to turn your clock back one hour** and enjoy the extra hour of sleep and come ready to celebrate our saints on November 5th.

On Friday, November 3rd, we will participate at New College PRIDE. If you would like to volunteer to help, please see **Pauline Geary**.

All Faiths Food Bank Collection ~ Sunday, November 5th is the monthly collection of items for All Faiths Food Bank. Along with the usual items, feel free to bring a few things that could be used for a Thanksgiving dinner. Items such as canned cranberry relish or sauce, green beans, yams, or boxed stuffing mix would be helpful. Last month in October, we donated 32 bags of food weighing 360 pounds, please consider bringing a gift for our food pantry on November 5th.

November 5 is All Saints Day if you have a loved one who is in God's eternal embrace and would like the person's name to read aloud, please contact Pastor Wes.

New Member Class ~ November 5th after the 11 a.m. worship service in the Oasis Center. We warmly welcome everyone who would like to learn what it means to be a member of First Congregational UCC. A light lunch will be served. You will have a chance to meet others and to ask any questions. Please call the church office to RSVP

Celebrate Birthdays and Support Family Promise Sunday, November 5th ~ after 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services We will celebrate November birthdays and have a challenge to raise money for Family Promise. Tara Maffei, Executive Director and/or Cynthia Schalk, Director of Partner Outreach, will be present and available to share information about the services Family Promise offers to support families facing homelessness and to answer any questions you have. Treats will be offered after the 9 a.m. service and ice cream and cake will be provided for our traditional birthday Sunday celebration. **Our special challenge, to support Family Promise, is to donate either 25 cents, 50 cents or a dollar for each year of your life.** Regardless of what you donate, any donation is gratefully accepted and appreciated. A basket will be at the end of the table, or you can give your donation to Ellen Marsey, Family Promise Co-Coordinator. **Thank you!**

Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity UPDATE ~ Please plan to attend the Community Problems Assembly on October 30th at 6 pm at Greater Hurst AME (2730 Links Ave.)

BOOK STUDY ON CORE VALUES STARTS OCTOBER 30 ~ Our congregation is currently holding a yearlong conversation about its core values, mission and vision. As a part of this effort, Immediate Past Moderator Jim Butterworth will be facilitating a four-week discussion series this fall based on Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diana Butler-Bass which considers the shape of emerging Christianity and the renewal of mainline Protestant churches such as our UCC. Butler-Bass shares examples of inspiring work which congregations around the nation are doing in vital areas of church life such as hospitality, worship, justice, healing and diversity. **On four Monday afternoons from October 30 through November 20 at 4:00 pm in the Oasis Center and on Zoom**, participants will discuss a few of these “signposts of renewal” each week and consider how we are accomplishing God’s work in these key areas of our congregational life. Register with Sherry Glover in the church office at 941-953-7044. New and used copies of the Butler-Bass book can easily be found online. Hope to see you there!

Please join the UCC Women for their monthly lunch and program on Tuesday, **Nov. 7, 2023**, at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. We will hear from Donna Rae Smith about the charity she founded, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUPPORT, INC., or “S.A.S.” Donna learned that children living in poverty are much more likely to stay home from school, especially girls who are menstruating but have no sanitary supplies, or it’s raining so boys and girls stay home because don’t have raincoats. Donna will explain how S.A.S. meets these basic needs. Luncheon costs \$12. Sign up after either Sunday service or call the church office at 941-953-7044. Questions? Call Lucy Hedrick, 203-561-9590, or lucy@lucyhedrick.com. **Please bring a box or two of ultra-thin sanitary pads—any size. No maxi-pads or tampons.**

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS ~ The next gathering of the PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP will be on Tuesday, Oct 31st from 2-3:30pm at Florence Jackson’s house. Contact Florence for address and directions (faj5110@gmail.com). Contact Lindsey Huddleston (630-338-9294) or Carol Hagglund (813-767-3782) for more information. Refreshments will be served.

Our Racial Justice Mission Group invites you to a Native American Blanket Exercise Saturday, November 4th 12:00 Lunch* 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Free Workshop. After a free-will offering lunch, retired UCC pastor Rev. David Houseal and members of Windermere Union Church (Orlando) will offer an interactive history lesson on how Indigenous Nations lost their land over time through specific historic events. This program honors Indigenous Peoples' History and Culture; it inspires those who support Racial Justice and Environmental Justice efforts for our Native brothers and sisters. ***Florence Jackson will be in the Narthex today taking reservations for lunch.***

Sacred Conversations on Race continues on **November 8**: ““The Myth of Thanksgiving: Native American Perspectives on The Pilgrims” from the PBS program, American Experience. All are welcome! You can join either in person in the **Oasis Center or on Zoom**. Please see Jim Crumel for more information

The Angel Tree tags will be here soon! Tags will be available for in-person pickup after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on November 12th. Should you not be present to get a tag, please contact Sandy Smith (941-260-8337, 340-227-5121 or sandysmithvi@gmail.com)

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 29

Sunday Worship, 9 am, **Sanctuary**
Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Sanctuary** and online
Safety Team Meeting during fellowship, noon, Syster Hall
Reading the Bible in a Year, 1 pm, Oasis Center and Zoom

Monday, October 30

Covenant Group meeting, 11 am, Zoom
Reading the Bible in a Year, 1 pm, Oasis Center and Zoom
SURE Community Problems Assembly, 6 pm, Greater Hurst AME

Tuesday, October 31

Tuesday Night Bible Study, 6:30 pm, Zoom

Wednesday, November 1

Lay Visitation Ministry, 10 am to 2 pm, Chapel and Syster Hall
Bible Study, 11 am, Oasis Center and Zoom
Church Choir, 7 pm, Chapel

Thursday, November 2

Staffing Team, Oasis Center and Zoom, 3:30 pm

Friday, November 3

New College PRIDE 4-7 pm

Saturday, November 4

Racial Justice Mission Group Native American Blanket Exercise, Syster Hall

Sunday, November 5 ~ All Saints Day & All Faith's Food Bank Collection

Sunday Worship, 9 am, **Sanctuary**
Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Sanctuary** and online
Birthday Sunday following worship and Family Promise
New Member Class at noon in Oasis Center

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