

February 2, 2025 ~ 11:00 a.m.  
First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



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# Holy Communion

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1031 S. Euclid Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237 ~ (941) 953-7044  
[www.uccsarasota.com](http://www.uccsarasota.com)

Flowers given by: **Jim Butterworth**, in honor of Pastor Wes and our Church leadership

PRELUDE *Pastorale from Partita on St Anne* by Paul Manz

INVITATION to WORSHIP Poem by Felicia Murrell

\*OPENING HYMN *You are Salt for the Earth, O People* #181

**You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God! Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God! Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace; Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!**

**You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God! Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God! Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace; Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!**

**You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God! Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God! Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace; Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!**

**We are blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God! Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God! Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace; Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**God, You are a Divine and Diverse Community. You dance with all people, all creatures great and small from snails slowly creeping to sea monsters swimming to each person praying these words. We know You prayerfully weave a garment of mutuality. Yet, we confess that the social fabric is fraying and threatening to unravel. We confess that we are quick to blame others. We confess too often what we pray on Sunday is gone by the time we scan the news on Sunday afternoon. You call us to be salt and light, to add zest, faithful flavor, and to shine and share Your light in us with others. Help us, O God. Inspire and infuse us with a truth we need in these days. In the name of the Light to our lives and whole world, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE *This Little Light of Mine* #525

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, this little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine, This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine, All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine,  
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.

SERMON

*Spice of Life*

OFFERING/ANTHEM

*True Light*

Keith Hampton

\*DOXOLOGY/PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light, To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise, Our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.**

CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

One: May the liberating love of God be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Open your heart to God,

**Many: We let God, who is still cooking in the kitchen of our lives, rummage around the spices on the shelves of our souls.**

One: Give thanks to God,

**Many: For God, in the beginning blessed light and dark, and has been doing that ever since.**

*The ushers will invite you to come forward with the center aisle holding your hands in the form of a cup, receive a bread and grape, and return to your pew by the side aisles. There is gluten free bread in the center. Pastor Wes will serve you in the pews for those who wish. Please hold the bread and grape until everyone has been served.*

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER ~ from Swahili Baba Yetu

**Baba yetu, who art in Heaven. Amen! Baba yetu, Hallowed by they name. Give us this day our daily bread. (Pause) Forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive others who trespass against us. (Pause). Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one forever. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Blest Are They*

*see insert*

**Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God. Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled. Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth. Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God. Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God. Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me. Rejoice and be glad; yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see. Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Presto from Partita on St. Anne*

by Paul Manz  
Ending by Glenn Priest

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ February 2, 2025**

**TODAY ~ Noon ~ Syster Hall ~ Yoleidy Rosario-Hernandez**, program director of ASALH Freedom School. The Manasota ASALH Freedom School is a free, community-based Saturday program dedicated to enriching students' reading and literacy skills while providing comprehensive education on Black history. She will present, "Why do we need Freedom School? What do we teach?" Lunch will be provided.

**The Wayless Way Offering ~ Your Life as a Curriculum ~ You are invited to explore your life** ~ The event will be **hybrid** (in the Oasis Center and Zoom). You are encouraged to read all of Matthew chapters 5-7 to ground yourself in the way of Jesus. You are welcome at the Bible Study table on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and Wednesday mornings at 11 a.m. in the Oasis Center/Zoom to discuss the Sermon on the Mount in February. You are also welcome to a conversation with Pastor Wes on Richard Rohr's book, *Eager to Love* on **Feb. 10 and 17 at 4 p.m. in the Oasis Center or on Zoom**. This is a wonderful complement to reading the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Pastor Wes has a few copies of the book to buy for \$17.00.

**Women's Association Program for Tuesday, February 4, 2025** will feature the Children's Guardian Fund, [a non-profit organization that provides funding and support for children in foster and state care in Florida's 12th Judicial Circuit. It responds to the needs of children removed from abusive or neglectful homes, promoting normalcy and enrichment in their lives.](#) Our presenter will be **Svetlana Ivashchenko**, the Executive Director, who will speak on "Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care." Attendees are asked to bring a Walmart Gift Card in any amount to help the teens in transition. All are welcome. Come to Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m., enjoy lunch at 12 noon (\$15), and our program at 12:30. Please sign up after church

service, or call the church office, 941-953-7044. Questions? Call Terri Crawford, (239) 896-7029.

**Drumming as a Spiritual Practice ~ Tuesdays 2/4 and 2/18 at 3 p.m.** ~ Chapel. Drums provided. New drummers welcome. Contact Lindsey Huddleston for more information (630-338-9294).

**February 4 we will meet in the Oasis Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** for the official kickoff of Bread for the World's 2025 campaign: "Nourish our Future." Other local Bread for the World churches will meet with us to attend the Zoom kickoff. Please consider attending with us, and register for the event at: <https://give.bread.org/s/3258764/38SJZW6Y>

Psalm 31:24 tells us to "Be Strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord" **You are invited to the 98th Annual Conference of the Florida United Church of Christ Women. May 2-4 "Finding HOPE: Health - Opportunity - Purpose- Empowerment.** San Pedro Spiritual Development Center in Winter Park. Two of our scheduled presenters are wonderful authors who will definitely put a smile on your face. Tracy Smoak - author of "Who Brought the Dog to Church?", "Refuge of Grace" and several other photo devotional books. Liz Smith - author of "Be Brave. Lose the Beige: Finding your sass after sixty. There will also be a Panel of FL UCC women: Rev. Nayiri Karjian (Transitional Fl Conference Minister); Rev. Michelle Taylor (FL Conference Associate Minister); Rev. Vonshelle Beneby (FL Conference Board Moderator); Rachel Parker-McClendon & Bert Perry (Co-Chairs, FL UCC Women's Council); Dyanne Edds (FL Conference Board and FL UCC Women's Council member). There will be a few more LGBTQ+ speakers from the Tallahassee church and Rev LaTrell Harrison (FL Conference Associate Minister) will speak at Sunday's worship service. Early Bird Registration (10% discount) is extended to February 15<sup>th</sup> To register, go to: <https://www.uccfla.org/meetings> ~ Gentleman, although the programs are for women, if you would like to join your wife for meals, you are more than welcome to join us.

**Food and Hunger Mission Group: *Taking Action to End Hunger* ~ New Volunteer Opportunity to provide "Daily Bread".** The Food and Hunger Group and Church Council recently approved having our church partner with Resurrection House to provide lunch on the first Thursday of every month. Sandy Smith has agreed to arrange the meals and one to two volunteers are needed each month to help prepare and serve. To volunteer please call or email Carol Hagglund.

**Sacred Conversations on Race ~ February 12:** "The most powerful woman you never heard of" - TED Talk by T. Morgan Dixon and Vanessa Renae. **February 26:** "The Mission to Safeguard Black History in the US" - TED Talk by Julieanne L. Richardson

**We welcome our Artist in Residence, Dr. Kevin Fenton, the weekend of February 14th.** Dr. Fenton is a Professor of Choral Conducting and Music Education at Florida State University College of Music. He was a Fulbright Specialist in Sub-Saharan Africa. The music for Sunday, February 16, will have a global theme. Dr. Fenton will be joined by accompanist Dylan Rhodes who is pursuing a Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance. The choir will take part in

an all-day workshop on Saturday, February 15th under Dr. Fenton's leadership, and sing three multi-cultural selections on Sunday February 16th. Join us as we celebrate global music! **There will be ONE Service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>!**

**Artful Prayer ~ Thursday, February 13th ~ 2 p.m. ~ Oasis Center or Zoom ~ My Bucket Has a Hole In It ~ Led by Brenda Robinson ~ My bucket is rusty and leaking. It has tangled threads, scratches, dirt, and scars all over. I need help keeping it filled. My humanity is wrapped up with yours, and we can only be humans together, not in isolation; we are made differently to realize our need for one another. Feel free to bring your own bucket or vessel. I will have some available. Just come. Let's help ourselves by helping each other fill our buckets. *About Brenda: I am a painter. I paint stories in the in-between spaces. I paint joy. I paint prayers. I paint poetry. I paint dreams. I paint history. I paint love. I paint ancestors. I paint love and I paint hope. I am always on the lookout for the presence of wonder and joy! I have been a member of this church for 16 years. I have grown and I continue to grow in this welcoming space. My bucket is already starting to refill and overflow. I look forward to the "spilling over" of our blessings on February 13<sup>th</sup>!***

### **THIS WEEK**

#### **Sunday, February 2 ~ Glenn Priest organist ~ Communion Sunday**

9 a.m. ~ Worship, Chapel

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ Yoleidy Rosario-Hernandez presentation, Syster Hall

#### **Monday, February 3**

Racial Justice Mission Group, 11 a.m., Zoom

Food and Hunger Group, 2 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

#### **Tuesday, February 4**

First UCC Women Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Syster Hall

First UCC Women Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Syster Hall

Staffing Team meeting, 2:30 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Drumming as a Spiritual Practice, 3 p.m., Chapel

Tuesday Night Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

#### **Wednesday, February 5**

Lay Visitation Ministry Team, 10 a.m., Chapel

Bible Study, 11 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Worship Team meeting, 1:30 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Chapel

#### **Thursday, February 6**

Plymouth Harbor Circle, 10 a.m., MacNeil Chapel

**Saturday, February 8**

Maryanna Daniel Celebration of Life, 1 p.m., Sanctuary

**Sunday, February 9 ~ Glenn Priest organist**

9 a.m. ~ Worship, Chapel, Pastor Wes preaching

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online, Rev. Dr. John Walker preaching

Noon ~ COLLAGE Monthly Lunch ~ *join our LGBTQ+ group and allies for a time of process all*

*we are carrying in these days*

The service to celebrate the life of **Patricia Laemmel** will be on February 15 at 11 a.m. in the chapel.

**Please note: there will be ONE service (in person and online) on February 16<sup>th</sup> so we can enjoy the Artist in Residence Sunday together!**