

February 9, 2025 ~ 11:00 a.m.  
First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota

**Rejoice**  
in this day

A graphic of a musical staff with five lines, featuring two eighth notes and a quarter note, all in black.

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[www.uccsarasota.com](http://www.uccsarasota.com)

Flowers given by: **Gib & Jeannie Mitchell**, in loving memory of our daughter, **Karyn & Carol Patterson**, in loving memory of our family

*There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.* —Martin Luther King Jr.

PRELUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* by Stephen Walley

POEM *Joy is the Justice (We Give Ourselves)* by J. Drew Lanham

\*OPENING HYMN *Glory, Glory Hallelujah* #2

**Glory, glory, hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down. Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.**

**I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.**

**Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!” since I laid my burdens down. Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!” since I laid my burdens down.**

**I am dancing Miriam’s dance now, since I laid my burdens down. I am dancing Miriam’s dance now, since I laid my burdens down.**

**I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, since I laid my burdens down. I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, since I laid my burdens down.**

**Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down. Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.**

\*POEM *Joy is the Justice (We Give Ourselves)* by J. Drew Lanham

**Joy is the soul underneath the journey, gaze snagged on wonder, not knowing final destination, yet blessed as a witness, moored to ground. Joy is worshipful tears dripped into grateful smile. Joy is all the Black birds, flocked together, too many to count, too many to name, everyone different from the next, swirling in singularity across amber-purpled sky. Joy is being loved up close, not just from the untouchable distances, or at arm’s length, for who we are or might become. Joy is us mattering. Joy is equity— no equivocation. Joy is actually seeing color, hue not blinded by privilege, the piety of claiming you don’t. Joy is the everything, joy is sometimes the nothing. Joy is the simple, joy is the complex. Joy is silly, joy is serious, joy is the trivial, the tiny, joy is enormous. Joy is the inexplicable coincidence. Joy is what was meant to be. What I mean to say is that joy is a song.**

\*RESPONSE *This Joy I Have*

**This joy I have, the world didn’t give to me. This joy I have, the world didn’t give to me. This joy I have, the word didn’t give to me. No the world didn’t give it, the world can’t take it away.**

**This love I have, the world didn't give to me. This love I have, the world didn't give to me.  
This love I have, the world didn't give to me. No the world didn't give it, the world can't  
take it away.**

**This faith I have, the world didn't give to me. This faith I have, the world didn't give to  
me. This faith I have, the world didn't give to me. No the world didn't give it, the world  
can't take it away.**

**This peace I have, the world didn't give to me. This peace I have, the world didn't give to  
me. This peace I have, the world didn't give to me. No the world didn't give it, the world  
can't take it away.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

SERMON

*We Are Like Moses*

Rev. Dr. John Walker

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE 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.**

OFFERING/ANTHEM

*Joy in the Morning*

Natalie Sleeth

\*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.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

**I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

**I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Now Thank We All Our God*

by Sigfried Karg-Elert

## ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ February 9, 2025

**TODAY ~ Noon** ~ Kelley Robinson, Chair of the Human Rights Campaign: "The past few days have tested our resolve in ways that feel unprecedented. Each new headline has landed like a body blow to our community, and I've heard from so many of you sharing your fears, anger and uncertainty. In a world that sometimes feels intent on attacking our existence and humanity, these feelings aren't just valid — they're a response to extraordinary challenges" We here in COLLAGE are being tested too. Many of us are feeling fear, anger and uncertainty. Your Advisory Team plans to **offer an opportunity to share responses to the anti LGBTQIA threats.** During our Sunday COLLAGE Luncheon, we will have an opportunity to care for ourselves and support each other. There will be space to share our responses and to discuss positive steps we can take care for ourselves. **COLLAGE Luncheon is open to all LGBTQIA+ siblings, our Allies and all church congregants!**

**The Wayless Way Offering ~ Your Life as a Curriculum** ~ Pastor Wes for a conversation on Richard Rohr's book, *Eager to Love* on Feb. 10 and 17 at 4 p.m. in the Oasis Center or on Zoom. **Please read the preface through chapter 6 for Monday, February 10th. If you need the zoom link for the hybrid meeting, please let Pastor Wes know.**

**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

**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>!*

**The Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, February 15.** Coffee is ready at 8 a.m. for fellowship. **Dick Miller's famous egg casserole** will be served at 8:30 a.m. We will be discussing Black History Month. Please call the church office to RSVP. All men are welcome!!

**Next Sunday, we welcome our Artist in Residence, Dr. Kevin Fenton.** 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>!**

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

**Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ February 19** ~ calling all knitters and crocheters! Wednesday, February 19th from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Oasis Center. Come for creativity and conversation.

**Support Project 180 with a sponsorship, or by attending the March 7<sup>th</sup> Strong Voices luncheon at Michael's on East.** The luncheon features national workforce development and prison education expert, Dr. Craig Miller (Pennsylvania College of Technology, affiliated with Penn State University), who promotes addressing our labor shortage (especially in the trades), through workforce development education among incarcerated and recently released returning citizens. According to the RAND Corporation, "incarcerated people who participate in education programs are 48 percent less likely to recidivate than those who do not." These findings are based on a recently updated, comprehensive study that analyzed rigorous research published from 1980 through 2017. Sponsorships are requested by February 14<sup>th</sup>. To purchase individual luncheon tickets, go online to **Project180reentry.org** click on Lecture and Buy Tickets for "Constructing a New Workforce" on March 7, 2025 at 11 AM. ~ Questions? Contact: Barbara Smith-Bacon

**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.

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 La'Trell 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.

### **THIS WEEK**

#### **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 ~ *see announcement*

#### **Monday, February 10**

*Eager to Love* Book Conversation (preface through ch. 6), 4 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

#### **Tuesday, February 11**

COLLAGE Exec Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

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

#### **Wednesday, February 12**

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

Sacred Conversations on Race, 3:00 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Chapel

#### **Thursday, February 13**

Artful Prayer, 2 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

#### **Saturday, February 15**

Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., Syster Hall

Choir Artist in Residence rehearsal, 9 a.m., Sanctuary and Syster Hall

Patricia Laemmel Celebration of Life, 11 a.m., Chapel

#### **Sunday, February 16 ~ ONE Service!!!**

9 a.m. ~ Quiet time in the chapel for prayer

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online, Artist in Residence

Noon ~ Birthday Sunday

**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!**