

November 17, 2024 ~ 11:00 a.m.

# First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



## **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

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

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

**November 17, 2024**

**11:00 a.m.**

Flowers given by: **Chuck Jarman**, in memory of the **Jarman Family**; **Bob Procter**, in honor of **Mary Kukainis's** birthday; **Nancy Taylor**, in honor of **Kayla and Casey Taylor's** birthday.

**HONORING TRANS-REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

**PRELUDE**

*Sinfonia*

J. S. Bach arr. H. Whitford

INVITATION to WORSHIP (Please play hymn #562 softly during the call to worship)

One: Let these words stir and sing to your hearts today.

**Many: Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me,**

One: Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free.

**Many: Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,**

One: Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply.

**Women: Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree Your spirit sowed,**

**Men: Harvest of Your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God.**

**Many: Spiced with humor, laced with laughter – flavor of the Jesus life.**

One: Tang of risk and new adventure, taste, and zest beyond belief. Let us sing out the truth of God's on-going, unfolding call to be collaborators and conspirators and contributors to the great song of life.

\*OPENING HYMNS

*Take My Gifts (verse 3)*

#562

**Take whatever I can offer gifts that I have yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.**

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

#565

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise; Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done: All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone; born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**

**Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred; Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word. Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call, Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.**

**Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way; From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day. Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span, God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**God, You move within us, through us, all around us blessing each with inherent worth of Your image. We long to taste the reality of Your realm, but the systems around us keep preaching other truths. There is an incessant and incoherent narrative of not being enough. We let others define us by comments posted online with only keyboard courage. We let the actions of brokenness dissuade us from the truth of Your belovedness. Why, God? Why do these voices live rent free? Why do we lash out and shrink from Your divine dignity You imprint on each of us? Help us, O God, to live from a place where You say to us, “You are precious in my sight, honored, and you are loved.” Let these ancient words sing anew and afresh to our souls this day. Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE**

*Take My Life, God, Let It Be* (vs. 1 & 4)

#448

**Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow. Take me now, and help me be part of Christ’s community.**

**CELEBRATION of NEW MEMBERS**

**ENGAGING SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 43

But now thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob. God who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; *you are mine*. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my son from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

**SERMON**

**OFFERING/ANTHEM**

*We Are Not Alone*

Pepper Choplin

**\*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**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER**

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your**

**name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

#556

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place, Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space; We, your children, in your likeness share inventive powers with you; Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

**We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race; Known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space; Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power, Facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.**

**As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew, Children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you. May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun; Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Praise to the Lord Almighty*

Craig Phillips

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ November 17, 2024**

**If you had a candle lit for a saint on All Saints Day, the candles and angels will be available today in the narthex.** You can light the candle any time you need to feel God's love. You can light the candle on your beloved's birthday, anniversaries, or to sense God's presence.

We still need some Salvation Army Christmas Angels! Gift tags are still available for children and seniors. Let's have 100% participation so no one is left out. Tags will be available in Syster Hall after both services today. Hope to see you there. If you are unable to collect a tag in person, please contact Sandy Smith or the church office. Remember gifts are due at the church by Sunday, **December 8.**

**The SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) Community Problems Assembly has been rescheduled for November 18 at 6 p.m. at Pine Shores Presbyterian (6135 Beechwood Ave, Sarasota, FL 34231).**

The Women's Association is looking for their **red and white Christmas tablecloths.** Perhaps someone took them home to launder them? If found, Jane Hunder will tell you where to put them. We will be setting up our Christmas tables on Monday, December 3. **Thank you!!**

**Candlelight Concert in our Chapel on Sunday, December 1 at 7 p.m. featuring Marelina Suchocka on vibraphone and Phoebe Powell on harp.** Cost of the ticket is \$10 and will be on sale on Sundays after worship.

**NOVEMBER BOOK STUDY:** *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr~If you would like to join the conversation, please see Jim Butterworth or call the church office.

**Opportunities to Share God's Love this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season:** There will be four ways to share God's love in November and December ~

**1. Angel Tree Gift Tags** ~ Available November 10th ~ Tags will be available for in-person pickup after the 9 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on November 10th. Should you not be present to get a tag, please contact Sandy Smith. Deliver your gifts to the church before/after worship on Sunday or during the week, Monday – Thursday.

**2. Toy Drive for Alta Vista School** ~ Let's Be a Good Neighbor ~ November 11th to December 5<sup>th</sup>. The children range from ages 4 to 11. While shopping for our Angel Tree or young family members, could you include a board game, book, Legos or a doll to bring to church? You will find a gift box in the Narthex in which to place your gifts. They do not need to be wrapped.

**3. First UCC Women ~ Christmas Bag program** ~ we offer gifts of personal hygiene and stationery to Orchard Place residence (which our church established) and through Meals on Wheels. A full list can be found in the narthex. **All items should be NEW!!**

**4. Christmas Love** ~ every year our Mission Team reaches out to offer financial gifts to organizations in our community who share God's love. More information will be shared in the December newsletter and in worship.

**Drumming as a Spiritual Practice** meets the first and third Tuesday in the **Chapel**. Our next meeting is on **Tues 11/19 at 3:00pm**. **New drummers are welcome;** drums are provided.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry - November 20** ~ Calling all knitters and crocheters! The next gathering of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Group will be on Wednesday, November 20, from 2:00- 3:30 pm at the church Oasis Center. We meet the third Wednesday of the month. Please come join us for creativity and conversation. Contact Lindsey Huddleston at 630-338-9294 with questions.

**You are invited to the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Wednesday November 20 at 4:30 PM** ~ the event will take place at Trinity MCC (. This is a holy time for our community to speak the names of those transgender siblings who have lost their lives this year because of hate. Lockwood Ridge Rd.) Let us all be a part of ensuring that lives lost in hate are never silenced or forgotten.

**Our Safety Team announces CPR training on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Oasis Center.** We have space for 5 more participants. If you would be interested, please contact Joan Faucher at 941-915-9128 to sign up. The next class will be in Feb. 2025, dates to TBA. Facilities and Grounds invite you to a Fall Clean Up Day on **Saturday, November 23rd at 8:30 a.m.** We will weed the gardens and spruce up the campus before the holidays. Many hands make light the work. Please bring gloves, gardening tools, and a willing spirit to help. Our Sacred

The Acting Our Age ~ Voices of the Harbor has been reschedule!! This features **Lynne Woodman, Winnie Downes, and Carl Denney** from our church. **The new dates are Sat. Nov.**

23, 7pm and Sun. Nov. 24, 2pm. **Location** Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center/Holley Hall 709 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. Tickets available: <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/AOA2024>

**CALLING ALL BUCKET FILLERS ~ JOIN A TEAM IN 2025 ~Yes, YOU! We are blessed with so many opportunities to serve.** There is joy in doing what we can to make a difference. There is kindness in helping set the table for those in need. There is gratefulness in discovering we can be a team member even if we have limited mobility. We are all called to do what we can where we can. Having a full bucket or cup is a precious gift, one to be shared generously. **Won't you join us? What You Can Do:** Go to: [uccsarasota.com](http://uccsarasota.com); Select: About Us (at the top) and "Organization" from the dropdown menu; Scroll to: "Discover our Church's Organizational Structure ~ Check out the committees, groups and teams to learn more and open the "Statement on Structure" for specific tasks and meeting information Contact a member of the Nominating Committee for more information: Carol McCloud, Harold Mezile, Nancy Morris **Save the Date:** *Leadership Retreat for all team chairs and members, February 1, 2025 Carol McCloud, famed author of the Bucket Series Books, will be our guest!*

Conversations on Race continues the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays in Oasis and Zoom at 3 p.m. **Next gathering on December 10 at 3 p.m.** ~ we will be discussing resources from Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative.

### THIS WEEK

#### Sunday, November 17 ~ Stewardship, Trans-Remembrance Day, and New Members

9 a.m. ~ Early Service, Sanctuary

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ Fellowship Time

#### Monday, November 18

Growing and Caring Meeting, noon, Oasis Center

Prayer Circle Meeting, 1 p.m., Oasis Center

*Falling Upward* Book Study, 4 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

SURE Community Problems Assembly, Pine Shore's Presby., 6 p.m.

#### Tuesday, November 19

Church Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

#### Wednesday, November 20

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

Spiritual Education Committee, 1 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Trans-Remembrance Service, 4:30 p.m., Trinity MCC Church

Choir, 7 p.m., Chapel

#### Thursday, November 21

Green Team, 10 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Artful Prayer, 2 p.m., Chapel only

#### Saturday, November 23

Campus Clean Up day, 8:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, November 24 ~ Thanksgiving Sunday with Brass and Percussion

9 a.m. ~ Early Service, Sanctuary ~ featuring choir with brass and percussion

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online ~ featuring choir with brass and percussion

Noon ~ Fellowship Time

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

*Phone:* (941)953-7044 *Our website:* [www.uccsarasota.com](http://www.uccsarasota.com)

*We are a **Creation Justice; Open & Affirming; and Racial Justice Congregation** of  
the United Church of Christ*