

November 19, 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: **Nancy Taylor**, honoring Casey and Kayla's 25th birthdays

PRELUDE

Canzona per Sonare No. 2
Brass Quintet

Giovanni Gabrieli

Luca Farina and Ben Hauser, trumpets; Logan Fischer, horn;
Brad Williams, trombone; Nate Seman, tuba; Matt Kibort, percussion

INVITATION to WORSHIP

Perhaps the World Ends Here

by Joy Harjo

*OPENING HYMN

Festival Hymn of Thanksgiving

arr. Paul Sjolund

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing
Sing praises to His name; he forgets not His own.**

**Beside us to guide us, Our God with us joining
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord was at our side, all glory be Thine.**

**We all do extoll Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender will be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free.**

**With voices united our praises we offer;
To Thee in thanksgiving, glad anthems we raise.
Thy strong arm will guide us, through all Thou art beside us;
To Father, Son and Spirit, forever be praise!**

*OPENING PRAYER

God, You are our help in ages past and our deepest hope for the year to come. We give thanks to You for moments of laughter, cathartic tears we've shed, bread broken with others, and times of worship. We give You thanks for travels and time with family. We give You thanks for food, shelter, and this day You have made. With the psalmist we wonder, "What are humans that You are mindful and love us?" Honestly, God, we don't know if You read the paper this morning, but things are not always so great here. We confess our moments when we have contributed to the noisiness of the world, when we slipped into cynicism and criticism, and days we don't feel very thankful. Awaken us God that Your goodness is always at work in our lives and this world You so love. Let our theme song for this coming year be making a joyful noise to You. All this we pray in the name of the One who is the Lord of the dance, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

CELEBRATION of NEW MEMBERS: Kyle & Donna Booth; Joan Faucher & Valerie Fields; Michael Fraschetta; Gary Pike; and Norm & Ginny Wilcox

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 100

Raise your voices; make a joyful noise to the Eternal, all the earth. ² Serve the Eternal gladly; as you awaken to God's presence find a voice to sing out with joy! ³ Know this: the Eternal One is fully Holy. Built on this truth, God made us. We did not form and fashion ourselves, all we are is because of God who offers us grace upon grace as we graze in the fields of our Creator. So come into this sacred space with thanksgiving, dance into this sanctuary with praise, offer God your gratitude. God is good all the time, God continually offers us loyal love and mercy and so much more unending. God's truth will last throughout all generations.

SERMON

A Joyful Noise?

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.

OFFERING/ANTHEM

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Ryan Murphy

DOXOLOGY/PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. K. Lee Scott

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God
Brass Quintet

Johann Pachelbel

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ SUNDAY, November 19, 2023

Glow devotional for Advent is available today in the narthex. This is a wonderful collection of heartfelt writings from UCC authors. Please pick up one today. These devotionals are made possible by your generosity.

Sorella Duo, cello and piano ~ Candlelight Christmas Concert ~ Friday, November 24th @ 7 p.m. ~ Reed Chapel and Music Center at First Congregational UCC Limited Seating ~ Advanced tickets only ~ \$20.00 each. Tickets available on Sunday mornings and through the church office. Embracing their Italian heritage, *Sorella* (meaning sister), Natalie and Rebecca Helm have enjoyed performing together since they were young children. Both sisters are currently working as professional musicians. Natalie is the principal cellist for the Sarasota Orchestra and Founder of Upward Notes, Inc. Rebecca, pianist, is the Director and Founder of Go-Go Allegro Music School in Boston. This concert has become a tradition to launch your holidays in peace.

Wednesday, November 29 we will have a special guest at Bible Study, **Rev. Hovnan Demerjian** from St Hagop Armenian Church in Pinellas Park. Hovnan is a great friend of mine and I think you will find meaning in hearing how our Armenian siblings celebrate the season of Advent. All are welcome to attend or Zoom in for this conversation.

WOODSON AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF FLORIDA IN ST PETERSBURG ~ FRIDAY DECEMBER 1ST The Racial Justice Mission Group invites you on a day trip to visit the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum of Florida in St Pete on Friday Dec 1. The church bus is full, but groups are gathering to car pool. The group will meet for lunch in St Pete before the docent-led tour. The museum cost of \$10/person can be paid on arrival. To register for lunch and the museum tour, sign up for the bus, or for more information, text or call Lindsey Huddleston at 630-338-9294 by Monday Nov. 20.

The Wayless Way ~ Your Life as a Curriculum ~ NEW offering for 2024 ~ As we begin a New Year, we will launch twice monthly conversations centering around a book with Pastor Wes weaving insights from scripture and inspiration. You do not need to attend all the sessions, but there will be a thread that will run from sessions to session. In January, we will focus on *Build the Life You Want* by Arthur C. Brooks and Oprah Winfrey (January 8 and 29). In February, *Hope Leans Forward* by Valerie Brown (February 12 and 26). In March, *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen (March 11 and 25). In April, *No Cure for Being Human* by Kate Bowler (April 8 and 22). *The Seventh Story* by Brian McLaren (May 13). On each of the Mondays above, we will gather at 4 pm and finish by 5:15 pm. For more information, specific reading plan, and to register for the conversation, please contact Pastor Wes. The event will be hybrid (in the Oasis and Zoom)

Come one, come all to the annual Women's Association's Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, **December 5**, at 11:30 am. We will fill and wrap Christmas boxes for shut-in seniors (male and female) in our community. **Our goal this year is to fill and wrap 100 shoe boxes** that will be

distributed to the residents of Orchard Place and to Meals on Wheels. To put us all in a holiday mood, we will also have a Christmas sing-along. Cost for lunch is \$12.00. **All are welcome.** Please sign up to attend after Sunday worship or call the church office at 941-953-7044. Bring empty shoe boxes and items to fill them to the church narthex. Questions? Call Connie Toops, (941) 379-2373, or ckt55@comcast.net

PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

NEW hand lotions, NEW soaps, NEW packaged toothbrushes, NEW toothpaste, NEW wet-wipes, NEW hand sanitizer, NEW shampoo and conditioner, NEW deodorant, NEW tissues - small for pocket or purse, NEW shampoos, NEW comb, NEW brush, NEW socks, NEW handkerchiefs **STATIONERY ITEMS** STAMPS, NEW magnifying glass, NEW boxed or prepackaged greeting cards, NEW pre-packaged pens, NEW post-it notes, NEW pre-packaged colored pencils. NEW coloring book, NEW small puzzles, Sudoku, crosswords books, NEW devotional book, NEW pocket calendar NEW Small stuffed animal, NEW CHRISTMAS Ornament NO WALL CALENDARS PLEASE, NO CANDLES - THEY MIGHT MELT, NO CANDY THAT MAY MELT

PRAYER SHAWLS Calling all knitters and crocheters! The next gathering of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Group will be on **Tuesday Dec 5th from 2-3:30p.m.** at Carol Hagglund's house. Contact Carol (813-767-3782) for the address. Contact Lindsey Huddleston (630-338-9294) for more information. Refreshments will be served.

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, Dec 7 - @ 5:00 - 7:30pm - Kwanzaa community celebration at the Betty J. Johnson Library. RSVP to Lois (cellololoma2@gmail.com) with your plans to attend. A celebration of the principles of Kwanzaa, celebrating African American's through story, art, and wisdom, and community connections. All are welcome!!

December 10 ~ A Christmas Like None Other ~ A time of reflection, renewal, and resting in God's love. Whether you find yourself grieving, longing, hurting, or just not in the "spirit of the season", join Pastor Wes at 12:30 pm in the Oasis Center for a time of quietness and sharing outside of the hustle and bustle of the season.

Christmas Light Tour ~ back by popular demand ~ Len and Drue Murray will host the annual Christmas light bus tour on **Tuesday, December 12 meet at 5:30 pm** and **Thursday, December 14 at 5:30 pm.** Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

Sacred Conversations on Race continues on **December 13 at 3 pm:** "My road trip through the whitest towns in America" - TED Talk by Rich Benjamin. We will not meet on December 27 as we observe the Christmas holiday. All are welcome! You can join either in person in the **Oasis Center** or on **Zoom.** Please see Jim Crumel for more information.

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 19 ~ Thanksgiving Sunday with Brass and Choir at both services

Sunday Worship, 9 am, **Sanctuary**

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Sanctuary** and online

Fellowship Time, noon, Syster Hall ~ Author Sunday

Monday, November 20

Christianity for the Rest of Us book conversation, 4 pm, Oasis Center and Zoom

Wednesday, November 22

Church Choir, 7 pm, Chapel

Thursday, November 23

Church campus closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24

Sorella Duo Concert, 7 pm, Chapel

Sunday, November 26 ~ Trans Remembrance Sunday

Sunday Worship, 9 am, **Sanctuary**

Sunday Worship, 11 am, in **Sanctuary** and online

Upcoming Celebrations of Life

Millie Small ~ Saturday, December 2 at 10:30 am ~ Chapel

Lorraine E. Matthews ~ Saturday, December 16 at 10 am ~ Sanctuary and online

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Phone: (941)953-7044 *Our website:* www.uccsarasota.com

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