

November 3, 2024 ~ 11:00 a.m.

First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



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

www.uccsarasota.com

Flowers given by: **Dale Moore and Steve Horowitz**, in celebration of 29 wonderful years for Steve and Dale and their thankfulness for **YOU**, their church family's, love and support. **Chuck Shipman**, in honor of Marilyn and Chuck's 50th wedding anniversary.

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress

arr. Diane Bish/Priest

INVITATION to WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN

For All the Saints

#299

For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed, Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their refuge, and their might: you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight; mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Still may Your people, faithful, true, and bold, live as the saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a glorious crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine, we feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet in your love our faithful lives entwined, Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*OPENING PRAYER

God of our grandparents, mentors, teachers, friends, and partners, Your love comes to us in so many ways and through so many people. Thank you. Thank you for saints who sheltered us with hugs, thank you for saints who listened to us in love, thank you for saints who shared with us grace that led us home. We honor our saints who are in Your eternal embrace.

Name members of your family tree who left fingerprints on your heart.

We name guides who led us through the wilderness of life, who embodied Your grace and generously shared Your giving that knows no ending.

Name mentors and teachers who helped shape you.

And we name the long list of those who have shaped and shared Your presence not as some cognitive comprehension test to pass but as a healing hope to be experienced.

Name people who are in your heart today.

For all the saints, O God, we give thanks with tears in our eyes, warmth in our hearts, and our prayer to be caught up in Your cloud of witnesses that surrounds us always. Alleluia and Amen.

I sing a song of the saints of God, faithful their whole lives through, who bravely labored, lived, and died for the God they loved and knew. And one was doctor, and one was a queen, and another a shepherd in pastures green: they were saints of God, if you know what I mean. God, help me to be one, too.

They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still. The world is filled with living saints who choose to do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and awe of the Lord. His delight shall be in awe of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

SERMON

Rooted in the Saints

OFFERING/ANTHEM

We Are Surrounded

Williams/Martin

*DOXOLOGY/PRAAYER 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**

CELEBRATION of OUR SAINTS

Bruce Abel	Bob Barr	Ken Bieber
Bill Brackett	Carole Brock	Samuel Bryant
Hugh Harold Bryce, Sr.	Michael Carone	Tesi Cerezo
Bill Coleman	Phyllis Collins	Warren Scott Connolly
Brigadier General Norvell "Van" Coots, M.D.		Teresa Crumel
Wes Curry	Robert Davis	Margie Delgado
Joseph Elliott	Ken Geiger	Keith Griem
Carl Grovanz	Dr. William Grubb	Rolf Willi Gruber

Melissa Hall	Lovette Washington Harper	Jill Hays
Sylvia Hazzard	Carl Hendrickson	Nelson Hewitt
Megan Howell	Mildred Huisman	Lisa Kelley
Robert Kitterer	Christine Thurber Knupp	Pat Ladd
Al Landers	Sue LaRosa	Eleanor Lee
Bob & Kay Mawhorter and Mckinley Zarr		Michael Matles
Karyn McCarthy	Dr. Ann McKay	Michael Merideth
Carrie Metzger	Alma Niemiller	Kathleen O'Sullivan
Margie Papenhausen	Julie Pennella	Chris Pickett
Justin Procter	Kellye Renee Robinson	Dolly Roth
Roma Sailors	Sue Spaulding	Gary Lee Stewart
Sandi Tinsley	James Harmon Walsh	Gary Watson
Laura Weber	Ray Weiss	Douglas Earl Wilder
Johnnie Williams	David Whitten	Nathan Wright

COMMUNION in the PEWS

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.

*CLOSING HYMN

When the Saints Go Marching In
Gilma Somarriba, saxophone

**When the saints go marching in, When the saints go marching in;
Lord I want to be in that number, When the saints go marching in.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on Sine Nomine

John West

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ November 3, 2024

Today ~ NEW MEMBER CLASS ~ Please join us in the **Oasis Center after the 11 a.m. worship service** 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. All who are interested in exploring membership are warmly welcomed at this session.

NOVEMBER BOOK STUDY: *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr~ During November, we will be reading and discussing Falling Upward, a bestselling book about spirituality in the first and second halves of our lives. In this short work, Rohr explains how our spiritual needs change throughout our lives and how we are led to a deeper spirituality during the second half of life. The book study will follow a small group discussion format, facilitated by Jim Butterworth. **It will be held in the Oasis Center, in person and on Zoom, on four Monday afternoons (November 4, 11, 18, 25)**

from 4:00-5:15 pm. Please purchase your copy of the book. Please register with Sherry in the church office (941-953-7044).

Tuesday, November 5, 2024, UCC Women welcome Yvonne Lefebre, Awareness Coordinator for Selah Freedom in Manatee and Sarasota Counties. All are welcome. We will begin with registration at 11:30 am in System Hall, **followed by lunch (\$15) at 12 noon and our program at 12:30.** Selah Freedom works to “bring light into the darkness of sex trafficking,” The average age of entry into sex trafficking of survivors Selah Freedom has served is 12-14 years old. While the subject can be viewed as depressing, this program will be uplifting, as we learn of the many successes Selah has achieved. They are making a huge difference! Yvonne says, “Ask me how you can help stop sex trafficking.” Please sign up either Sunday service or call the church office.

Drumming as a Spiritual Practice meets the first and third Tuesday in the **Chapel.** Our next meeting is on **Tues 11/5 at 3:00pm. New drummers are welcome;** drums are provided.

Our Sacred Conversations on Race continues the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in Oasis and Zoom at 3 p.m. **Next gathering on November 12th at 3 p.m.**

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 5th. 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.

Artful Prayer ~ November 14th @ 2 p.m. ~ Reed Chapel In-Person Only ~ This hybrid workshop, “Singing that Builds Community” led by **Greg Chestnut**, invites us to reconnect with singing as generations before us have done. In ancient times, congregational songs and folk hymns were led without printed music in the hands of the singer. Singing “by ear” can become a powerful spiritual practice as we explore themes of prayer, justice, nature, healing, hope, and community. Join with others as we create and engage in ways to contribute to our common life through song.

Please join us on November 14 at 7 p.m. for the showing of Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes. This is a film by Byron Hurt (son-in-law of Jim and Priscilla Crumel). Mr. Hurt will be here to show the documentary and answer questions. This movie has received critical acclaim and praise. We are blessed to have the director here and hope you will join our Racial Justice Mission Group for this powerful evening!

NEXT UCC MEN'S BREAKFAST ON NOVEMBER 16 ~ The UCC Men's breakfast series continues Saturday, November 16 and all the men of the congregation are invited to join for breakfast in Syster Hall then. Coffee will be on at 8 am and breakfast served at 8:30 am. Dick Miller will be our chef this month and, after breakfast, Dale Moore will lead a discussion based on his new book, Chatroom with God. You may register by Thursday, November 14 by calling Sherry at the church office at 941-953-7044. We hope to see you there!

The SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) Community Problems Assembly has been rescheduled for **November 18 at 6 p.m.** Location TBA soon.

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. We will say their names, and place stones with their names around the garden tree. 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 21st 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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 3 ~ ALL Saints Day, Communion, & Glenn Priest, guest musician

9 a.m. ~ Early Service, Sanctuary

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ Birthday Sunday, Syster Hall

Noon ~ New Member Class, Oasis Center

Monday, November 4

Facilities and Grounds, 10 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

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

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

Tuesday, November 5 ~ Please pray for our country on election day

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

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

Wednesday, November 6

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

Choir, 7 p.m., Chapel

Thursday, November 7

Plymouth Harbor Circle, 2 p.m., MacNeil Chapel

Handbell Choir, 6 p.m., Chapel

Friday, November 8

Endowment Team, 1 p.m., Zoom

Sunday, November 10 ~ 70th Anniversary Celebration

9 a.m. ~ Early Service, Sanctuary

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ Celebration of 70 Years, Syster Hall

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*