

October 20, 2024 11:00 a.m.

# First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



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

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

**October 20, 2024**

**11:00 a.m.**

Flowers given by: **Jeff and Sandy Smith**, in honor and celebration of our **50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** on October 18<sup>th</sup>. **Gib Mitchell**, in loving memory of my twin brother **Larry Mitchell**. **Jeannie Mitchell**, in honor of **Gib's 87<sup>th</sup> birthday**

PRELUDE

*Allegro Maestoso* from Water Music

G. Handel-G. Priest

INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: In the beginning, God surfed and splashed in the watery chaos.

Many: **In the time of Exodus, God's liberating love provided a way where there was no way through the Red Sea.**

One: In the time of Exile, God wept with the people down by the riverside.

Many: **We know Jesus sang, *Wade in the Water*, on the day of his baptism.**

One: We celebrate today our faith is hydro-powered by a holy flow of grace and love.

Many: **We raise our voices in prayer and praise.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*Now Bless the God of Israel*

#110

**Now bless the God of Israel, who comes in love and power, who raises from the royal house deliverance in this hour. Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm, to save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.**

**Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear, that we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year; And you, my child, shall go before to preach, to prophesy, that all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.**

**In tender mercy, God will send the day spring from on high, our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more. Sing praises to the Holy One! O worship and adore!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious God draw near to the chaos of our lives in these days. We bring our exhaustion, confusion, and brokenness. Sometimes the hurt does not make us stronger, and time doesn't heal every wound. We pray especially for people whose homes are damaged or destroyed; friends whose lives are in a tailspin; and our own never-ending to-do lists. We pray for people working long hours to clean up debris; for grocery store clerks who absorb our frustration; and the truth that we can't find our way back to "normal". O God, You have always gathered in the lost and forsaken; You continue to keep company with those hanging on by a thread. Be with us this hour and every hour this week. In Your abiding and abundant name we pray. Amen.**

GATHERING of the WATERS

BLESSING the WATER

*Creator of the Water*

tune: LANCASHIRE

**Creator of the water that makes the world so green,  
That satisfies the thirsty, and keeps us cool and clean,**

**We take from your creation this gift we use each day;  
You call us now to use it in this most holy way.**

**God, through your gift of water, your family we become;  
You take away divisions; in Christ you make us one.  
Now send your Spirit on us and give us work to do  
That we may share with others the love we have from you.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

SERMON

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

*Arise, Shine for Your Light has Come*

Hal Hopson

\*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**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

#478

**I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, in my soul.  
I've got river in my soul.**

**I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, in my  
soul. I've got fountain in my soul.**

**I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in my  
soul. I've got ocean in my soul.**

**I've got faith like an anchor, I've got faith like an anchor, I've got faith like an anchor, in my soul. I've got anchor in my soul.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Praise to the Lord*

S. Karg-Elert

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ October 20, 2024**

We are delighted to welcome **Glenn Priest** as our guest choir conductor and organist.

**Today**, following the 11 a.m. worship, members of Budget, Finance, and Stewardship will discuss our 2025 budget. This will be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook pages.

Pastor Wes will be on vacation October 23-29. On Sunday, October 27, **Rev. Ellen Marsey will lead both services. First Congregational, UCC Mission Fair** has been *postponed* due to the recent Hurricanes, we hope to reschedule soon.

Our Sacred Conversations on Race continues the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays in Oasis and Zoom at 3 p.m. **October 23** we will be watching excerpts from the PBS Show on the History of Hip-Hop Music.

**Ring for Joy!** We are starting **handbell practice** on **Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 6pm in the chapel.** Larry Bauer is returning as our director. Everyone is invited to join. If you can count to four and recognize red and blue (or read music), you can ring handbells! Participating in the handbell choir is a great way to add to our church's wonderful music offerings. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the church office for Larry's contact information.

**Please join our friends at Plymouth Harbor** presents, *Acting Our Age*. Featuring ten remarkable residents (including our own **Lynne Woodman, Carl Denny, and Winnie Downes**) who tell the stories of their lives. Born 1935 to 1945, the group shows us how they used the challenges of their childhoods to leave home and create new lives during a defining time of innovation in America and internationally. Dates of the performances are October 25 at 7 p.m., October 26 at 7 p.m., and October 27 at 2:00 p.m. at Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center/Holley Hall. Tickets can be purchased [www.eventcreate.com/e/aoa2024](http://www.eventcreate.com/e/aoa2024) Use promo code PH for a \$5 dollar discount!

**Daylight Saving Time ends on NOVEMBER 3 (at 2 a.m.).** When you go to bed on November 2, turn your clocks back one hour, and enjoy the extra sleep!

**REMINDER ~ November 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ All Saints Day at both services.** Please contact Pastor Wes if you have a Saint (*family or friend*) you'd like named during the service.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS ~ November 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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. Please contact the church office to RSVP.

**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. Father Richard Rohr, Franciscan priest, is a well-known author and teacher. 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 with commentary from Pastor Wes. **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 wherever you shop for books. Many used copies are available online. Please register with Sherry in the church office (941-953-7044) by October 31 to receive study materials before the first session.

**Tuesday, November 5, 2024, UCC Women welcome Yvonne Lefebvre, 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.

**Please join us on November 11 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!

**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 with questions

### THIS WEEK

#### Sunday, October 20, Glenn Priest, guest musician

8:45 a.m. ~ Early Service, Chapel

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ Budget Presentation in sanctuary and online

#### Monday, October 21

Growing and Caring Meeting, noon, Oasis Center

#### Tuesday, October 22

COLLAGE (LGBTQ+ Allies) Gathering, 11 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

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

**Wednesday, October 23**

**Pastor Wes on vacation through Tuesday, October 29**

Choir, 7 p.m., Chapel

**Thursday, October 24**

**Handbell Choir Resumes!! 6 p.m., Chapel**

**Sunday, October 27, Rev. Ellen Marsey preaching & Glenn Priest, guest musician**

8:45 a.m. ~ Early Service, Chapel

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

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*