

October 27, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Flowers given by: **Phil Swain**, in loving memory of our parents **Harriet and Phil Swain**.
Susan Moore in loving memory of **Bill Moore**

PRELUDE *Sonata in A minor - 1st movement* Schubert

INVITATION to WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* #32

**God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars How does the creature say
Awe How does the creature say Praise**

**God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast How does the creature
cry Woe How does the creature cry Save**

**God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave How does the creature say
Grace How does the creature say Thanks**

**God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life**

**God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook How does the creature say
Love How does the creature say Peace**

**God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart How do the children say Joy
How do the children say Home.**

*OPENING PRAYER

One: Holy God, who is both near and far, huge beyond measure, close as our next
breath and as small as a mustard seed. To you we come.

Many: **We come to worship, to sing your praise, to seek your help, to learn your
ways. Help us to open our minds to all that you are.**

One: You contain all genders, all melodies, all colors, all languages. Our human
understanding seeks to name who you are and how you are, and all our words and
all our images fall short.

Many: **Keep us mindful, dear God, that our language may fall short, but you *never*
do. Holy God, to you we come.**

All: **Open our hearts and our minds to you. Amen**

*RESPONSE *Spirit of the Living God* #283

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

SERMON

"Two Sides of a Coin"

Rev. Ellen Marsey

PAUSE to BREATHE and REFLECT

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

O Great Spirit, our Creator in heaven, may your name be held sacred. Let your kingdom come, and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Provide for us today what we need, and forgive us our wrongs, as we forgive those who wrong us. Keep us from temptation, and protect us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. (Native American version)

OFFERING/ANTHEM

The Servant Song

David Schwoebel

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all the love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Oh God, may the passing of these plates from hand to hand connect us in caring. And may the honesty of coming face to face with the needs of your people in the world guide us toward a gracious giving. We dedicate our offering and our lives to Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Take My Gifts

#562

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free, now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away, now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed, harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God, spiced with humor, laced with laughter flavor of the Jesus life, tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

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.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

Stephen Fancher

Portions of the liturgy were adapted from “Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship”, Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi editors. Used by permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ October 27, 2024

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Ellen Marsey to lead our worship services this morning. Ellen is a member of our church and has faithfully served a variety of UCC congregations. We also warmly welcome **Stephen Fancher** as our guest choir conductor and organist.

Pastor Wes will be on vacation October 23-29.

The Mission Fair, scheduled for today, has been postponed due to recent hurricanes. The following organizations were going to participate. Please keep them in your prayers and remember they, and other groups the church supports, need our assistance through volunteering and donations as they continue their work and try to help people recover from the storms. All Faiths Food Bank, African-Am. Resource Center, Also Youth, Baby Basics, Brady Campaign, Embracing Our Differences, Resurrection House, Sunshine Community Composting, SURE

Handbell choir continues this Thursday, October 31st at 6 p.m. in the chapel.

NEXT Sunday, 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 3rd ~ 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 3rd 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.

Our Sacred Conversations on Race continues on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in Oasis and Zoom at 3 p.m. **Next gathering on November 10th at 3 p.m.**

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!

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.

Saturday, November 23 at 5 PM - Every year, we gather with the community at the Transgender Garden of Remembrance 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. You can join us in painting the stones on November 20 at 6:30pm.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 27, Rev. Ellen Marsey preaching & Stephen Fancher, guest musician

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

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ Fellowship Time

Wednesday, October 30

Pastor Wes returns from vacation

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

Choir, 7 p.m., Chapel

Thursday, October 31

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

Handbell Choir, 6 p.m., Chapel

Saturday, November 2 ~ Set Clocks back ONE Hour!!!

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

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

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ Birthday Sunday, Syster Hall

Noon ~ New Member Class, Oasis Center

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*