

January 14, 2024 11:00 a.m.
First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



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

January 14, 2024

Rev. Dr. King Sunday

11 a.m.

Flowers given in celebration and commitment to our **Racial Justice Covenant**. Thank you to **Jim and Priscilla Crumel** for the beautiful Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. statue and plate.

PRELUDE/ANTHEM

You Are Holy

Keith Hampton

INVITATION to WORSHIP

Jim Crumel

*OPENING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#593

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of the liberty; Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our people sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered, We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughter, Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, God who has brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your might, led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you; Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

*OPENING PRAYER

God of justice, You call us to roll up our sleeves to collaborate and cooperate with You. We pray You would clear away the confusion that swirls within us *and* around us. We live in a world where we cancel each other. We live in a time when anger is often our first, last, and only response. We live in a moment when we look down on each other, distrust each other, and are quick to judge. The narratives of domination, revenge, consuming, and pushing others aside have become our gospels rather than the baptismal promise of Your belovedness for all. We confess that as we talk about justice, but we have struggled with establishing structures for Your justice to flow like a mighty stream. How do we live the truth of Your realm in our world today? Help us, O God, for we do not know how to help ourselves and our Google searches keep coming up short. On this Sunday let the music, words, and being together remind us of how to be Your beloved community. Let this service reverberate, resonate, and reside in us for the year to come. Amen.

ANTHEM

Nobody Knows De Trouble I See

arr. Keith Hampton

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:21-22

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON

Living the Promise of Baptism

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 His Holy Name

Keith Hampton

*DOXOLOGY/PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise,
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

*CLOSING HYMN

We Shall Overcome

#570

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day:
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.**

**We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,
we'll go hand in hand some day
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
we'll go hand in hand some day.**

**We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
we are not afraid today;
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
we are not afraid today.**

**Our God will see us through, our God will see us through,
Our God will see us through some day.
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
Our God will see us through some day.**

**The truth will make us free, the truth will make us free,
The truth will make us free some day.
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe.
The truth will make us free some day.**

**We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace some day.
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe,
we shall live in peace some day.**

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING

Let There Be Peace On Earth

arr. Keith Hampton

We warmly welcome renowned musician, Dr. Keith Hampton today. He is best known for his arrangements of gospel songs and spirituals. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Chicago Community Chorus. Dr. Hampton is an organ performer, conductor, composer, educator, church musician, and workshop clinician. He specializes in the field of Gospel Music. The North Central American Choral Directors Association named Dr. Hampton as one of the top 25 contemporary composers. He earned his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ; a Master of Arts Degree from Marywood University, Scranton, PA; and a Doctor of Music Degree in Church Music from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

He is the Cantor to the Seminary Community at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He is Director of Music and Organist at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church and Assistant Director of Music at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ SUNDAY, January 14, 2024

The 2024 Altar flower chart is now available and waiting for you! If you have an anniversary, birthday, or special occasion in the coming months, please call and reserve a Sunday today. Cost of bouquet is **\$40 each**. Thank you for bringing the beauty of creation into our worship on Sunday.

On Wednesday, **January 17 at 1 p.m.**, we are delighted to welcome **Rabbi Michael Shefrin** in the Oasis Center and Zoom. Rabbi Shefrin will share with us insights from the Jewish faith and on the Hebrew Scriptures. Please talk to Pastor Wes for the Zoom link.

Friends of the Betty J. Johnson Library will host a M.L.K. Book Sale on **Saturday, January 20** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2801 Newtown Blvd. Please support our local library!

NEXT UCC MEN'S BREAKFAST ON JANUARY 20 ~ The UCC Men's breakfast series continues on **Saturday, January 20** and all the men of the congregation, new and longtime members, are invited to join for breakfast in Syster Hall then. Coffee will be on at 8 am and breakfast served at 8:30 am. **Steve Horowitz** will present a short and informative program about "The Mysteries of Egypt" and chef Dale Moore plans an Egyptian (!) breakfast. You may register by Thursday, January 18 by calling Sherry at the church office at 941-953-7044.

On **January 21**, SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) will host a Network Meeting for our church. This gathering in Syster Hall will offer us updates since our House Meeting in October on the work that is happening in Affordable Housing, Restorative Justice in

the Schools, and Criminal Justice in our State. Please plan to attend as we look toward the **Nehemiah Action on March 18th at 6 p.m.** at our church!

Did you know that January 23 is **National Pie Day**? **This annual event was created in the 1970's** simply to celebrate the **pie**. It is a **day** for all to cook (and eat) their favorite **pies**. So we invite you to celebrate early Bake (or if you buy a pie, we won't tell!) your favorite pie and share it during Fellowship Hour, on January 21, after the 11 am service. Just drop it off before the service, and we'll plate and serve it.

Sacred Conversations on Race continues: **January 24 at 3 p.m.** we will read and discuss Toni Morrison's *Recitatif*. Please note, if you read the Morrison book, you need to **skip** the introduction, read the story first between two women – one black and one white – which Morrison doesn't specify in the story the race of each woman. After you experience the story, you can read the introduction for Morrison's insights into race. Here are the SCOR topics for next month: **February 14:** Belonging, A Critical Piece of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - TED Talk by Carin Taylor. **February 28:** The Little Problem I Had Renting a House - TED Talk by James A White, SrAll are welcome! You can join either in person in the **Oasis Center or Zoom**. Please see Jim Crumel for more information.

Annual Meeting ~ January 28th **The Annual Meeting for First Congregational UCC will be held on January 28th immediately following the worship service in the sanctuary.** The meeting will be livestreamed on **YouTube and Facebook**. If you are not able to attend in person, you can pick up a **paper ballot to vote in the office**. This year at our annual meeting we will vote on: Financial Reports 2023, Budget 2024 and Nominating Report. Celebrate all the ways we have shared God's love this year!! The Annual Report will be available on the website on **January 14, 2024**. Financials will be available either in church or via email from the church office. If you desire a paper copy, please contact the office. Questions? Please see Moderator Nancy Morris

Please join the UCC Women's Association for their monthly lunch and program on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. We will hear from Lt. Col. Matthews about the **Sarasota branch of the Salvation Army**. She will explain the many life-changing programs of the Salvation Army of Sarasota County and how we can help. Our church boasts four individuals who serve on the Board of Advisors: Warren Bacon, Dale Woodling, Deborah Hayes, and Lynn Jones, all of whom will be on hand to share their experiences. Luncheon costs \$12. Sign up after either Sunday service or call the church office at 941-953-7044. Questions? Call Lucy Hedrick, 203-561-9590, or lucy@lucyhedrick.com. **For Baby Basics of Sarasota County, please bring new or gently used baby books for ages birth to three.**

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 session to session. In January, we will focus on *Build the Life You Want* by Arthur C. Brooks and Oprah Winfrey (January 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 Podcasts by Brian McLaren (May 13). On each of the Mondays above, we will gather at 4 p.m. and finish by 5:15 p.m. For more information, specific reading plan, and to register for the conversation, please contact Pastor Wes. The event will be hybrid (Oasis & Zoom).

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 14 ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend

Early Worship, 8:45 a.m., Chapel
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., in Sanctuary and online
COLLAGE Luncheon, noon, Syster Hall
South County Fellowship Group, 5 p.m.

Monday, January 15

MLK Unity Walk, 11 a.m., Newtown
Growing and Caring Meeting, 1 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Pet Blessing Organization Meeting, 2:30 p.m., Oasis Center

Tuesday, January 16

Staffing Team, 3 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Church Council, 6:30 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Wednesday, January 17

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 11 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Time with Rabbi Michael, 1 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Saturday, January 20

Men's Breakfast, 8:45 a.m., Syster Hall
Celebration of Life for Wes Curry, 2 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday, January 21

Early Worship, 8:45 a.m., Chapel
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., in Sanctuary and online
SURE Network Meeting & National Pie Day Celebration, noon, Syster Hall

90+ Wise Birthdays ~ January ~ Please help us shower with cards:

Donald Vance ~ 1/5
Alma Niemiller ~ 1/6
Mildred Huisman ~ 1/11
Cynthia Lichtenstein ~ 1/17
Betty Schattschneider ~ 1/23

Upcoming Celebrations of Life:

Saturday, January 20 ~ Celebration of Life for **Wes Curry** at 2 pm ~ Sanctuary

Sunday, January 21 ~ Celebration of Life for **Chris Pickett** at 3 pm ~ Bayshore Care Facility

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