

April 28, 2024 11:00 a.m.

First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



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

www.uccsarasota.com

April 28, 2024

11 a.m.

Thank you to **Connie and Tim Toops** for the beautiful Asian altar cloth. Thank you to **George and Laura Taylor** for the beautiful Hawaiian figures and angel. Thank you to **Evelyn and Dennis Crooks** for the prayer flags.

PRELUDE

Dona Nobis Pacem

Mozart

Stephen Fancher, Organist/Pianist/Guest Choir Director

INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: Evolving, expanding, eternal God,

Many: We worship You with full voice!

One: You enliven and enrich all that is from the smallest snail to the soaring eagle to human-size featherless bipeds.

Many: We open our minds, hearts, and souls to encounter You.

One: Let Your wisdom evoke new thoughts, let Your love enlarge our lives.

Many: Let our worship this morning guide and ground us for the living out of these days.

*OPENING HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

#522

I love to tell the story of unseen things above. Of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain: **I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.**

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems than all the golden visions of all our golden dreams. I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you because I want to share it, because I know it's true. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story; it's pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. *Refrain*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest. And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song will be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

*OPENING PRAYER

God, here we are as April winds down and wraps up. We pause this morning to recall what has filled our lives so far this year. For celebrations and transitions; for moments of stillness and sighs deeper than words; for ordinary days and moments we felt the spirit stirring. For all that is and will be, open us to You. Meet us today, O God, with a love that will not let us go and with a grace that we do not earn but is given unceasingly and unconditionally. As the wee little man named Zacchaeus climbed the tree centuries ago,

may each of us find beautifully brave ways to seek You each day this week. In the name of the One who calls us by name every day, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***RESPONSE**

There Is a Name I Love to Hear

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; It sounds like music to my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain **O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, whose love has first found me.**

It tells my Savior's love for all; Christ died to set us free; Whatever problems may befall, we'll live in dignity. *Refrain*

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

SERMON

Leftovers from Luke Part 1

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

Will You Come and Follow Me

Tom Trenney

***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**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#76

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in

all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's realm and to answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us, unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ April 28

Hymn Gathering Project

Thank you to everyone who has participated in one of the focus group conversations regarding our next Director of Music. We appreciate the variety of voices, insights, and thoughtfulness you have shared. The Search Team will be looking over all the responses. As we continue this liminal season in-between choir directors/organists,

we want a list of favorite hymns from every member!

Wait, you think, what's the catch?

No catch.

Do you mean, I could give you fifty hymns?

Yes!! *I'd appreciate the list **alphabetically** if you are going to do **more than five**, please.*

Ah, ha! I knew there was a catch!!

You are welcome to submit your hymns throughout the month of May to Pastor Wes. These hymns will be compiled into a list to fuel hymn sings in June and July as well as conversations. One of the topics that surfaced in our focus groups is around inclusive language as well as what hymns people find meaningful. Hymns, like any art, evoke/provoke our souls in ways we cannot always rationalize. Moreover, we are a diverse church, which means certain weeks will stir your spirit while other Sundays may not. Over time, we want to be prayerful and intentional in how we weave together our collective worship into a tapestry that gathers us all in God's embrace.

Please email your hymns to Pastor Wes when you are ready.

*My our lives flow on in endless song above the earth's lamentation,
May you and I catch the sweet, tho' far-off hymn that hails a new creation;
Through all the tumult and the strife we open our lives to music ringing;
It finds an echo in every soul, how can we keep from singing? Amen.*

We are delighted to welcome **Stephen Fancher** as our guest organist/pianist today to lead our worship, hymns, and choir. Please welcome Stephen! Next Sunday, May 5 through the end of July, we will welcome **Adam DeSorgo** to lead our music ministry. He served as the principal oboist of the Sarasota Orchestra for 15 years and has played with many symphonies around the country. Adam has bachelor's and master's degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music. During his time in Cleveland, he also worked with a local UCC church as pianist and organist. His husband, Samus has a beautiful baritone voice and sang with our choir 10 years ago. Adam and Samus were married in our church in 2014. Thank you so much to **Kelly Pitcher & Cathy Ellis** for providing housing for Adam over the summer.

Invitations to Feedback Focus Groups TODAY, April 28th at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom only and 1st UCC Women on **May 7 at 11 a.m.** If you have questions, please see Pastor Wes or Lori White.

Three Invitations to Reach Out with God's love:

- 1. SURE Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity** is currently accepting individual investments. If you would like to make a contribution to SURE ~ **please make the check payable to SURE** and put "1st Cong UCC" in the memo line.
- 2. Help Project 180 - Donate Backpack Essential Supplies!** The Peace & Justice Team needs your help! We are collecting items from the list below provided by Project 180. These items go into the backpacks supplied to newly released felons returning to Sarasota County with literally nothing. It's a small ask from us and has a major impact in easing their transition to life after incarceration. Please consider adding a few of these to your shopping cart, then place them in the labeled basket in the Narthex. Each backpack is filled with the following: Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Comb, Flashlight with Battery, Body Wash (medium size), Shampoo (travel size), Deodorant (regular size), Hand Towels(2/person), Wash Rags (2/person), Rain Poncho, Bike Lock, Bike Lights (front and back), Water Bottle, Razors and shaving gel (medium size gel or cream), Mylar emergency "space blanket," Sunscreen (medium size), and Bug Spray (medium size).
- 3. Nearly half of the students enrolled in Sarasota County schools participate in free and reduced-price meal programs. In DeSoto County, that number is 100%. So when school ends, hunger begins. If you would like to help feed children this summer, you still have time to donate to the campaign. The campaign runs through May 15 and donations will be doubled until they reach the goal of \$1 million matched. To donate before the 15th, go to allfaithsfoodbank.org/campaignagainstsummerhunger/**

Bread for the World Listening Session ~ Mark your calendars for **Monday, May 6, 4:00-5:30 p.m.** The Church will be hosting a Bread for the World Listening Session, "Nourish our Future." During this Listening Session, we will discuss the following platform Bread for the World has established to address food insecurity: Fully funding and modernizing WIC for all eligible participants; Expanding a Child Tax Credit that prioritizes cutting child poverty and ending hunger; Addressing college student hunger; Developing an international "Children's Jubilee". The Listening Session will take place at the Oasis Center. Also, a Zoom Link will be sent if requested.

Student Scholarship Applications ~ Due April 30th First Congregational UCC student scholarship applications are due April 30th. Applications are available through the church office via

the Spiritual Education and Growth Team. All applications and supporting materials must be returned to the church office by April 30th for consideration. Email: admin@uccsarasota.com.

On Sunday, May 5th, Dale Moore will host a book signing after worship. Come and purchase his new book, *In the Chatroom with God* cost is \$12.

Think tea pots and china cups, think spring posies, tea sandwiches and petit fours. The UCC Women invite one and all to **A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND VERSE WITH TEA on Tuesday, May 7, at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall**. We will enjoy readings by Lucy Tobias, Linda Butler, and Francesca Simon, along with musical selections performed by Marsha Kindall-Smith, Lynn Woodman, and Sarah Melcher. This end-of-season celebration will also be an opportunity to say what kinds of programs you would enjoy next year. 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. We ask each attendee to contribute towels for the clients for Mother Helping Mothers. New or gently used towels of any kind—bath, kitchen, beach, etc.—are much needed. In addition, we will approve the nominations for the 2024-2026 Executive Committee of the UCC Women's Board: President: Jane Hunder; First Vice President: Terri Crawford; Second Vice President: Joy Kuhn; Secretary: Donna Blakey; Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Ann Waid; Treasurer: Roxanne Schwoch

May 12 ~ Mother's Day brunch sponsored by COLLAGE ~ bring a labeled photo of your mother or mother-like figure who has blessed your life. During the lunch we will share stories about the women who have left fingerprints upon our hearts and how each have shaped our lives. This will be a holy time. Thank you to COLLAGE for sponsoring this wonderful gathering.

Wayless Way Bookclub is listening to Brian McLaren's Learning How to See podcast on the Seventh Story. We live in a world where narratives of domination, purification, consumerization swirl within us. The Gospel of being an Easter People calls us to live a different way. Join us on Monday, **May 13th at 4 p.m.** in the Oasis Center or Zoom as we reflect on the seventh story and how to live this way ~ support and caring for each other.

Sacred Conversations on Race ~ gathers at 3 pm in the Oasis Center and on Zoom on the following dates: **May 8 and 22.**

Brenda Robinson & Wojtek Sawa Art Exhibit continues @ SPAACE Galley 2051 Princeton St. Sarasota, FL 34237. Exhibition Dates: April 5th – April 27th | Gallery Hours | **Fri, Sat, 10:00 - 2:00 or by Appt.** Theme: Common Ground are twofold: To normalize mental health experiences and reduce stereotypes, and to empower individuals with lived experience to serve as educators and advocates for a positive change in our attitudes about mental health.

From Dr. April Glasco (Second Chance Last Opportunity) ~ I am so grateful for your generosity to Second Chance Last Opportunity. Lucy Hedrick arrived on the Monday after April 7's Food Collection, her car overflowing with contributions to "Re-stock Our Shelves." Thank you so much. I would like to invite all of your congregants to our **Food Distribution Center ribbon-cutting, 1933 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, at 11:30 on Monday, May 20.** Please come and admire the renovations that you and so many other churches and synagogues have helped us achieve. Thanks to this expansion, we will be able to serve many more people and families in need.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 28 ~ Welcoming Stephen Fancher as Guest Musician

Early Worship, 8:45 a.m., Chapel

Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., in Sanctuary and online

Director of Music Conversation, 1:30 p.m., Zoom ONLY

Tuesday, April 30

Director of Music Search Team, 9:30 a.m. Oasis and Zoom

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

Wednesday, May 1

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

Worship Team, 1 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

NO Choir Practice

Thursday, May 2

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

Handbell Choir, 6 p.m., Chapel

Sunday, May 5 ~ Welcoming Adam DeSorgo as Guest Musician

Early Worship, 8:45 a.m., Chapel ~ **Communion and Food Pantry Sunday**

Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., in Sanctuary and online ~ **Communion & Food Pantry Sunday**

Birthday Sunday, noon, Syster Hall ~ Dale Moore book signing

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*

To learn more or to support the ministry and mission of the
church online ~ scan the QR code:

