

May 12, 2024 11:00 a.m.

First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



Happy  
Mother's  
Day

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

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

**May 12, 2024**

**11 a.m.**

Flowers given by: **Harold and Peggy Mezile**, in celebration of Harold's birthday,  
**Jean Simpson**, in honor of all mothers, **Kayla Taylor**, in honor of my mother, Nancy Taylor

PRELUDE *Mai, lieber Mai, Bald bist Du wieder da!* op. 68 Schumann  
from "Album für die Jugend"

INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: Jesus said,

**Many: As a mothering hen longs to gather her brood, so I embrace you.**

One: In the midst of challenge and change, Ruth embodied God's loving kindness saying,

**Many: "Where you go, I will go. Your people will be my people".**

One: We give thanks for the fierce faithfulness of the women who bravely carried spices to the tomb that transformed their lives.

**Many: On this Mother's Day Sunday, we celebrate women who have left fingerprints on our lives, shaping us into who we are.**

One: We honor God's light that shines in our grandmothers, mothers, aunts, daughters, pastors, teachers, colleagues, and companions in faith.

**Many: It is good to be here today! Alleluia and Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN *O God, Whose Steadfast Love* #426

**O God, whose steadfast love true motherhood has blessed; who shields the infant small upon its mother's breast: Embrace us, too, O God, our God, and hold us in your loving arms, and hold us in your loving arms.**

**Your promises, O God, so sure throughout the years, have lived in mothers' hearts, have bloomed from mothers' tears. So Sarah laughed, and Hannah wept, and singing Mary secrets kept, and singing Mary secrets kept.**

**In your great love, O God, full parenthood is known: a father mourns his child, a mother's strength is shown. Let parents' faithful lives unbind your love that through them we might find Christ's deeper love for humankind.**

**May your household of faith one family become, that love may be increased and none may be alone; That mother's love and father's care and children's joy we all may share, and children's joy we all may share.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**God, Your giving knows no ending. For women who laughed with us, and held us as we wept. For women who taught us to trust in our belovedness. For women who nourished and nurtured us in countless ways. We name aloud now people who made Your love real to us as children and teenagers:**

*Name aloud your mothers/relatives whose love raised you.*

**We name aloud our teachers and mentors who shared wisdom, were there when we stumbled, and whose presence blessed us in more ways than we know.**

*Name aloud women who shaped your life.*

**We name aloud today women in our church who faithfully guide, inspire, infuse, and show us new ways to embody Your love.**

*Name aloud your sisters in faith at this church.*

**For all these saints, O God, we give thanks for the Sarahs, Hannahs, Naomis, Ruths, Esthers, Elizabeths, Marys, and Lydias who shine forth a living faith in such a time as this. Alleluia and Amen!!**

\*RESPONSE

*Jesus Loves Me*

#327

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so, little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.” Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way, wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:15-17

Some people brought infants to Jesus, hoping He would touch them *in blessing*. The disciples rebuked them for doing so, but Jesus called to the people. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me. Never hinder them! Don’t you realize—the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like children? You can depend on this: if you don’t receive the Kingdom as a child would, you won’t enter it at all.

SERMON

*Let Loose Our Child-like Faith*

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

*For the Beauty*

Eric Nelson

\*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**

**God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil, hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil. Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised: Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.**

**Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told, hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old, Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared. God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.**

**Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed; though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed. Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame You transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!**

**By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still, eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will. Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth, Welcoming as sister, brother all your children on the earth.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum" from *Children's Corner*

Debussy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ May 12

We are delighted to welcome **Adam DeSorgo** to lead our music ministry in May, June, and July. Thank you so much to **Kelly Pitcher & Cathy Ellis** for providing housing for Adam over the summer.

**Today** ~ Mother's Day brunch sponsored by COLLAGE. During the lunch we will share stories about the women who have left fingerprints upon our hearts and how each have shaped our lives. 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**NEXT UCC MEN'S BREAKFAST ON MAY 18** ~ The UCC Men's breakfast series continues on Saturday, May 18 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, Josh Burch will share challenges faced and adaptations made by visually impaired individuals. You may register by Thursday, May 16 by calling Sherry at the church office at 941-953-7044. We hope to see you there!

### 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. 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 15<sup>th</sup>, go to [allfaithsfoodbank.org/campaignagainstsummerhunger/](http://allfaithsfoodbank.org/campaignagainstsummerhunger/)

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.

Pastor Wes will be on vacation **Wednesday, May 22- Tuesday, May 28.** Rev. Jeff Jones will preach for Pastor Wes on Sunday, May 26th and there will be **ONE** service at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary and online that day.

**Sacred Conversations on Race ~ gathers at 3 pm** in the Oasis Center and on Zoom on the following dates: **June 12 & June 26** ~ We will be discussing Sho Baraka's Book, *He Saw that It Was Good*.

In solidarity with the Brady Campaign, you are invited to **wear orange to church on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Also, **Lighting Up the Ringling Bridge in June for Gun Violence Awareness Month Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 8 p.m. Bayfront Park.** Brady Sarasota, along with Moms Demand Action and other local organizations, will gather at the **Bayfront Park** on Saturday, June 8, at 8 p.m. to watch and celebrate as the Ringling Bridge's lights turn **orange for gun safety.** The city commission approved this lighting for June 8-10 for the first time this year. Please join us **just beyond O'Leary's** and across from the children's splash park, even if you've never been to a Brady event. Gun violence is a public health issue, and everyone believes in safety. Our program, which should last a little over an hour, will include a few short speeches, some singing and definitely some cheering. See Carol Rescigno if you have questions.

### THIS WEEK

#### Sunday, May 12 ~ Mother's Day

Early Worship, **8:45 a.m.**, Chapel  
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., in Sanctuary and online  
Fellowship Hosted by COLLAGE, noon, Syster Hall

#### Monday, May 13

Wayless Way Bookclub, Oasis Center and Zoom, 4 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 14**

COLLAGE Advisory Group, 11 a.m., Zoom  
Peace & Justice Team, 3 p.m., Oasis Center  
Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

**Wednesday, May 15**

Bible Study, 11 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom  
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Chapel

**Thursday, May 16**

Finance Meeting, 3 p.m., Zoom

**Saturday, May 18**

Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m. coffee/8:30 a.m. breakfast, Syster Hall

**Sunday, May 19 ~ Pentecost ~ Wear Red**

Early Worship, **8:45 a.m.**, Chapel  
Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., in Sanctuary and online  
Fellowship, noon, Syster Hall

Please note: **ONE** Service on Memorial Day Weekend, May 26<sup>th</sup>, at **11 a.m.** in the sanctuary and online. Rev. Jeff Jones will preach.

**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*