

May 19, 2024 11:00 a.m.

First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



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

www.uccsarasota.com

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11 a.m.

PRELUDE *Aria from Goldberg Variations* BWV 988 J.S. Bach

INVITATION to WORSHIP Pentecost Blessing Jan Richardson

*OPENING HYMN *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* (vs. 1 & 4) #286

Refrain: **Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind of the sea.**

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountain from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing, “Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” Refrain.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes, from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams; Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes, with bold new decisions your people arise. Refrain.

*OPENING PRAYER

Swirling, stirring Spirit, You color with all the crayons in the box, calling the church to delight in the mystery of how unity and diversity not only rhyme; but resonate in the deepest part of our soul. Open our minds, hearts, and whole lives to the whirling wind that ushers in a new day for all who follow the Way of Jesus. Two thousand years later, we confess that we are unsure what to do with the Spirit causing disruption and interruption into our carefully constructed faith, plans, and religious order. We confess that we discount and diminish events which don't match our experience. While we long for a Spirit of listening and love, but we can sound like those who snipped and sneered sarcastically that the people were full of new wine. We long for a renewal that restores and reminds us of Your wayless way. Pour out Your Spirit again, anew, and afresh, on each of us this Pentecost day. Amen.

BAPTISM of CARTER SMITH LEMMONS, daughter of Elizabeth Bacon-Lemmons and H. Michael Lemmons.

RESPONSE *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* #293

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Refrain

Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise. Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe; you're the one to profit when you say, “I am going to stay with Jesus all the way.” Refrain

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Acts 2, *selected verses*

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was *bewildered*, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

SERMON

An Awe-filled, Spirit-led Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD’S PRAYER (NEW ZEALAND VERSION)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

OFFERING/ANTHEM

Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit

William L. Dawson

*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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

#77

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace: Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

We give thanks and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound; May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound: Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

So that when your love shall call us, Savior, from the world away, Fear of death shall not appall us, glad your summons to obey: May we ever, may we ever live with you in endless day.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude No. 1

George Gershwin

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ May 19

Today ~ Please join us for fellowship time following worship this morning in Syster Hall ~ a wonderful time to connect and catch up. Please take a moment to look at the history posters at the front of Syster Hall.

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.

Thanks to each of you who purchased a copy of my latest book, "In the Chatroom with God." I hope you find it both inspiring and challenging. Anyone who would still like a copy can either call (941-993-0128) or e-mail me (demor37@yahoo.com) They are \$12 a copy.

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 June, we will celebrate PRIDE month. You are especially invited to June 9th after worship for a speaker from ALSO Youth on the topic of pronouns. All are welcome, sign up after church.

In solidarity with the Brady Campaign, you are invited to **wear orange to church on Sunday, June 2nd.** As you may know, Brady Sarasota and other local groups were planning to gather on June 8 at Bayfront Park to see the Ringling Bridge lit orange for Gun Violence Awareness month. We learned yesterday that the Florida Department of Transportation had decided that no bridge in the

state could light up for awareness of any event or group this summer. Instead, bridges are to be illuminated in red, white and blue from Memorial Day to Labor Day to celebrate the sales tax holiday bill signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis. Other groups that would have seen their colors on the bridge this summer: Pride, Juneteenth, Equality Day, National Recovery Month and World Fragile X Day. It's taken some time for Brady and Moms Demand Manasota, working together, to be approved for the bridge observance. We were not notified of the change directly; we read about it on blogs and in newspapers. We haven't decided our next step but will keep you posted. Save that June 8 date at 8 pm, though. We may just show up at the park -- orange lights or no orange lights. **And we still ask you to wear your orange shirts for Brady or rainbow colors for Pride to church on Sunday, June 2.** Meanwhile, consider calling the governor's office at (850) 717-9337 and the FDOT at (850) 414-4100 to express your displeasure about the bridge ruling.

Hymn Gathering Project ~ Please turn in by May 26

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!** 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.**

Summer Salad Sing in Syster Hall on June 16th at noon. You are invited to a potluck pitch-in meal. Once our stomachs are full, we will lift every voice in singing. Please bring a **salad** to share or a **dessert** if you prefer. We will sing the **top five favorite hymns** as submitted by YOU to Pastor Wes as well as sing some new hymns. We will begin to discuss how words create worlds, how we can experience the eternal in music in different/diverse ways. This conversation will continue in the month of July. Please plan to attend this wonderful event.

Save the Date! On **Sunday, June 23rd**, join the Peace and Justice Team at a special Fellowship Hour in Syster Hall **after the 11 AM service** to learn about voting procedures for the upcoming SMH Board election in August, and the statistical impacts of potential hospital privatization on quality of care and cost. More details to follow.

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.

THIS WEEK

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

Monday, May 20

Growing and Caring Meeting, 12 p.m., Oasis and Zoom
Spiritual Education and Growth, 2 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Director of Music Search Team, 3 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Tuesday, May 21

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

Wednesday, May 22

Pastor Wes on vacation through May 28

Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Chapel

Sunday, May 26 ~ ONE Service for Memorial Day

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

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

Monday, May 27: Memorial Day ~ Church Office and Campus Closed

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*