

May 5, 2024 11:00 a.m.

# First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



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

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

## INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: Make a joyful noise all the earth,

Many: **From the sound of grass growing, rain falling, trees swaying, birds singing, and our souls stretching in new directions as we enter a new month.**

One: Let our faith get caught up in the ways creation continues to witness to God's presence.

Many: **Let our prayer and praise this morning be open to God's movement meeting us right here as we are.**

One: Let our hearts be strangely warmed as we come to the table where Christ still meets us in the breaking of bread.

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

## \*OPENING HYMN

*Sing of Colors*

#402

**Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills in profusion are springing;  
Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside my window their canticles singing;  
Sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope we recall;  
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.  
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.**

**Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.**

**Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares, who has offered salvation.**

**Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.**

**Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell of God's love to recall.**

**Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

## \*OPENING PRAYER

**God, You continue to invite us on the wayless way of Easter, where puzzling perplexity cannot always be solved or resolved. We confess that we cling too tightly to reason. We struggle to find a balance between head, heart, and soul. There is tension within us and hovering around us in the air we breathe. When life doesn't make sense; the fight, flight, freeze, flock, and fawn part of our brain goes into overdrive. Our amygdala loves to say, "I'll take it from here." Honestly, God, that is where we spend too much of our days. As You met the disciples on the road to Emmaus, meet us here in this room. Let our eyes be opened through the breaking of the bread in ways that revive and remind us that we are Your beloved. In the name of the One who is the companion on the roads we travel and paths we take, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

## \*RESPONSE

*We Are Marching in the Light of God*

#526

**We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.**

**We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.**

**We are singing, Oo, we are singing in the light of God.**

**We are singing, Oo, we are singing in the light of God.**

**We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God.**

**We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God.**

**We are praying, Oo, we are praying in the light of God.**

**We are praying, Oo, we are praying in the light of God.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day, Easter afternoon, two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And Jesus said to them, "What are you discussing while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place?" Jesus asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how authorities handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. *But we had hoped* that he was the one to redeem Israel. It is now the third day since these things took place. Then, some women of our group *astounded* us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then Jesus said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near Emmaus, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening." So Jesus went in to stay with them. When he was at the table, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up, returned to Jerusalem, and they found their companions. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed!" They told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON

*The Sermon of Communion*

OFFERING/ANTHEM

*Stay With Us*

Walter Pelz

\*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**

SUNG INVITATION to COMMUNION     *Let Us Break Bread*     Dr. Marsha Kindall-Smith

MUSICAL INTERLUDE     *Arrulladora Mexicana* (1909)     Manuel Ponce

*You are invited to come forward with the center aisle holding your hands in the form of a cup, receive a bread and grape, and return to your pew by the side aisles. There is gluten free bread on the left side. Pastor Wes will serve you in the pews for those who wish. Please hold the bread and grape until everyone has been served.*

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.**

THE GIFTS of GOD for the PEOPLE of GOD & PRAYER

\*CLOSING HYMN     *As We Gather at Your Table*     #332

**As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; Let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.**

**Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife,  
Give us Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE     *Sevilla*     Issac Albeniz

## 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, or you can write out your hymns on the backside of this page.**

*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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ May 5

We are delighted to welcome **Adam DeSorgo** to lead our music ministry in May, June, and July. 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.

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

**Bread for the World Listening Session** ~ Help Bread for the World develop their platform for 2024-2025. **Tomorrow, May 6 from 4-5:30**, we will meet in the Oasis center and by Zoom to discuss Bread for the World's draft platform for their "Nourish Our Future" campaign. We will hear about Bread's desire to address the following: Fully Funding and modernizing WIC, Expanding a Child Tax credit that prioritizes child poverty, Addressing college student hunger We will have an opportunity to share our thoughts on how these efforts should be addressed.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83575535349?pwd=V3JPdmxMaGRDL1JmUllFWStaSnpzZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 7553 5349;Passcode: 184170

**Invitation to Feedback Focus Group this week:** 1<sup>st</sup> UCC Women on **May 7 at 11 a.m.** If you have questions, please see Pastor Wes or Lori White.

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](mailto: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

**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/campaignagainstssummerhunger/](http://allfaithsfoodbank.org/campaignagainstssummerhunger/)

**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 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.

**Sacred Conversations on Race ~ gathers at 3 pm** in the Oasis Center and on Zoom on the following dates: **May 8** ~ video interview of Sho Baraka & **May 22** ~ Director of Music follow up conversation.

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, May 5 ~ Welcoming Adam DeSorgo as Guest Musician**

Early Worship, **8:45 a.m.**, Chapel ~ **Communion & 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

#### **Monday, May 6**

Facilities and Grounds, 10 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Food and Hunger Group, 11 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Racial Justice Mission Group, 11 a.m., Zoom

Bread for the World Listening session, Oasis Center and Zoom, 4 p.m.

#### **Tuesday, May 7**

Green Team, 9:30 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

First UCC Women's Board Meeting, 10 a.m., Syster Hall

**Director of Music Focus Group, 11 a.m., Syster Hall**

First UCC Women's Group Tea, 11:30 a.m., Syster Hall

Drumming as a Spiritual Practice, 3 p.m., Chapel

Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

#### **Wednesday, May 8**

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

Sacred Conversations on Race, 3 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Chapel

#### **Thursday, May 9**

Staffing Team, 2 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom

Handbell Choir, 6 p.m., Chapel

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

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

Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., in Sanctuary and online ~ **Handbells Playing**

Fellowship Hosted by COLLAGE, see announcement above, noon, Syster Hall

**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*