

October 6, 2024 11:00 a.m.

First Congregational UCC ~ Sarasota



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

www.uccsarasota.com

October 6, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Flowers given by: **Chuck Jarman**, in loving memory of **Joe Heckman. Lee Brockmann**, in gratitude for God's many blessings on her **93rd birthday!**

CHOIR INTROIT

Heleluyan

arr. Jerry Ulrich

INVITATION to WORSHIP

One: May the grace, peace, hope, and love of God be with each of you.

Many: And also enfold and hold you.

One: We celebrate a communion table today that stretches around the world to *every* corner, *every* part of creation, and *every* person who reflects God's beautiful diversity.

Many: We are invited to come where there is a place set for each of us and room to spare.

One: We ground ourselves in the truth that Christ's table doesn't belong to you or me, rather the Holy holds the guest list.

Many: We celebrate on World Communion Sunday our connections to siblings in Sarasota to Singapore to Sydney to Cheyenne and back to this very room.

One: Let the mystery and marvel of the table guide us deeper into encountering and experiencing the Eternal here and now.

*OPENING HYMN

O for a World

#575

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

*OPENING PRAYER

God, the words of the hymn we just sang are a prayer we long to embody. We pray for our world that right now does not respect each other, that turns to violence as the first and final option, that divides into "us" and "them" so we can dismiss the other. God, our economics keep us distant and disconnected, our politics and religion keep us distrustful and deny the expansiveness of Your truth. On this World Communion Sunday, break through the barriers of our certainty and our clinging to our own correctness. Infuse this moment with a new Pentecost where a vast variety of languages praising You sang out in harmony. God, call us back to the truth that You create diversity as the fullest expression

of who You are. Let this be not just a prayer spoken but a way of life each day this month. Amen.

*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: **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*

PAUSE to BREATHE and BE

Inhale: May my hunger, thirst, and need

Exhale: Find nourishment in the Sweet Spirit here.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

SERMON

Tasting God's Vision

OFFERING/ANTHEM

Sizohamba Nye (trad. South African)

arr. Terry Taylor

*DOXOLOGY/PRAAYER 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**

CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

Sung Invitation to the table

Great Spirit God (vs. 1, 2, 5, 7)

#341

Great Spirit God, the things which are yours are numerous and great. The heavens above you set in their place, and earth received its form by your hands. The ocean depths respond to your will, for you can do all things.

Your will, mysterious and so strong, brings growth to all the earth. Food for our souls and clothing to wear, are like your cup that blesses and fills. Provide for us each day of our lives sufficient for our needs.

Your sacrament entrusted us, Jesus, now share with me. Your bread of life and drink for our souls, which you have offered, purify now. Sanctify minds and bodies to you; restore us by your love.

Your plan for our salvation, O God, grant to my sinful soul. Beyond the heavens is your great abode; all goodness is secure in your hands. This life divine which you gave to me is one that has no end.

DISTRIBUTION of the ELEMENTS

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE 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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Make Me More Holy

#75

Lord, make me more holy. Lord, make me more holy. Lord, make me more holy, until we meet again. Holy, holy, holy, until we meet again.

Lord, make me more faithful. Lord, make me more faithful. Lord, make me more faithful, until we meet again. Faithful, faithful, faithful, until we meet again.

Lord, make me more humble. Lord, make me more humble. Lord, make me more humble, until we meet again. Humble, humble, humble, until we meet again.

Lord, make me more righteous. Lord, make me more righteous. Lord, make me more righteous until we meet again. Righteous, righteous, righteous, until we meet again.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ October 6, 2024

We are delighted to welcome **Glenn Priest** as our guest choir conductor and organist.

Tuesday, October 8, 11:30 am in Syster Hall ~ The Women's Association and the Green Team have assembled a panel of experts on our water quality and conservation - Is our water safe to drink? How can we make it cleaner? How can we make it last? A panel discussion with: **Dr. Abbey Tyrna**, Executive Director of Suncoast Waterkeepers; **Michael D'Imperio**, Univ. of Florida Extension Agent for Water Resources; **Dr. Dave Tomasko**, Executive Director of Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. Here are the facts. 97.3% of the earth's water is saltwater found in the Ocean. The remaining 2.7% is freshwater, but of this 2.7% only 30.1% is ground water, that is, water we can access to drink. The other 68.7% is in glaciers and ice sheets. That means only .8127% of the water on the entire planet is freshwater. That's less than 1%, and, of course, we do not have access to all of that for drinking. That should give us pause. Join three experts of diverse areas of study in a conversation about our water. From how our planet's water got here and shaped our world, to the characteristics of saltwater and freshwater, to why the twain do not meet. We admire water's beauty and its bounty. We thirst for it. And we also fear its power, its quick ability to destroy, and its rapid warming. Without it, shall we be like sand through the hourglass with our time running out? **All are welcome. Luncheon costs \$15.** Sign up after either Sunday service or call the church office at 941-953-7044.

Our Sacred Conversations on Race continues on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in Oasis and Zoom at 3 p.m. **October 9 and October 23** we will be watching excerpts from the PBS Show on the History of Hip Hop Music.

Artful Prayer will meet on Thursday, October 10th at 2 p.m. both on Zoom and in person in the Oasis Center. The presenter will be **Rev. Donna Papenhausen**. Please bring drawing paper, pencil and crayons, markers or colored pencils. Contact Pastor Wes for Zoom link

Join our Table for the Project 180 Strong Voices Luncheon & Movie Premier! October 11, 2024 @ 11: 15 AM (Michael's on East) Join your church friends for the Oct. 11th Project 180 luncheon and program! If you have purchased a ticket, please let Barbara Smith-Bacon know, as we put together a table. The luncheon at Michael's on East starts at 11:15 AM, and features the premier of "*The Light They Cast*," a documentary about the men of Project 180. (Film run time: 1 hour, 11 minutes) More details on the Project 180 website. Tickets are \$45 – buy yours now! <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-transformative-power-of-project-180-october-11-tickets-861686305937?aff=oddtcreator> ***Again, please contact Barbara Smith-Bacon so we can add you to our table!***

The monthly **men's breakfast will reconvene on October 12th** after the summer break. Doors to Syster Hall will open at 8:00 am with coffee, tea and juice being served. **Chef Clarence Rogers** will prepare breakfast, which will be served at 8:30 am. Each attendee will be asked to share, in less than 2 minutes, one life-changing event. Please register by Thursday, October 10th by calling Sherry at the church office at 941-953-7044. Plan to come to catch up and or to meet new church friends!

Drumming as a Spiritual Practice meets the first and third Tuesday in the **Chapel**. Our next meeting is on **Tues 10/15 at 3:00pm**. **New drummers are welcome;** drums are provided.

You are invited on October 16 at 1 p.m. to join the Brady Program and the National Council of Jewish Women host Po Murray, Co-founder and Chairwoman of the New Action Alliance/ Newtown Action Alliance Foundation. This will be hosted in the sanctuary.

On Wednesday, October 16 at 4:00pm we will have the **first Singing Our Prayers gathering in our beautiful glass-stained Chapel led by Greg Chestnut.** We will sing simple prayers for the people interspersed with silence, meditation and poetry in a sacred space. The Prayer Circle invites you to be a part of it and bring along others for this unique spiritual experience. Our Prayer Circle has grown and now consists of Linda Butler, Greg Chestnut, Sheryl Overheid-Smith, Linda Pursley, Maggie Revere, Jane Delgado Semidei, George Taylor, and Ruth Ann Waid.

Gathering of the Waters ~ As you travel this summer, please collect water from wherever you visit! Remember you can gather water from local Florida areas or wherever you find yourself in the coming months. On October 20th we will celebrate our annual Gathering of the Waters.

On **October 20** following the 11 a.m. worship, members of Budget, Finance, and Stewardship will discuss our 2025 budget. This will be part of the livestream on YouTube and Facebook. Please plan to attend this important conversation for our church.

Come One, Come All to the First Congregational, UCC Mission Fair! *Hosted by Missions and Peace & Justice* **Sunday October 27** after worship in Syster Hall. **COME and ENJOY** food, drinks and fellowship. **ENGAGE** with staff and volunteers from non-profit organizations. **LEARN** about their mission, volunteer opportunities, and ways YOU can support their work. Come and learn how we can live out Matthew 25:40 *...then Jesus will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'*

REMINDER ~ November 3rd ~ All Saints Day at both services. Please contact Pastor Wes if you have a Saint (*family or friend*) you'd like named during the service.

NEW MEMBER CLASS ~ November 3rd Please join us in the **Oasis Center after the 11 a.m. worship service** to learn what it means to be a member of First Congregational UCC. A light lunch will be served. You will have a chance to meet others and to ask any questions. All who are interested in exploring membership are warmly welcomed at this session. Please contact the church office to RSVP.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 6 ~ World Communion Sunday, Glenn Priest guest musician

8:45 a.m. ~ Early Service, Chapel

11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online

Noon ~ **Birthday Celebration Sunday**

Monday, October 7

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

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

Tuesday, October 8

Endowment Meeting, 1 p.m., Oasis Center

Peace and Justice Team, 3 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Reading the Bible in 50-*ish* Day, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

Wednesday, October 9

Safety Team Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Bible Study, 11 a.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Worship Team, 1 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Sacred Conversations on Race, 3 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Chapel

Thursday, October 10

Artful Prayer, 2 p.m., Oasis Center and Zoom
Staffing Team, 2 p.m., Pastor Wes' office

Saturday, October 12

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

Sunday, October 13, Stephen Fancher, guest musician

8:45 a.m. ~ Early Service, Chapel
11 a.m. ~ Worship, Sanctuary and Online
Noon ~ COLLAGE Lunch, **Celebrating Coming Out Stories!**

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*