



A S H E V I L L E
First Congregational
United Church of Christ

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST
January 9, 2022, 10:30 am

Welcome! In order to keep everyone safe, some of our in-person worship practices have been tweaked. In view of the latest recommendations from health officials, we ask that everyone, whether vaccinated or not, wear a mask while inside the church building including the sanctuary and the education building.

Offerings may be placed in the offering plates on the table in the Narthex.

Joys, Concerns, and Hopes may be written on prayer requests found inside the red pew registers and placed in the Offering plate or in the Prayer Box on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Those prayers will be added to the prayer list later in the week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

INVITATION TO BREATHE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Shall We Gather at the River

arr. Joel Raney

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN #459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessings

NETTLETON

CHILDREN’S TIME

Rev. Andrew Hoots

ANTHEM

Beloved

by Mark A. Miller

*You are my beloved,
You are my child,
And I will be with you always,
Yes, I will.*

*When you see the lighting flashes
and you hear the thunder roll,
just remember my promise,
Peace, be still.*

*God, go with me,
God, stay by me,
Give me comfort through the night,
Till the dawn of morning light.*

*When you sense the storm is passing,
and you pause, look to the sky,
through the rain you’ll see the rainbow...*

*God, go with me,
God, stay by me,
Give me comfort through the night,
Till the dawn of morning light.*

*You are my beloved,
You are my child,
I will be with you always,
Yes, I will.*

Yes, I will.

Yes, I Am.

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 3:21-22

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, 'You are my Own, my Beloved. With you I am well-pleased.' (Inclusive Bible)

If you respond to these words, then for you they have become the word of the still-speaking God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

De-Baptism?

Rev. Dr. Kimberleigh Buchanan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Baptized in Water

arr. Laura E. Wasson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Mother and Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kindom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kindom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Offerings may be placed in the offering plates on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

OFFERING HYMN

We Give You but Your Own

SCHUMANN

PRAYER OF DEDICATION²

Good and glorious God, people of various nations, religions, ages, sexes, and walks of life, were witness to your incarnation in Jesus Christ. May it be so again today as we use today's offerings, our words, our thoughts, and our deeds so that all might know of your grace and mercy and to have you well pleased with our efforts towards that end. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Do you promise, by the grace of God,
to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
to resist oppression,
to show love and justice,
and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ,
as best you are able?

(You may answer silently to yourself.)

And do you promise, according to the grace given to you,
to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church,
celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all the world?

(You may answer silently to yourself.)

REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

PRAYER OF RECOMMITMENT

**By your Spirit, Gentle God, Grant us
Love for others,
Joy in serving you,
Peace in disagreement,
Patience in suffering,
Kindness toward all people,
Goodness in evil times,
Faithfulness in temptation,
Gentleness in the face of opposition,
Self-control in all things.
Then strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Down in the River to Pray

Traditional

Refrain: *As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord show me the way!*

*O sisters let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sisters let's go down
Down in the river to pray*

Refrain

*O brothers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on brothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray*

Refrain

*O fathers let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O fathers let's go down
Down in the river to pray*

Refrain

*O mothers let's go down
Come on down, don't you wanna go down?
Come on mothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray*

Refrain

*O sinners, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sinners, let's go down
Down in the river to pray*

Refrain

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Miniatures for Organ, op. 55, no. 28

Flor Peeters

1. "I am God's Beloved!" Service Prayers for the First Sunday after Epiphany, was written by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr. Copyright 2022 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.
2. Phil Adams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oak Street Ringers. As you've heard and seen FC's bell choirs ringing this month, maybe you're thinking you'd like to ring bells yourself. If so, know that the bell and chime choirs at FCUCC are always welcoming to new ringers and chimers! AND, we'll start learning new music in January! Our hope is to have two groups of adult ringers and one group of children / youth ringers. Rehearsal times - based on convenient times for families involved - will be determined by mid-January. If you are interested in learning to ring OR continuing to ring handbells and / or choirchimes, please contact Betty Dillashaw, Email: bettydtleaf@gmail.com, Phone: 336-260-0836

Flowers: You are invited to purchase flowers for the worship services. Cost \$35. Contact *Dennis McLain*. Call or text 828-606-0476.

Newsletters & Members and Friends Emails Interested in getting our weekly newsletters? Visit our website: uccasheville.org and sign up today! To receive our Members and Friends emails, create a login under the Member section and register, or email Casey at admin@uccasheville.org.

If you have a QR Reader on your phone . . . Here's a shortcut to our website!
You can also simply point your phone's camera, get the QR code in the little box on the screen, and click!



How to give to FCUCC:

Dear Congregants and Friends of FCUCC,

Stewardship is a way of understanding our wealth as a temporary trust of resources by God for our wise and faithful use in the world. We can give Time, Talent and Treasure to share your resources with FCUCC. Your gifts support benevolence in the community, our staff who provide inspiration and leadership, and maintenance and operating costs of our physical plant. Your gifts can be given in any of the following ways:

1. Mail checks to: FCUCC, PO Box 3211, Asheville, NC 28802
2. Use the DONATE button in the upper right-hand side of any website page to make a donation through PayPal or a credit card. **For your convenience, a QR code has been placed at the bottom of this page which will take you directly to the Vanco site.**
3. If you wish to become a recurring giver you can set up automatic withdrawals from your checking account. We would be happy to provide the form needed to get that started. Make this request to: admin@uccasheville.com
4. Stock and other security gifts are welcome. Please contact the Treasurer about details for make this type of donation
5. Charitable Gifts from your IRA after you reach 70.5 years are not taxed as income. In order to make this type of gift the payment must be issued directly from your account holder to FCUCC and mailed directly to us at PO Box 3211, Asheville, NC 28802

For further information concerning gifts and finances please contact Joanne Roudebush, Treasurer at 785-221-0390 or jroudebush5@gmail.com.

State Income Tax Refunds

Please send receipts for items you have purchased for use at FCUCC or in ministry work to the Office Attn: Andrea. Where appropriate we can reimburse you from the ministry budget or make a record of an In Kind contribution on your giving account. Please write the ministry or program name on the receipt. **All sales tax expense can be claimed for reimbursement by the church.** Every little bit helps our bottom line.

To go to our Vanco site, scan the code below.



OUR MISSION

We believe God calls us to:

Embody a forward-thinking, courageous, and diverse Christian community.

Follow the ways of Jesus the Christ as a grace-filled, spiritual congregation. Practice affirming and radical hospitality. Engage our local and global community with acts of love, mercy, peace, and justice.

Today's Service

Liturgist/Worship Leaders:

George O'Neal

Greeter: **Jim Canty**

Organist: **Wayne Smith**

Our Staff

Rev. Dr. Kimberleigh

Buchanan, Senior Minister pastor@uccasheville.org

Rev. Andrew Hoots, Youth Ministry Coordinator

youth@uccasheville.org

Chuck Taft, Music Director

music@uccasheville.org

Casey Clark, Administrative Coordinator

admin@uccasheville.org

Anthony Sumner, Building and Groundskeeper

maint@uccasheville.org

Andrea Blankinship, Accountant

ncledgergirl@gmail.com

Amanda McCauley, AV Technologist

AVTech@uccasheville.org

First Congregational United Church of Christ

PO Box 3211, Asheville, NC 28802 | Located at 20 Oak Street

www.uccasheville.org | 828-252-8729 | www.facebook.com/FCUCC