



*“One sees clearly only with the heart. What is essential is invisible to the eye.”
The Little Prince, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
August 7, 2016
10:30 am**

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

** Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Anastasia Yarbrough, Viola

As the Prelude is performed, please prepare to worship God in a spirit of prayerful meditation.

Welcome and Announcements

Yolanda Adams

Please pass the red friendship pads to sign in at this time. If this is your first time visiting, please legibly write your name and address so we may send you a letter of welcome and more information about our church.

If you have a prayer concern, you may fill out a prayer card located in the pew pads and place it in the prayer box in the Narthex or in the offering plate when it is passed later in the service.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: In faith, Abraham and Sarah set out for a new land.

People: In faith, we seek to follow God in our lives.

Leader: In faith, the church seeks to discern the future to which God calls us in our age.

People: In faith, we gather now to worship, seeking new life in Christ.

All: God of present, past, and future, guide us now to your new age of promise.

***Hymn #24**

"The God of Abraham Praise" (verses 1,3,4)

Prayer of Confession (spoken in unison by all)

O God of Grace, we confess that sometimes we are unsure of our faith. We are weighed down with doubt and guilt, and do not have the courage to trust in you. Fill our hearts with the assurance of your love, and renew our courage through your Holy Spirit, that we may serve you with joyful abandon. Amen.

Prayer Response

“Oh God Hear My Prayer”

O God hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer,
3
when I call an - swer me, O God hear my prayer, O
6
God hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics. The second staff begins with a '3' above it, indicating a triplet, and contains the second line of lyrics. The third staff begins with a '6' above it, indicating a sixteenth note, and contains the final line of lyrics. The music concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

(A time of silence is kept)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 40: 27-31

Leader: Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's word, as it comes to us in Scripture.

All: Still Speaking God, open our hearts and minds to your word.

Anthem

Karen Nice-Webb, Solo

Time with Children

Gary Mitchell

Children and teens are invited to remain in worship today. The Nursery is open for children and babies pre-school and younger.

*Passing the Peace

Reading of Scripture

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Leader: Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's word, as it comes to us in Scripture.

All: Still Speaking God, open our hearts and minds to your word.

Sermon

"Gotta Have Faith, Faith, Faith."

Margot Pickett

***Hymn #414**

"Incarnate God, Immortal Love" (verses 1-2, 5-6)

Sharing our Gifts

Invitation to Share

Offertory

Anastasia Yarbrough, Viola

Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Words of Institution

Communion Prayer

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is good and right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is good to praise you, God of all creation, for you made the world.... For his disturbing presence, and innocent suffering, for his fearless dying, and for his rising to life, breathing forgiveness:

People: We praise and worship you.

Leader: As we gather at this table, we remember Jesus' table. We remember the friends gathered round. We remember the celebration, and the sadness. We remember the love. There he recommitted himself to your love, and to his people. Hear us now as we remember in prayer those we love, all those who are sad and hurting, all those who are filled with joy and celebration. (Everyone is invited to say a name or a short prayer.)

At the table, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

We remember him.

After the meal was over, he took the cup of blessing, gave you thanks, gave it to his friends, and said: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, poured out for you and for all, so that sins may be forgiven. Each time you drink this, remember me."

We remember him.

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle upon this bread and wine and bless them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us, too, converting us from the patterns of this world, until we become more like Jesus, whose food we now share. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Wine

All are welcome at this table. Please come down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and return by one of the side aisles. Each station has a gluten free option. The liquid in the tall cup is wine, the liquid in the short cup is juice.

Communion Anthem

Will Senechal, Classical Guitar

Prayer of Thanksgiving (spoken by all)

God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life: strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Farewell to Marcus Iacoppi

***Hymn**

"Go Now In Peace"

Blessing

Please join us in the Friendship Hall for some light refreshments and conversation, and be sure to stop by the art gallery to see Russel Wyatt's new show of nature photography.

**Please pick up your mid-year financial giving statements today
located in the Narthex!**

For Today's Service

Greeter/Usher: Tisa Lewis
Liturgist: Rev. Loraine Tuengue
Communion Prep: Carol Duin
Communion Servers: Rev. Paul Frelick,
Ellenor Frelick, Megan Worrell-Lupton,
Rev. Margot Pickett
Deacon of the Month: Randall Bowman
(bwr0165@aol.com)
Alternate Deacon of the Month: Beaver
Wyatt (Accessibility Door
(beaverwyatt@bellsouth.net)
Security: Randall Bowman
Childcare/Nursery: Marcella Gonzalez

Our Staff

Rev. Margot Pickett, Interim Senior Minister
(margot.pickett@uccasheville.org)
Gary Mitchell, Assistant Minister
(cantorucc@aol.com)
Yolanda Adams, Ministry Coordinator
(ministry@uccasheville.org)
Harper Leich, Administrative Assistant
(admin@uccasheville.org)
Andrea Blankinship, Contract Accountant
Taleese Morrill, Youth Ministry Coordinator
(taleesemorrill@gmail.com)
Viviana Altamirano, Custodian

Welcome!

We are a progressive, risk-taking Christian faith community.

We follow the way of Jesus as the Christ and are welcome, open, and affirming to all.

We believe God is vibrant, alive, and still speaking to us!

We believe that God encourages us to engage the world through acts of mercy, peace, and justice.

Nursery

Our nursery is open during worship for babies and children pre-school age and younger. Children and babies may be dropped off by a parent or guardian before worship or after a Time with Children. (You will be asked to sign in and leave a cell phone number). They must be picked up as soon worship ends. They are also welcome to remain with you in the sanctuary.

Faith Formation for Children and Teens

We celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month and encourage your children and youth to be part of that sacrament. Therefore, we do not offer Faith Formation classes during worship on first Sundays. On other Sundays of the month, we invite our children to go to a multi-age class in room E 205 following the Time with Children. Our teen youth meet with Taleese Morrill or volunteer parents in the Youth Tower on those Sundays.

Events and Opportunities to Connect *More information: www.uccasheville.org*

Feeling passionate about something that the church might do? Feeling called to start something exciting at this church? The way ministries are started and carried out here is that when someone feels such inspiration, they are invited to make an appointment with our Coordinator of Ministries, Yolanda Adams, who will help them find ways to organize and find support to make their vision reality. You can contact Yolanda at Ministry@uccasheville.org or at 252-8729.

All Church Retreat August 12-14 at Lake Logan Episcopal Center

The theme of this year's retreat is "Re-Imagine the Gifts of God: Sowing Seeds of Hope and Wholeness". Retreat Leaders are David LaMotte, Rev. Karen Richardson Dunn and Katie Warren, M. of Ed. The Transition Team will also facilitate a session on our church heritage immediately after lunch on Saturday. This is the last week to sign up, registration and fees due by August 8th. Contact Yolanda at 252-8729 or ministry@uccasheville.org.

Stir the Soul Café: Meets Wednesdays in the library from 2-4 pm. Join Loraine Tuenge for a time of discussion and fellowship.

Weekly Game Night: Join Dennis and Mary for an evening of games August 9th in E-105 at 7pm. They meet every second Tuesday of the month and everyone is welcome.

Lunch Bunch: Most Sundays after church, a varying group of us leave from the church around noon and head to a local eatery close by and just have a good time getting to know each other. All are welcome! Ask a greeter or usher for help finding Beaver or the lunch bunch!

Hood Tours: Our first two tours are fully booked! If you have reserved a spot on either tour, please send a \$25 check to the office made out to FCUCC with "Hood Tours" in the memo line by September 8th. We have added an additional tour on Thursday, October 6th with checks due September 22nd. If you want to reserve a spot, please contact Bev Reddick at bpeacenow@yahoo.com.

Your Opportunity to Help with Immigrants! Basem Alkahlani, an engineer from Yemen, is looking for a sponsor to bring his wife and 2 year old daughter to the states. All immigrants who are bringing family members here are required by the government to have a sponsor. Sponsors do not contribute money. Please call Carol Duin for more information: 828-337-5228.

Memorial Service for Ron Vinson: Ron's family welcomes you to share in their grief, love, and appreciation for a bright spirit and wonderful man at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Asheville today at 3pm.

Update on Fight Against SB2: On August 8 at 9:30 a.m. in Asheville, U.S. District Court Judge Max O. Cogburn, Jr. will hear the state's motion to dismiss SB2 through the lawsuit, *Ansley v. Warren*. This is the first hearing in the case challenging SB2, the NC law that allows magistrates to recuse themselves from performing marriages based on an objection to same-sex marriage. The laws passed as part of a broader strategy by anti-LGBT groups to use "religious exemptions" as a way to defy the U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing marriage equality in every state. Attorneys Meghann Burke (a member of FCUCC), Jake Sussman and Luke Largess will argue for our side with Cathy McGaughey and Diane Ansley (FCUCC members) as two of the plaintiffs! More: <https://www.facebook.com/events/181875545560272/>

Mark your Calendars for these Future Events!

Baseball with Beaver: Join Beaver and other FCUCC folks for an Asheville Tourists game on August 19th. Contact her to buy your tickets: 231-3113.

Heels on Hills Hike: Next hike is Saturday, August 20th. Meet at the church at 9:00 AM to carpool to Rock Drop.

Habitat for Humanity: Volunteers needed for First Congregational UCC's work days Tuesday, September 6th (2 volunteers needed) and Saturday, October 29 (2 volunteers needed). Contact Mary Ann Brackett for more info: 777-6384.



First Congregational UCC

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www.uccasheville.org 828-252-8729

www.facebook.com/FCUCC