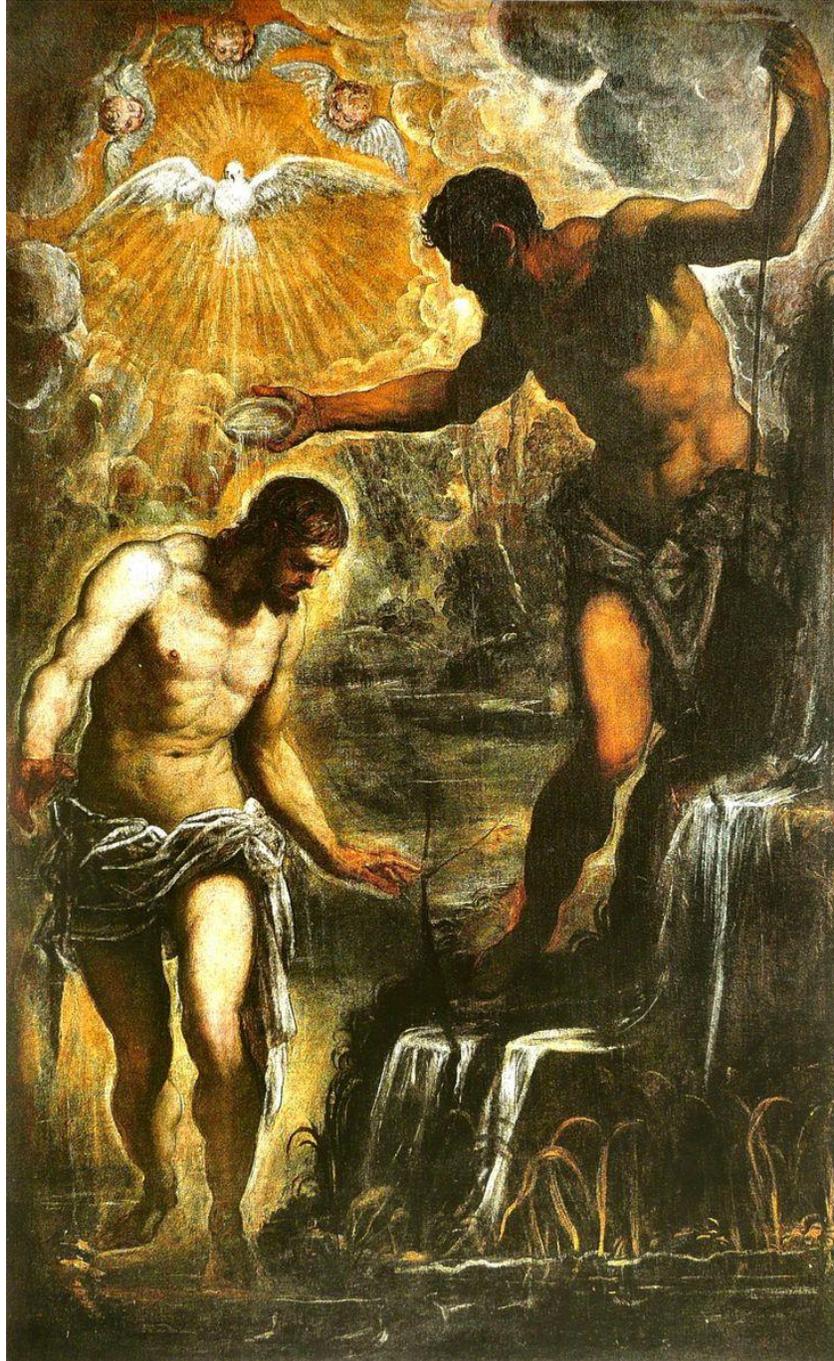




ASHEVILLE
First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Jesus • Justice • Prayer • Peace



Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday January 10, 2016

10:30 am

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

* Indicates to rise in body or spirit

Welcome

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.

Chimes

Voluntary

“Fountain Revelry”

Call to Worship

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall:

Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

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

One: In baptism Jesus joined us
and we are joined together recalling

All: *“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.”*

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry
and makes us signs of divine love.

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

One: Let us worship God!

*Hymn #70

“God is Here! As We your People Meet”

Unison Prayer of Confession *(based on Isaiah 43: 1-4)*

Gracious God, we confess that too often we live as though we are fearful, not faithful. When we encounter the waters of chaos and confusion, we don't easily pass through them, but we obsess about the height of the water instead of the sight of the other side. You promised to walk through the rivers with us. Help us believe. And help our unbelief.

Assurance of Grace

One: Thus says the God who created you and formed us in God's image:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
You are precious in my sight;
I love you.”

All: Thanks be to God!

Sung Response “Baptized in Water” tune: “Morning has Broken”

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of God's loving Grace
Following Jesus into the water
We are God's children forever more.*

First Reading

Isaiah 43: 1-7

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“Wade in the Water” – Spiritual

Second Reading

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God!

Time with Children

Gary Mitchell

After a Time with Children, children may go with Gary to the Education Wing for a time of religious exploration and education, and return to the sanctuary before the last hymn.

Children are also welcome to remain in worship.

***Passing the Peace**

Sermon

“Into the Water”

Rev. Margot Pickett

Remembering our Baptism Ritual

Today’s ritual is both for releasing and reaffirming. On the slip of paper in your bulletin, write something you wish to release to God’s keeping: an old hurt, a fear, anger that keeps you from being whole. As you come forward to remember and/or reaffirm your baptism, plunge your slip of paper into the water and release it to God.

Singing while we recall our Baptisms: “Down by the Riverside”

Gonna lay down my burden

Down by the riverside

Down by the riverside

Down by the riverside.

Gonna lay down my burden

Down by the riverside

Down by the riverside.

Chorus:

I ain't gonna study war no more

study war no more

ain't gonna study war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more

study war no more

ain't gonna study oh war no more.

- *Gonna lay down my sword and shield*
- *Gonna walk with the Prince of Peace*
- *Gonna shake hands around the world*
- *Gonna try on my long white robe*
- *Gonna try on my starry crown*
- *Gonna put on my golden shoes*

Prayer of Recommitment

All: *By your Spirit, Almighty 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.*

Renew and strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

Ministry Updates

Yolanda Adams

We Offer Our Prayers

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns
A Time of Prayer

We Offer Our Gifts

Offertory
Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn #407**

“How Firm a Foundation”

***Benediction**

Remember this week whose you are. And remember,
“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.”
Go in the peace of Christ.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

For Today's Service

Greeters/Ushers: Tisa Lewis, Beaver Wyatt, Judy Slater, Randall Bowman

Liturgist: Rev. Brenda Lewis

Deacon of the Month: Beaver Wyatt

Alternate Deacon of the Month: Judy Slater (Handicap Door)

Nursery/Childcare: Denise Potts

Welcome! WE ARE...

*AN LGBT OPEN and AFFIRMING Congregation of the United Church of Christ
and a Just Peace Church.*

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.

Upcoming Faith Formation Classes Starting January 10th

Fear and Love: Jane Stoffer will facilitate a four-week discussion on Fear and Love beginning January 10. The focus of each session is as follows: Love of Self and Other; Be Not Afraid; Perfect Love Casts Out Fear; and Practicing Love. Sundays at 9:15 am in E-107.

Bible Study of 2 Corinthians with Rev. Brenda Lewis: From the time of the earliest Christians, the church has struggled over disagreements related to everything from practical morality to theology and worship style. Join us when you can on Sundays at 9:15 am as we learn how God is still speaking in our current situations through this ancient but still relevant letter. E-101. This is a continuation of her 1 Corinthians class, but no previous attendance required.

For our Visitors and New Attendees

Visitor Orientation on Sunday, January 17TH at noon: If you have been visiting with us for a while and want to find out more about the church and membership as well as take a short tour of our building please meet Yolanda in Room E-101 (in the downstairs education wing) at noon. The orientation will not be long but it will be informative.

Exploring the Path to Membership Classes: January 24th and January 31st, 9:15 am in E-101. If you have been visiting our church for a while and are thinking about joining, here is an opportunity to learn more about our church and the denomination as a whole. Classes will run for two Sundays beginning on January 24th. Each week attendees will hear from different speakers and have an opportunity to learn and ask questions about our church, what we believe, who we are and also about the wider missions of the UCC. Recommended reading is Balaam's Unofficial Guide to the UCC. We have a few copies available but you can purchase the book on Amazon as well. There will be handouts and a tour of the facility. We invite you to come with energy, questions and to be ready to have a joyful and educational experience. We know that not all can make

it for both Sundays, but please come when you can. You do not have to come to classes to join the church but it is recommended. If you have questions, please contact Yolanda at ministry@uccasheville.org or 828.252.8729.

Join the church! Sunday February 14th will be New Member Sunday. If you have been waiting and are ready to join the church, this is your day! There will be New Member Bio Forms available in the Narthex beginning in January. Everyone is welcome to join, but we DO need to know ahead of time if you plan to do so! If you'd like to join or have questions, please contact Yolanda at ministry@uccasheville.org or 828.252.8729.

Events and Opportunities to Connect

Faith and Flicks screening of *What I Want my Words to do to You*: January 10th at 5:45 pm in the church Library. Documentary; 84 minutes; by Eve Ensler and Judith Katz. Playwright Eve Ensler leads a writers' workshop for the women inmates of New York's Bedford Hill's Correctional Facility, offering an insightful look into the minds and hearts of these women, "hearing them into speech," and giving them an opportunity to tell their stories with clarity and courage.

Game Night! Tuesday, January 12th and the second Tuesday of each month in Room E-105. 7:00 pm. Join us playing cards and games such as dominoes, Rummikub, etc. Will play for fun and friendship, so no experience necessary!

Contact Dennis Vanator & Mary Hawkins if questions: denmary14@gmail.com.

Welcome Home for the Holidays Supply Drive: A supply drive for our recently housed (and formerly homeless) clients of Homeward Bound. Many of their clients who move into housing initially have no income as they apply for jobs and benefits. We work to supply them with household basics such as all-purpose cleaner, toilet paper, garbage bags, feminine hygiene items, dish soap & sponges, paper towels, laundry detergent, toothbrushes & toothpaste. Please leave items such as these in the bin in the Narthex. They will be collecting the bins in mid-January so donate ASAP!

Please don't throw your bulletin in the recycling bin! We are collecting bulletins for a craft project at the Church Retreat. Please just put them in a neat pile in the Narthex after worship. Thank you!

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 Blankenship, Contract Accountant

Taleese Morrill, Youth Coordinator (taleesemorrill@gmail.com)

Viviana Altamirano, Custodian



Baptism of Jesus- Tissot

First Congregational UCC is located at 20 Oak Street in downtown Asheville. Please send all mail to PO Box 3211 Asheville, NC 28802.

www.uccasheville.org 828-252-8729