



Mikhail Vasilyevich Nesterov

First Congregational United Church of Christ
July 31, 2016
10:30 am

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

** Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude "Tribute to the Victims of Orlando and All Who Are Oppressed"

Anthony Beharry, Dancer

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.

Piano Music "Open Our Eyes" and "Be Thou My Vision"

Carol Austin-Janssen

***Call to Worship**

"Community"

Margot Pickett

Leader: Music can like a story, form community

**People: Our singing together knits us into a seamless garment,
shaped and formed by the loving God,
and God's extravagantly loving acts.**

Leader: We are shaped by the story we sing; we are woven together by the act of singing praise together.

**People: We become more than we could be by ourselves-
ringing harmonics of the foundational music of God.**

Leader: We become aware

People: we become in tune

Leader: We become able-

People: able to cross the river

Leader: able to cross the threshold of mystery

People: able to cross the doorway of death

Leader: fearless

People: loving

Leader: and never

People: ever alone

***Hymn # 561**

"When in Our Music God is Glorified"

Unison Prayer

God, we give thanks for the gift of song,
for the gift of melody and harmony,
for the gift of voices quilted together in chorus,
lifting praises toward the holy realms.
Hear this prayer for those who chant in your name,
who chant for healing, who chant to witness your love,
your power, your grace.
Make their voices your vessel.
Let heaven pour joy through them
so that they overflow with your light,
drawing others to your glory.

Prayer Response #775 “And God Will Raise You Up”

Reading “Music”

There is a sweet sound that can slip past the gates of the heart, furtively evading all guards, finding cracks in the battlements we have constructed.

There is a majestic sound that urges the body to dance for joy that enthuses the heart to sing “holy” that riles the spirit to justice.

There is a sorrowful sound that allows the voice to lament that opens the eyes to weeping that releases the well-sequestered hurt.

There is a noble sound of pipes and of voice that marries the mind and the heart that unveils the eyes to see that transfigures the spirit:

the handmaid of the world of God- music, sweet music. Holy, holy, holy.

Solo “Oh Had I Jubal’s Lyre” – G.F. Handel Michael Dawn Martoccio

Psalm 150 p. 723 of hymnal (sung by all)

Solo “God’s Eye is on the Sparrow” Megan Worrell-Lupton

A Reading “To Sing”

To sing is to open the heart

to sing is to lay aside pretense
to sing is to marry spirit and body and so honor both
to sing is to send vibrations of beauty out into the universe
to sing is to weep openly
to sing is to lose self in wonder, to dance before God
to sing is to offer up the fragrant smoke of incense
the sacrifice of thanksgiving, the raised hands, the heart of gratitude
to sing is to open the heart to see God

Solo “Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee”-Thiman Maximillian Koger

Prayers of the People Margot Pickett

Lord’s Prayer – Mallotte (sung by congregation)

**Our Father, which 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**

Reading “God in Music” - Cherwin

Praise to the God in music; Praise to the god of the morning stars’ song
to the God of symphony the God of sounding together:

Angels and archangels raise their ethereal voices to God, Hymns and songs create a
body for praise, Stones and trees sing an earthy hosanna, and the Christ himself sings
and dances with his friends, All in symphony, the great cosmic song. All in unity, the
great universal choir.

Solo “Holy Ghost” JP Morrill

Sharing our Gifts

Call to Offering Yolanda Adams

Offertory Larry and Willie Burke

Prayer of Dedication

Solo

“All Good Gifts” – Schwartz (from Godspell)

Maximillian Koger

Sending Forth

***Hymn #76**

“Send Forth by God’s Blessing”

Blessing

Hildegard von Bingen

All readings today were written by Susan Cherwin

Please join us in the Friendship Hall for some light refreshments and conversation.



For Today’s Service

Greeter/ Usher: Bonnie Schell
Childcare/Nursery: Marcella Gonzalez
Security: Randall Bowman
Deacon of the Month: Judy Slater
(jbugslater@gmail.com)
Phone: 734-679-3497
Alternate Deacon of the Month: Mary Ann
Brackett - (Accessibility
Door)(mochasmoms2@charter.net)
Phone: (828) 777-6384

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 on first Sundays. On most all 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.

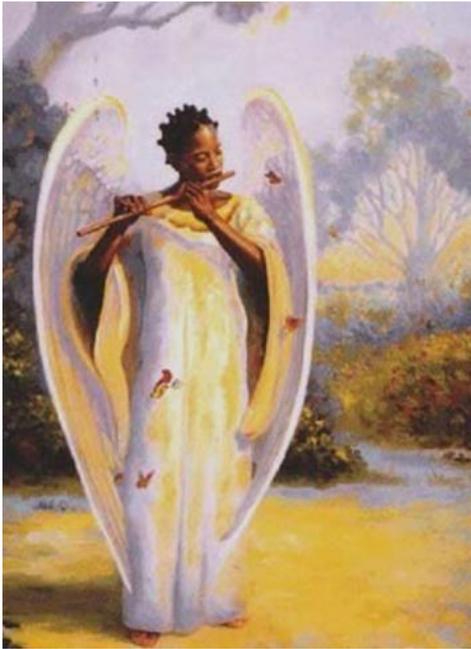
Events and Opportunities to Connect *More information: www.uccasheville.org*

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. Through engaging discussion, we will reflect on our congregation's heritage, and how we each connect and relate to the church's story. This important process will empower us to choose our direction moving forward as we plant seeds for our future together. Registration forms are available in the Narthex (pink sheets) or in the plastic pocket outside Yolanda's office.

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



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!

**The Church and Mental Illness: A 3-Part Adult Forum
Summer Series 9:15 am in E-101**

***August 7th – Maintaining Hope and Resilience While
Living with Mental Illness***

All of us need supportive resources and practices to help us sustain faith, hope, and resilience as we journey through our days. Persons living with mental illness often face even more challenges in holding on to hope as they navigate a life impacted by their illnesses. How can we as a faith community provide encouragement, nurture, and support along their

journey? What kind of ministries might we develop to meet the needs of persons in our community living with mental illness?

Facilitator: Rev. Jerene Broadway, staff chaplain at Mission Hospital, where she serves primarily in the Copestone psychiatric units. Jerene is also a member of the board of National Alliance on Mental Illness Western Carolina.

The Transition Team: Today is the last day that the TT is hosting small groups to discuss whatever questions and issues arise for you as you reflect on our time line which is on display in our Art Gallery. Please join us at noon in room E-101 today, and at the retreat on Saturday afternoon.

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. We have added an additional tour on Thursday, October 6th. If you want to reserve a spot, please contact Bev Reddick at bepeacenow@yahoo.com.

Camping Trip Update: September will be approaching quickly! A reminder for anyone who has thought about camping with us but has not contacted Mary Ann, please do so. We are holding two more camper sites, and two tent sites for late comers. Also, we have two A-Frames held for those who do not want to sleep on the ground, or don't have a camper. All fees need to be paid in full by August 1, 2016. - Mary Ann Brackett: 828-777-6384
mochasmoms2@charter.net

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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Please send all mail to PO Box 3211 Asheville, NC 28802.

www.uccasheville.org 828-252-8729

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