



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



Season of Ordinary Time  
November 22, 2015      10:30 am

# Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

\* Indicates to rise in body or spirit

## Voluntary

“Fantasy on We Gather Together”

## Welcome

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.

**\*Processional Hymn #422** “Come, Thankful People Come”

## \*Call to Worship

One: Come, thankful people! Come to worship our God and creator!

**All: *We have much for which to give God thanks!***

One: Come, thankful people, come to sing God’s praises!

**All: *Even in the midst of turmoil and uncertainty, we sing our praises to God!***

One: Come, thankful people come, praise God from whom all blessings flow!

**All: *God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in times of trouble.***

One: God’s steadfast love endures forever, and God’s faithfulness to all Generations.

**All: *Come, let us give thanks!***

## Prayer of Confession

One: Let us pray.

**All: *Forgive us, O God, when we forget to be thankful.***

***Forgive us when we are so caught up in the concerns of life that we fail to appreciate the beauty of each new day. Forgive us when we let spite and hurt feelings prevent us from being fully present with other people. Forgive us when we allow our fears and anxieties to block out memories of past blessings and***



## **A Time with Children**

Gary Mitchell

*After a Time with Children, children may follow Gary out of the sanctuary and into a classroom for a time of religious exploration and education, and will return to the sanctuary before the last hymn.*

*Children are also welcome to remain in worship.*

## **\*Passing the Peace**

## **A Reading of Scripture**

Philippians 4:4-9

One: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us.

***All: Thanks be to God!***

## **Sermon**

“Endings and Beginnings”

Rev. Margot Pickett

## **\*Hymn #421**

“We Gather Together”

## **Prayers of the People**

*After the pastor says “Let us pray for . . .” congregants are invited to give voice to their own prayers. After each intercession the pastor will say, “Christ in your mercy,” and the congregation is invited to say, “Hear our prayer.”*

## **Sung Response**

“O God Hear Our Prayers”

*printed on previous page*

## **Moment for Mission**

Gwen Perry, Community High School

Yolanda Adams, Ministry Coordinator

## **We Offer our Gifts**

**Call for the Offering**

Yolanda Adams

**Offertory**

“All Good Gifts” - From Godspell

**Prayer of Dedication**

## **The Lord’s Prayer (Maori Version)**

***Earth Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer,  
Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:***

*May the hallowing of your name  
echo through the universe!  
May your heavenly will be done  
by all creatures great and small!  
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth!*

*With the bread we need this day, feed us.  
For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.  
Through times of temptation, 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. Amen.*

**\*Hymn #76**

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Nun Danket alle Gott” – S. Karg-Elert



**For This Week’s Service**

Greeters/Ushers: Mary Ann Brackett & Beaver Wyatt

Liturgist: Joyce Rhymer

Deacon of the Month: Randall Bowman

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

Childcare/Nursery: Denise Potts.

# Activities

- **Advent Wreath Making Workshop:** November 22nd at 11:30 am. Join us as we make advent wreaths from freshly cut greenery and candles for you to use in your home. Children are welcome to participate, with the help of their adults. Cost of materials is \$11. Please RSVP in advance so Gary can purchase enough materials: [cantorucc@aol.com](mailto:cantorucc@aol.com)
- **There will be a Thanksgiving Gathering here at the church on Thanksgiving Day.** Dinner will be served at 1PM and if people want to stay around for board or card games after dinner, that is just fine. We have donations of turkey already and apple and pecan pies. We are asking for those that will be joining us for the meal to bring before dinner munchies, side dishes and desserts. So, if you are going to be eating dinner at your own house and want to stop by and join us for dessert BEFORE you go to the Black Friday sales at the Mall, please come by and do so. It's great to be in community for the holidays. Contact Yolanda at [ministry@uccasheville.org](mailto:ministry@uccasheville.org) if you want to drop off some yummy food or stop by for dessert.
- **2nd Annual Church Christmas Party! Friday, December 4th at 6:00 pm in the Friendship Hall.** Join us for a festive and fun Christmas Party for all of the families of the congregation. There will be entertainment, finger foods and fun! We are asking everyone to bring a simple dish of "pick-up" foods and the church will provide the beverages, such as holiday punch, mulled hot cider, and soft drinks. Holiday attire (including ugly sweaters) suggested.
- **ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET December 6:** We have an impressive group of artists and non-profits participating in the event. Please stop by after worship! Invite your friends! Gifts from Heifer International, Rise Up Studios (a ministry of Beloved House) and many talented artists and craftspeople from our congregation and beyond will be selling gifts, art, and all kinds of wonderful treasures.

# Announcements

- **December Art Show:** We have such a well-traveled congregation and I'm sure many of you have collected religious icons along the way. I hope you will share them with all of us in this special show. Please feel free to drop them off in my office sometime around the week of Thanksgiving. The show will open on Sunday December 6th. Peace, Gary
- **Annual Congregational Meeting** Please do your best to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on December 13th after worship. We will be electing new board members as well as voting on next year's budget. Anyone is welcome to attend and anyone who has joined First Congregational as a member is able to vote on these issues.
- **Nominating Committee Update:** The work of the Nominating Committee is made much easier by the wealth of gifts and deep commitments of the members of FCUCC. Thank you to all who allowed your names to be submitted and to those who offered recommendations for the 2 Church Board positions. A slate of 2 nominees will soon be presented for confirmation at the December 13 Annual Congregational Meeting. Church bylaws do allow for other nominations to be made at this Annual Meeting. If there are other nominations these are to be shared with the Nominating Committee prior to the meeting and should have the approval and biographical information of any additional persons nominated. Contact Alice Martin-Adkins ([alicem\\_a@juno.com](mailto:alicem_a@juno.com) or 828-670-9614) if you have questions or nominations.

# Classes & Workshops

**Sundays at 9:15 am:** Join Rev. Brenda Lewis for a drop-in style Bible Study on the topic of 1 Corinthians. Anyone is welcome to attend as often as they like. In E-101.

**Mondays at 5:45-8pm:** Creative Contemplative Group. Join us in some meditative art-making! No art experience or supplies needed. Drop-ins welcome. Please arrive on time. In E-107

# Advent and Christmas

- **Crèche Service:** Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. A Sunday advent lessons and carols service that incorporates the placing of the Nativity figures on the communion table.
- **Longest Night Service:** Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Not everyone finds Christmas to be filled with joy and laughter, and it's a hard time not to be happy when everyone and everything around us says we should be! This service is designed as a time of prayer, lament, scripture and music to help us remember that the Light came into the world and the darkness has not overcome it.
- **Christmas Eve Service:** Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service that incorporates many beloved carols and ends with a candlelight singing of Silent Night. Children are welcome and communion will be served.

## Calendar

### **Sunday, November 22, 2015**

Bible Study with Brenda Lewis E-101 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Worship 10:30am

### **Monday, November 23, 2015**

Creative Contemplative Group class w/Mandy E-105 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

### **Tuesday, November 24, 2015**

Staff meeting - Yolanda's office 11:00 AM

### **Wednesday, November 25, 2015**

Stir the Soul Cafe - Library 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bell choir E-101 5:30 PM

Church Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

### **Thursday, November 26, 2015**

Thanksgiving, offices closed

FCUCC Thanksgiving Meal 1:00 pm, Friendship Hall

### **Sunday, November 29, 2015**

Providing entire meal at Pritchard Park

Bible Study with Brenda Lewis E-101 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Worship 10:30am

Laundry Love FCUCC youth off campus 12:00 PM - 3:30 PM

### **Monday, November 30, 2015**

Creative Contemplative Group class w/Mandy E-105 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

### **Tuesday, December 1, 2015**

Staff meeting - Yolanda's office 11:00 AM

### **Wednesday, December 2, 2015**

Stir the Soul Cafe - Library 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Bell choir E-101 5:30 PM

Church Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

### **Friday, December 4, 2015**

FCUCC Holiday party -Friendship Hall 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

### **Saturday, December 5, 2015**

Alternative gift market set-up – Yolanda 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

### **Sunday, December 6, 2015**

Bible Study with Brenda Lewis E-107 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Worship 10:30am

Alternative gift market - Friendship Hall 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Lea Kibler concert in Sanctuary 2:00 PM

FCUCC Youth group tower Room 2 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Welcome! WE ARE...

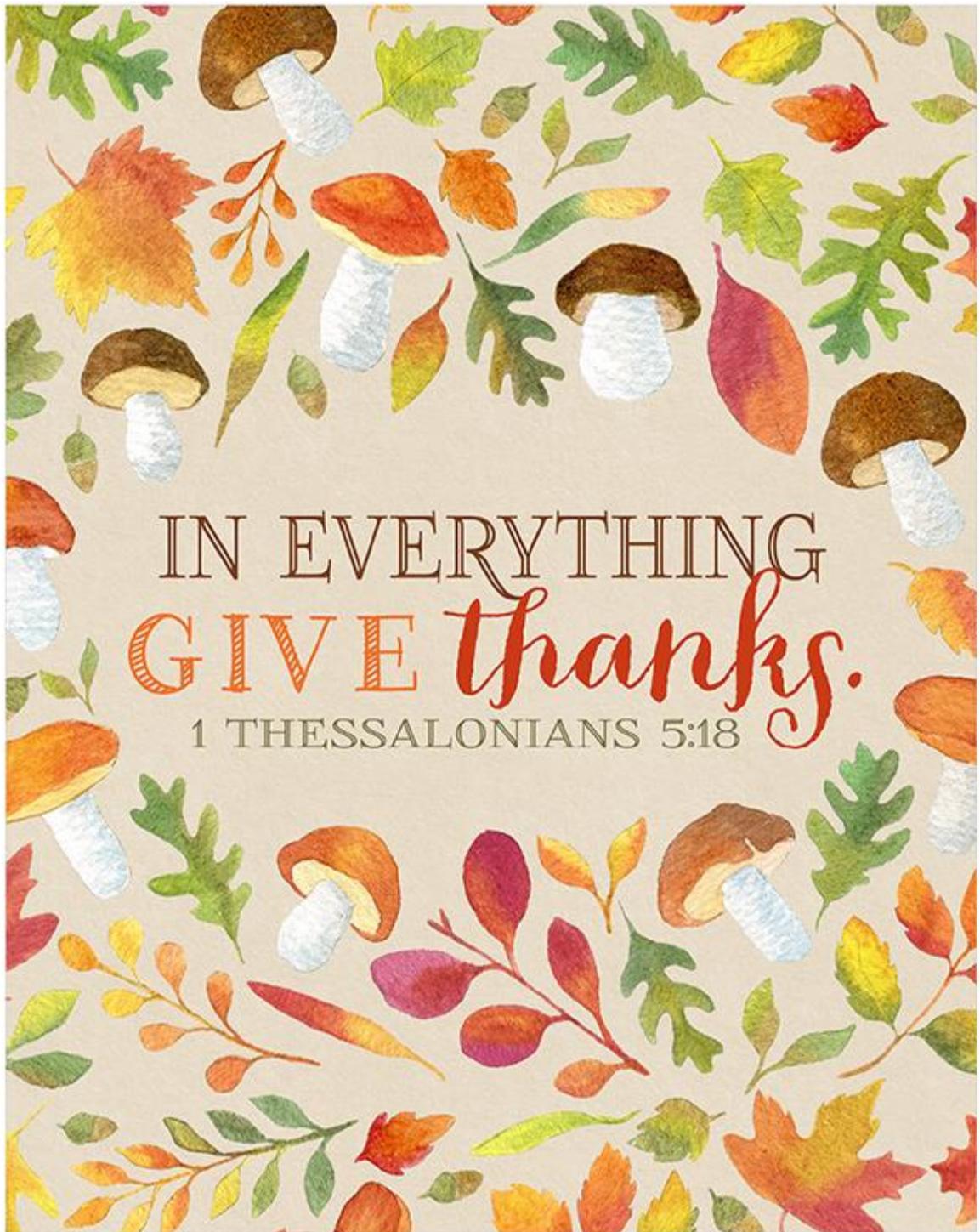
*AN LGBT OPEN and AFFIRMING Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
and a Just Peace Church.*

*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.*



**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](http://www.uccasheville.org)**      **828-252-8729**