



First Congregational United Church of Christ
September 11, 2016
10:30 am

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

** Indicates to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude “Adagio from Concerto in D Min”.-J S Bach Carlton Alexander - Oboe
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**

One: As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,

All: So God seeks and saves the lost.

One: Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,

All: So God rejoices over one person restored to wholeness.

One: As a parent receives a returning wayward child,

All: So God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.

One: Therefore, let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.

**All: Let us receive and welcome and rejoice and over one another
in the name of Jesus Christ.**

***Hymn** “All Are Welcome in This Place” (printed at end of liturgy)

Prayer of Confession

One: O Most Patient God, we recognize how much we need you for life itself.

**All: But how often have we behaved as if we did not know or
even care about you?**

One: How often have we become the ones who do not carry out justice?

**All: How often have we tried to dominate others even as you
stand with them?**

One: How often have we participated in the desolation of your creation
by our treatment of the heavens, the earth and its waters?

All: Forgive us for these times when we have lost our way.

One: Know, All Loving God, that we want to be among those whom you seek.

All: Shower your mercy upon us. Find us, and lead us safely home to faithfulness. Amen

Prayer Response “Take, Oh Take Me As I Am”

John L. Bell

Take oh take me as I am sum-mon out what I should

4
be set your seal up-on my heart and live in me

Assurance of Pardon

One: My friends, when we are lost, all is not lost. God is seeking us, ready to turn our lives around, gathering us in as the people of God. Let us rejoice in God's inexhaustible grace and mercy!

All: Amen

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

Anthem

“Ubi Caritas” - Mayo

A Time with Children

Gary Mitchell

Children may go with Gary to Children's Church in E-204. There is no teen church because of the cookout later today. The Nursery is open for children and babies pre-school and younger.

***Passing of the Peace**

Scripture

Luke 15:1-10

Sermon

“The Other 99%”

Margot Pickett

***Hymn # 547**

“Amazing Grace”

Pastoral Prayer

We Offer Our Gifts

Invitation to Share

Offertory

“Adagio from Concerto in C Min” J S Bach

Anastasia Yarbrough -Viola, Carlton Alexander -Oboe

Litany of Dedication of Friendship Hall

One: Today we dedicate Friendship Hall.

All: With great thanksgiving to God and deep gratitude to all the people who made this beautiful space possible:

One: For those who envisioned moving from Merrimon Avenue to a new location and a different building.

All: For those who saw the wonderful potential of this building

One: And those who took the risk to purchase and renovate it.

All: For those who gave money and those who helped raise more money.

One: For those who turned dreams into realities.

All: For those who worked on committees to make plans,

One: And those who worked with their hands to transform unusable space into viable, vibrant space.

All: For those who practiced radical hospitality under difficult conditions.

One: And those who continue to use our facilities as a way to share God’s love and friendship with friends and neighbors, strangers and visitors.

All: O God, we give our thanks.

One: And we pray that Friendship Hall may be a place where your love and hospitality are shared so that everyone feels welcome and no one leaves feeling like a stranger.

All: Bless this building, this hall, this kitchen and all its furnishings that they may be used to extend your ministry of

grace and generosity to everyone who enters here.

One: Bless those who are guests here, those who provide food and welcome, those who cook and clean, those who listen and hug,

All: Everyone who works and laughs and serves and loves, so that this hall may truly be a place of Extravagant Welcome and Nurturing Friendship. Amen.

Sung Blessing “Weave Us Together” (two times)

Weave weave weave us to- geth - er weave us to- geth - er in
4
u - ni - ty and love. — Weave weave weave us to - geth - er
7
weave us to - geth - er to - geth - er in love

Please join us in the Friendship Hall for refreshments, celebrations, and conversation.

For Today's Service

Greeters/Ushers: Sharon Stepp & Linda Sanders

Liturgist: Rev. Alice Martin-Adkins

Security: Eric Lyons

Childcare/Nursery: Kerby Wyatt

Deacon of the Month: Carol Duin -
scduin@gmail.com

Alternate Deacon of the Month: Julie
Everett - zowiemom@yahoo.com

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

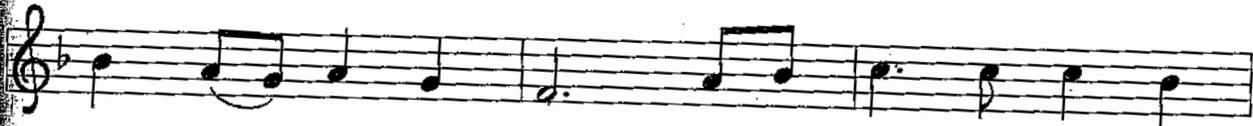
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Welcome!

We believe God is calling us to:

Be a progressive, risk-taking, Christian faith community

Be a spiritual community acknowledging the grace of God that follows the way of Jesus as the Christ

Be welcoming, open, and affirming to all

Engage the wider world with 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 On most Sundays of the month (except the first), we invite our children to go to a multi-age class in room E-204 following the Time with Children. This Sunday, our teen youth and children (and their parents) are invited to Taleese and JP Morrill's house for a cookout at 4pm. Contact Taleese for more info: 707-0163.

Volunteering and Connecting

Next Sunday, everyone is invited to gather after worship in the Friendship Hall for conversation about the future Mission and Vision of our congregation. The Transition Team will help facilitate the discussion and heavy snacks will be served.

Room in The Inn returns to our church on September 25th to October 2nd and our new Inn Keepers, Richard and Ruth Howe will need volunteers to provide meals, transportation, and overnight hosting! RITI is a traveling homeless shelter for women until they can find permanent housing. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Richard and Ruth at rmhhowe@gmail.com and rbhowe54@gmail.com

Iona Pilgrims

In June of this year, several members of our church journeyed to Iona, Scotland and we would like to share our experiences with the congregation by leading a Healing Service on World Communion Sunday, October 2nd. The liturgy, the 'laying on of hands' and communion service are based on the worship at the Iona Abbey. On October 30th, following worship, in the Friendship Hall the Iona pilgrims will share a DVD chronicling our experience on the Isle along with personal reflections. During the month of December, the pilgrims will exhibit their Iona art work, including paintings, drawings, and photographs.

Want us to participate in Gay Pride this year? October 1 is the Asheville Gay Pride Celebration and we have participated in the past except for last year when we had monsoon weather. The staff is asking: Is this an event in which we should participate and if so, **are you willing to be a volunteer** to help the church with setting up our booth, staffing the booth for a 2-3 hour shift and helping to break our booth down? **If you have any questions or would like to help to make this happen**, contact Yolanda at ministry@uccasheville.com or at the church office, 828-252-8729. If there is not enough interest, then we will not participate and continue to do the work that we have been doing on social justice issues supporting our brothers and sisters that are facing the oppression and disenfranchisement of being a part of the LGBTQ Community.

Sponsoring Immigrants: Cally Rogers-Witte is helping Lucia and Relu Turcan and Nina and Vlad Sardari learn English. Through this experience Cally is learning about Moldova and having a lot of fun. Carol Duin registered them in the ESL class Tuesday and took the 15 year old daughter to her very successful first day of school last week. All this is quite an adventure. If you would like to join our "team" to help these and other families to adjust to Asheville, please call Carol Duin 828-337-5228

Children and Youth Chime Choirs - yes, hopefully more than one! - will begin soon. Preliminary plans are to have three different meeting times for chime choirs: Sundays, 9:15 am; Sundays, 12:15 pm; Wednesdays, 4:30 pm. All who want this Christian music education programming to succeed are encouraged to invite parents to contact Betty Dillashaw (bettydtleaf@gmail.com OR 336-260-0836) to register their children for one of these meeting times. A successful beginning for this programming will be much easier with the help of our "village" at FCUCC!

Harper's having a baby! We are very excited for her and Kurt, but the sad news for our congregation is that our awesome Administrative Assistant has decided to leave us to stay home with Baby Girl. On October 2 we're planning a special Friendship Time to say farewell to Harper and best wishes for motherhood. If you would like to contribute to a gift, please send a check to the church with a note that it is for Harper. Our plan is to get her some gift cards at her favorite places to shop for the new arrival. If you would prefer to get her a gift card yourself, those places are Amazon.com, Target, Babies R Us, and Littlest Birds (a consignment shop in West Asheville). We look forward to celebrating Harper and all she has contributed to FCUCC these past 6 years and helping her get ready for her new baby.

Friendship Hall Ribbon Cutting: September 15th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, we will have an official Ribbon Cutting, with support from the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, to further celebrate our new space and introduce our church to Asheville as a public church, furthering our efforts as a church of EXTRA VAGANT WELCOME! Refreshments will be served and we encourage all to come and bring friends and neighbors. PLEASE ENTER FROM THE MEMORIAL GARDEN ENTRANCE. Also, be sure to tune in to WLOS at 12:55 on Tuesday, Sept. 13th for a little interview with Gary about us and the Friendship Hall!

Upcoming Faith Formation Classes

Prerequisite to A Sacred Conversation: "The Good Word: You Say You Want a Revolution?" with Rev. Aubra Love. Each week's exploration is based on the Lectionary texts for that Sunday. **Classes will be on September 25th, October 2nd, October 9th** and will run for three consecutive weeks in **Room 107 starting at 9:00 am.**

Reflection of Prayer and Healing: On the Sundays of **September 11th and 18th**, Joyce Rhymer and Dorri Sherrill invite you to a time of discussion and reflection on prayer and healing. We will meet from **9:15-10:15 AM in Room 101.**

Visitor Orientation and New Member Classes: Are you interested in becoming a member of FCUCC or just learning more about our congregation? Please plan to attend the **Visitor Orientation on September 25th after worship** in the sanctuary. **New Member classes** will be held on **October 2nd, 9th, 16th at 9 am** in E-103.

A Sacred Pause: Creating a simple piece of art such as a mandala can soothe the soul and bring an inner calm. Join us to experience it yourself! A weekly commitment or experience in artsy pursuits is NOT a requirement for attending. **Mondays 5:45-8 PM Room 103.** Weekly Monday meetings will start back up again on **September 12th.**

Located at 20 Oak Street Asheville, NC 28801

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

www.uccasheville.org 828-252-8729

www.facebook.com/FCUCC