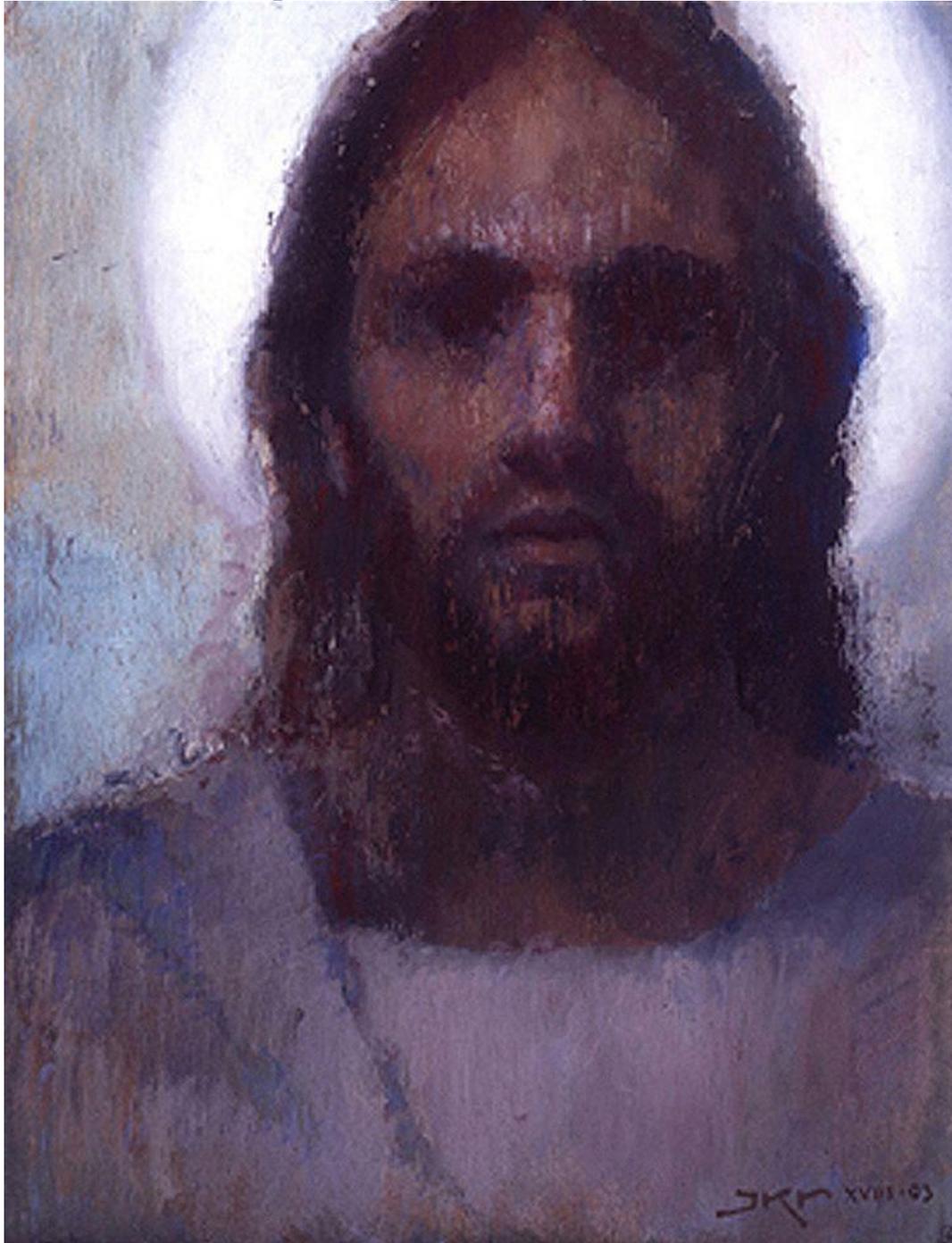




ASHEVILLE
**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
Jesus • Justice • Prayer • Peace



J. Kirk Richards

Season of Ordinary Time
September 13, 2015
10:30 am

To our visitors.....



Photo by Sharon Stepp. Left to right: Rev. Joe, Harper, Pastor Gary, Yolanda

Welcome! We are delighted that you have come to worship with us. We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Public Church. These phrases indicate our desire and effort to be welcoming of all, learning and working for a just peace in our community and world, and always a part of the public life of the Asheville community. And underlying all this is a strong emphasis on worship and faith formation that helps us remember our identity as followers of Jesus. Please feel free to participate in any and all of our ministries that stir your passion. All of us on staff invite you to come and visit with us - to

ask us questions - to find help in knowing all the ministries with which we are engaged. Again, we

welcome you - whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey! -**Rev. Joe Hoffman, Senior Minister**

Today, as you visit our community of faith you will hopefully experience extravagant welcome, a variety of musical styles, from Bach to World music, and an open and loving community. We encourage you to not be an observer, but a full participant. – **Pastor Gary, Assistant Pastor and Minister of Arts and Music**

Dear Visitors, We are privileged to have you as our guest here at First Congregational UCC - Asheville today, and are grateful you choose to worship with us. We trust that your visit here is spiritually enriching and that you were warmly received.

As a church, we are committed to the walking in the ways of Jesus Christ, and we believe whole-heartedly in a "Still-Speaking God". It is our desire that people come to place their trust in our faith community and find it to be a safe place to worship no matter where you are in the journey of life.

We seek to provide meaningful times of worship, opportunities for fellowship, prayer, outreach, and numerous other ministries for people of all ages.

We hope that you will join us as often as you can.

- **Yolanda Adams, Ministry Coordinator.**

I hope you will visit our website, Facebook page, and check out our e-newsletter so you can learn more and get involved! There truly is something for everyone. – **Harper Leich, Administrative Assistant.**

Jesus Justice Prayer Peace

**Indicates to stand in body or spirit*

Welcome & Ministry Updates

Yolanda Adams

Voluntary

“Prelude in G William J. Hopkins”

Organist Scott Coats

***Call to Worship**

Written by Penny Stokes

One: The sweetest word upon the tongue is “Come”

Men: Come, let us gather with God and one another. Come, let us hear the call that whispers on the night breeze and thunders on the storm.

Women: Come, let us give ourselves to do justice, to love mercy, to walk humbly with God and with all God’s people everywhere.

One: Come back to where you once belonged, back to those who knew you, loved you, believed the best of you.

All: Come! Let the cry ring forth from the highest mountain and the deepest valley. Let it break your heart open, let it fill your longing soul. You are loved. You are worthy. You are needed. Come!

One: Row, if your ship has sailed; swim, if all your bridges have been burned; fly if the chasm seems too wide or deep--- but come.

All: Amen and Amen.

***Hymn**

“Celebrate” – Saylor

(Printed on Insert)

This is the new hymn was introduced at All Church Retreat

Unison prayer

Holy One, source of love and life, we come to this place as a family, as your children. Some hearts are full of gratitude and

joy: they are overflowing with the happiness of love and the joy of life; they are eager to confront the day, to make the world more fair, they are recovering from illness or have escaped misfortune. And we rejoice with them. Some hearts ache with sorrow; disappointments weigh heavily upon them. They have tasted despair; families have been broken; loved ones lie on a bed of pain; death has taken those whom they cherished. May our presence and love bring them comfort. Some hearts are embittered; they have sought answers in vain; life has lost its meaning and value. May the knowledge that we too are searching, restore their hope that there is something to find. There are those here who long for friendship; they crave understanding; they yearn for warmth and peace of mind. May we in one common need gain strength from one another; sharing our joys, bearing each other's burdens, and praying for the welfare of our community and for peace in our world.

Amen

From the Rosh Hashanah Liturgy

Response

“Grant Us Peace”

-Fromm

Solo

Gary Mitchell, Tenor

First Lesson

Proverbs 1:20-33

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to Gods people

ALL: *Thanks be to God!*

Anthem

“Sing Praise to the Lord”

Ford

Psalm 19

from Psalms for Praying

A Time for Children

Pastor Gary

Children will remain in worship today.

***Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Second Lesson

Mark 8: 27-38

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to Gods people

ALL: *Thanks be to God!*

Sermon

“Who Do YOU Say I am???”

Pastor Gary

***Hymn #274**

“Womb of Life, Source of Being” (tune: Hymn to Joy)

Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People

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.

We Offer Our Gifts

Offertory “Day by Day” arr. M. Hayes

Scott Coats, Organ

Prayer of Dedication

Saying Goodbye to Penny Stokes and Pam Jeffers

*Hymn #391 “In The Midst of New Dimensions”

*Benediction

Pastor Gary

Postlude “Old Hundredth” arr. F. Bock

Please be seated for the postlude

Please join us after worship today for a potluck in our newly renovated Friendship Hall!

Announcements

- **Rev. Joe is on a Leave of Absence.** Please allow him this time to rest, renew, and to feel some separation from his responsibilities at the church. Please refrain from emailing him or calling him during this time.
- **Faith Formation with Brenda Lewis!** Rev. Brenda Lewis will be leading a Bible Study on the book of Daniel Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in our education wing. Drop-ins welcome.
- **New Class: Art as a Spiritual Practice for Peace and Healing. Mondays 5:45-8PM Room 105 at FCUCC.** Creating a simple piece of art such as a mandala can soothe the soul and bring an inner calm. It can be very healing during times of stress and is an amazing way to practice self-care. *Please consider joining us whenever your schedule allows. A weekly commitment is not a requirement for attending. No art or craft experience needed!*
- **Exploring the Path to Membership Class:** Meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am September 20th (second class of the series). This is a wonderful way for people who are interested in joining us at First Congregational UCC Asheville as members to learn about the history and background of the greater UCC, more about our own congregation’s history and mission, and what it means to be a member here.
- **New Member Sunday:** September 27th. Anyone is welcome to join us as a member. Although we encourage people who wish to join to attend our Exploring the Path to Membership class it is not required. Please contact Yolanda if interested: ministry@uccasheville.org.
- **Room In The Inn:** Thanks to those who have signed up to help with RITI during the week of October 11-18, 2015. Overnight hosts/companions, drivers and set up/breakdown help are

still needed. Please contact Yolanda at ministry@uccasheville.org for contact information of the leaders of these areas of responsibilities.

- **Habitat for Humanity:** Our church Habitat liaison, Mary Ann Brackett, has retired from that role and is looking for someone from our congregation to take her place. The time commitment is minimal but the impact is substantial. Duties include: being a contact between Habitat and our congregation, keeping the congregation updated about the progress of the house we help sponsor, and occasionally coordinating volunteers for build days. Please contact if you are interested in helping out: mochasmoms2@charter.net, 777-6384
- **Pam Jeffers and Penny Stokes** have been faithful and active members of First Congregational Church for many years--18 years for Penny and six years for Pam. In that time, they have been involved in many different ministries. Pam envisioned and started the Emma Elementary School food project and initiated the Hope to Home ministry. She also served as Stewardship Chair, worked on the capital campaign, raised a hammer with Habitat for Humanity, and judged senior projects for Community High School. Penny co-chaired the Worship Committee and has written numerous songs, hymn lyrics, and liturgies for worship. Together they have participated in Room in the Inn, the Emma Elementary school food project, the school supply drive for Emma, Hope to Home, the Christmas project for Community High School, and four delegations to Nicaragua. Now they leave for a new adventure in Cuenca, Ecuador, but their lives have been forever enriched by the spirit and community of this wonderful church.



Complete details for all events, and our continuing prayer concerns can be found in our weekly e-newsletter. Sign up or read the most current issue on our website: www.uccasheville.org. You can also scan the QR code with your smart phone or device to get to our website. You may also donate through Paypal on our website!

Find us on Facebook for photos, event invitations, news, and links to our e-newsletter: www.facebook.com/FCUCC. You can also scan the QR code with your smart phone or device to get to our Facebook page!



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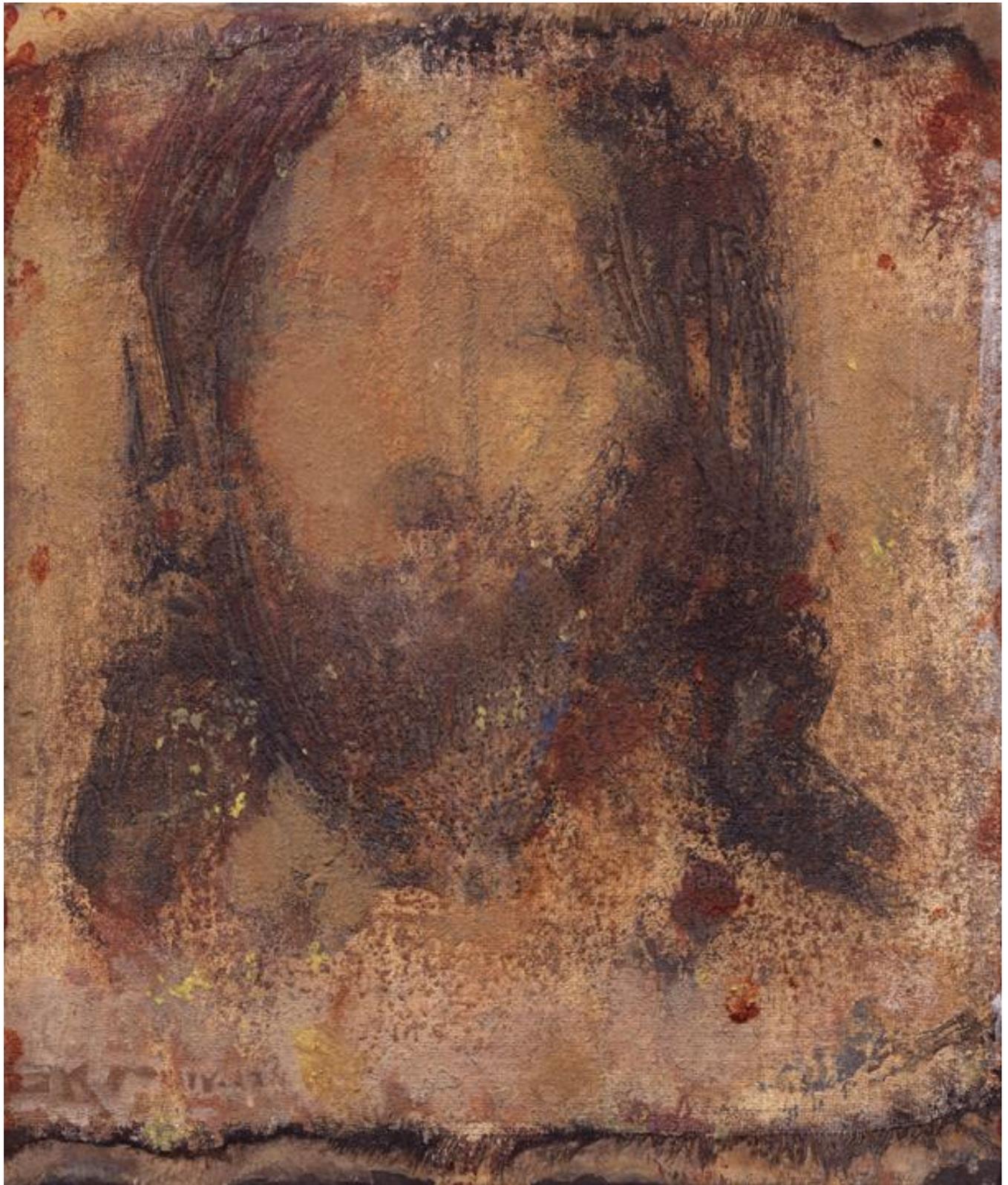
For This Week's Service

Greeters/Ushers: Lee & Margaret Perkins

Liturgists: Pam Jeffers & Penny Stokes

Deacon of the Month: Mary Ann Brackett

Nursery/Childcare: Savannah Price



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