

First Congregational United Church of Christ
"Where No One Is A Stranger"
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
October 3, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: In this sacred space,

Many: we are gathered as God's people, called to the Table where brokenness nourishes us with simple grace.

One: In communities all over the world, sisters, brothers and siblings are gathered.

Many: We are gathered as God's faithful community, serving, living, caring wherever we are.

One: From neighborhoods made up of people of every class, every race, every branch of faith,

Many: we are gathered as witnesses to God's hope and peace which have not disappeared in every place, in every person in this uncertain time.

One: Let's worship God!

*OPENING SONG:

"One Bread, One Body"

#689

*OPENING PRAYER

(prayed together)

Almighty God, you spoke to our ancestors long ago through your prophets and teachers, but today you speak to us through your Son, Jesus. In the midst of life's challenges, help us keep our integrity and walk faithfully in your ways. Help us to listen to the words of Jesus and become like children again, that we may rejoice in your realm and trust in your Spirit. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(prayed together)

If we were to name all the gods we have before you, Rock of Redemption, we would be here for a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much, we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy being worried and fearful, we do not notice how creation witnesses

to your goodness and grace.

Forgive us, God our Hope. Even in our uncertainty, may we trust that your love never abandons us. Even in our fears, may we know that your presence never leaves our side. Even when our faith falters, may we know that your grace is the most valuable gift we have, and we can open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

One: Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin.

Many: Loved, we are sent to love those who have been forgotten. Forgiven, we are freed to offer mercy to those who are cruel to us. Graced, we can offer our gifts to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:2-16

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

UCC Statement of Faith

(read together)

(inside back cover of hymnal)

*GLORIA PATRI

#734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Psalm 26

read from the *Common English Bible*

MESSAGE:

"A Place at the Table"

Pastor Chris

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer, Sharing the Bread and Cup

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west, north and south to feast at Jesus' table. We thank you for his presence and for the spiritual food that is this bread and cup. By the power of your Holy Spirit keep us faithful to your will. Accompany us as we go into the streets, our homes and our places of labor and leisure that whether gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Jesus, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

May what we offer in these moments, God, be the very blessing, the very hope, the very peace others need. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***Closing Song** "Children of the Heavenly Father" #83

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

The Call to Worship (adapted), Call to Confession (adapted), Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance, and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer (adapted) is by B. J. Beu from the *Abingdon Worship Annual* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is from the *Book of Worship-United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our *United Church of Christ Statement of Faith*.

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Organist: Liz Bormann
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett
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October Radio Sponsor: In Memory of Julie Buchanan's birthday. (October 9)

Birthdays: October 9: Andrew Burtnett

Today, October 3: 10:00 am. – Worship - World Wide Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need offering
Sunday School
Coffee

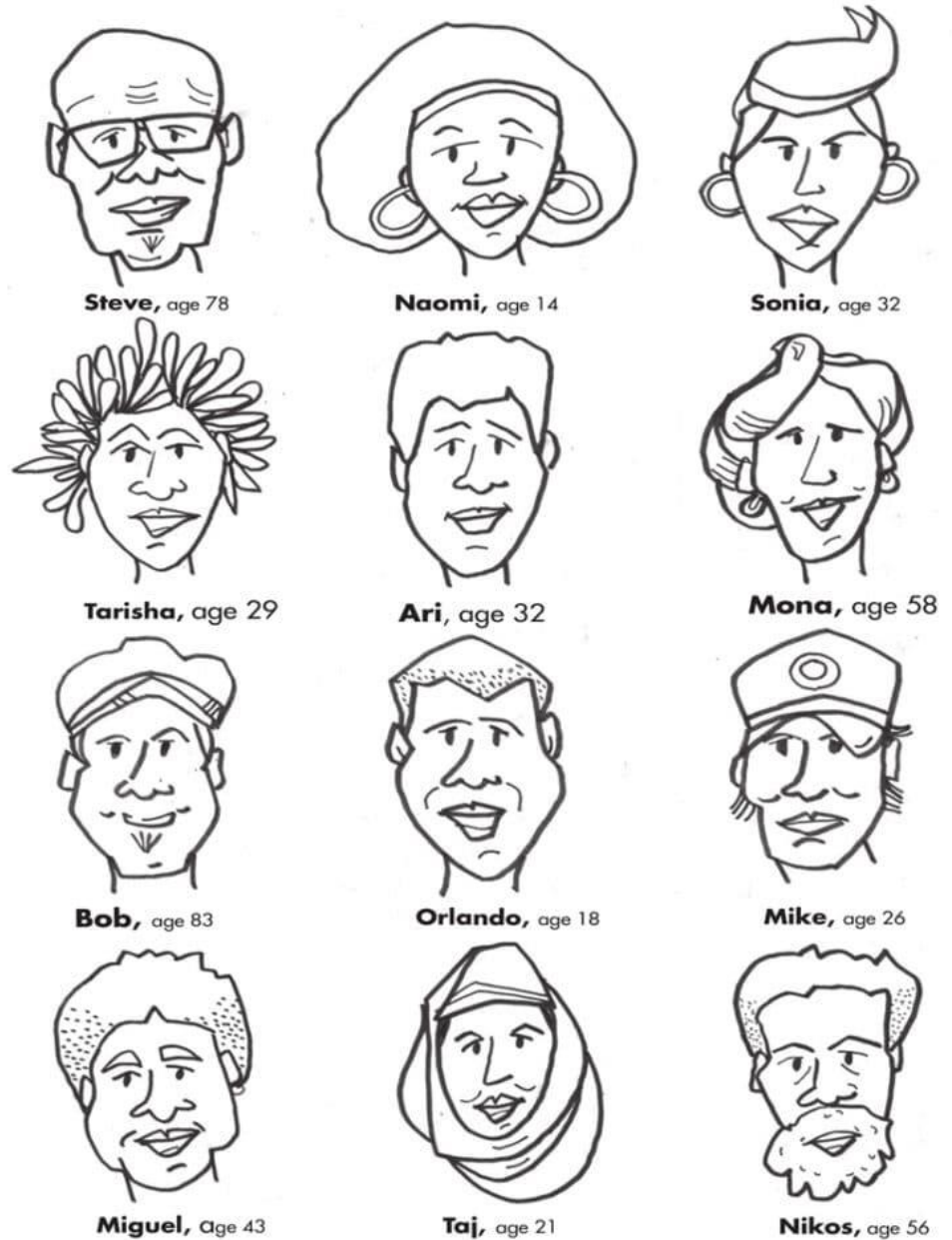
Tuesday, October 5: 9:30 – 11:30 am.- Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Sunday, October 10: 10:00 am. – Worship
Coffee
2:00 pm. - Crop Walk - Crop Walk envelopes and material is available in the parlor to pick-up.

We will be celebrating the sacrament of communion this morning. Everyone is welcome at the table. The inner ring is wine and outer ring is grape juice.

Today is Food Pantry Sunday. Donations of canned food, paper products and monetary donations are welcome. If you include your monetary donation with your offering be sure to mark the amount in the memo of your check.

We thank Mary Misbach Smart for the mums in our Chancel today. They are given in loving memory of: Joe and Edna Misbach and Leighton and Kay Misbach



The Faces of Homelessness

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12