

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 18, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

O God, you called us by name to come, and we respond with delight and gladness

In joyful obedience, we come to worship our God.

Rising out of the depths of despair, we gratefully gather for worship.

In joyful hope, we come to worship our God.

Our God had given us a new song of praise to sing to our Awesome God!

In joyful trust, we come to worship our God.

*Opening Song: “Stand Up and Bless the Lord” #11

*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

Holy God, we, your people, stand here, eager to pray and praise you! Thank you for sending us to gather in this place to share in this worship hour. We rejoice in your presence with us, and your Spirit drawing us close to you and to one another. We celebrate what you call us to be and to do as followers of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

BRIEF REFLECTION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we have lived as unwise people. Forgive us for wasting time. Pardon our foolishness, and forgive us for not understanding your will. We have filled ourselves with the wine of worldliness. Forgive us for not being filled with you. Forgive us for not drawing our strength from you. Almighty God, please add to your mighty deeds by forgiving our transgressions. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord is gracious to us and gentle.

The Lord heals our souls with love.

The Lord is merciful, providing spiritual food for the hungry.

Our hearts are healed and our souls are fed by the forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

FIRST READING: Ephesians 5:15 – 20

HYMN: “Let All Things Now Living” #22

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:34 – 40

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service. We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI: “Glory Be to the Father” #734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 9:1 – 6

MESSAGE: “Living in Wisdom” David Burrow

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Respond: Hear our prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS – OFFERTORY

*** DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #34
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
God, we have been made in your image. So, in your generosity, make us generous. In your faithfulness, make us faithful. So that whatever gift we bring to you might be an offer of worship before you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*** HYMN:** “Trust and Obey” #443

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

POSTLUDE

***Indicates all who are able please stand**

Call to Worship by Joan Stott, in *The Timeless Psalms*
Opening Prayer from the Center for Faith and Giving
Prayer of Confession from Ministry Matters
Affirmation of Faith – The Korean Creed from the United Methodist Church
Prayer of Dedication from Mennonite Church of Canada

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Organist:	Antonia Rupert
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
August Radio Sponsor:	Becky Bibler

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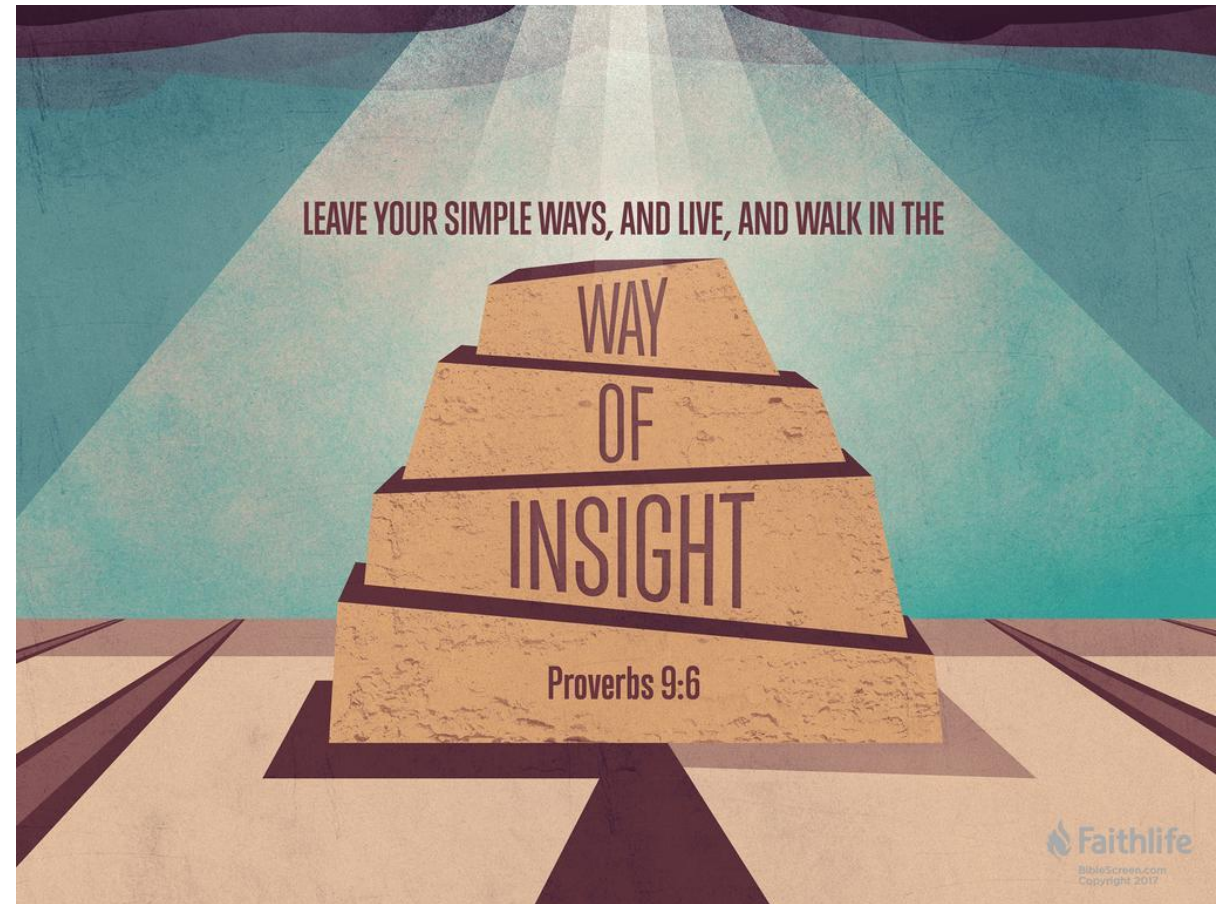
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Birthday’s: August: 18-Andrew Schlievert; 19-Henry Reynolds; 20-Adeline Reynolds

Sunday, August 18:10:30am – Worship
Coffee

Sunday, August 25: 10:30am – Worship
Coffee

Thank you to David Burrow for leading worship this morning.

Pastor Chris is on vacation and will be back in the Office on August 20. If you need pastoral assistance, please call Dave Skilling at 319-290-2302.



*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
165 Years
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