

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

77 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont

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www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

July 31, 2022

9:30 AM

"We are a community in Christ, called to act with love toward our neighbors."

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

EXPRESSING OUR LOVE

(As we prepare for worship, we invite quiet contemplation of the Living God.)

**For those who are able, please stand.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT #283 (NCH-Black) "Spirit of the Living God"

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN #316 (NCH- Black)** "We Limit Not the Truth of God"

OPENING PRAYER (*Psalm 107, 1-9*)

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

² **Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble**

³ and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.^[a]

⁴ **Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;**

⁵ hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

⁶ **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;**

⁷ he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.

⁸ **Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

⁹ For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus said: "I have come not for the righteous, but to call the sinners to repentance." We know that the redeemer is for us. God's grace is for us. Not the mighty but the lowly, the unsure and those who need the help. They shall receive, we confess our sins today knowing that God's grace is eternal. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

*SONG OF PRAISE #338 (UCC-red) (Gloria Patri)

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 without end. Amen. Amen.

GOD MOMENT

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 1:2 11-14, 18-24
Luke:12: 13-21

THE CHILD IN US ALL

SERMON

"Endwalking"

*HYMN #451 (NCH-Black)

"Be Now My Vision"

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR GIFTS (Please send pledges & donations to the church via mail or use online giving.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

*SONG OF PRAISE HYMN #780 Doxology (NCH – Black)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, O heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Holy God. We present our gifts to you that they may be blessed to your service. For the continued ministry of your truth. Bless all of the ministries of this church and those who dwell within it. That it may always be to your service- Amen

*HYMN #471 (NCH-Black)

"What a Covenant"

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #812 (NCH-Black) "Threefold Amen"

Amen, Amen, Amen

POSTLUDE

WE EXTEND THE HAND of Christian fellowship to all who have come to worship in this Welcoming, Open and Affirming congregation. May our prayers and the hearing of God's Word make our burdens lighter, our hearts encouraged, and our souls refreshed.

If you are visiting for the first time, we welcome you.

To join our online live worship service for each Sunday at 9:30 A.M., go to the church website, www.fccuccspfdvt.org. Click on Worship on the black bar under the picture of the church. Click on the Facebook link. Click on the arrow of the live video.

Nursery care (up to 3 years old).

OUR THANKS to Joshua Sharp, Jon Clinch, and all who participated in our service this morning.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given in celebration of Manaslu, our Daughter-in-Law's 50th birthday, by John and Diane Holme.

TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY we extend a welcome to our summer intern, Joshua Sharp.

"I have recently graduated from seminary at Yale Divinity School. I will be coming to preach and serve at Ludlow, Springfield and Grafton in July. I'm originally from Essex Vermont and did my first degree in video game production. I worked in sales for a time before discerning my call to ministry. I'm currently a Member in Discernment with the Vermont Conference. My interests in seminary are Biblical Interpretation and Liberation Theology and the art of preaching. My organizing principle of theology is: "What does the gospel mean for broke people?" and those who have been systematically impoverished in the United States. Outside of academic pursuits my main interests are in baking, gardening, videogames and good books. My goal is ordained parish ministry once I am ordained."

Book group at 7pm: "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again." ECCO intern Josh Sharp will be leading a study on this book by the late Rachel Held Evans discussing the nature of the Bible, its interpretation, and what it means to take the Bible seriously in our modern world. Meetings will be held on Zoom

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE NEEDED! Please call Cynthia King, 885-5831, if you would like to sign up for flowers.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

Those words can mean most anything. Would you or someone you know benefit from prayers, home visits, help with shopping, rides to appointments, prepared meals, food to help you over a hard time? If you have such a need, or know someone who does, please contact one of the Congregational Care co-chairs. Claire Trask at 886-7377.

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| PRAYER LIST | Ruth and Dan Kelin | Ginny Blais |
| | Marion Lerandean | Vaughn Hadwen |
| | Claire Hatch | Family of John Follett |
| | Suerae and Jim Ballard | All others in need |
| | Family of Keith Boundy | Family of Bill Riefenstahl |

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR!

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| July 31 | Sunday Worship – Joshua Sharp | 9:30 AM |
| Aug. 2 | Book group with Josh via Zoom | 7:00 PM |
| Aug. 4 | Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom | 10:00 AM |
| Aug. 7 | Sunday Worship – Joshua Sharp | 9:30 AM |

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
PASTOR'S HOURS

Tues. & Wed. 8:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Wed. & Thurs. 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

STAFF

Pastor: Michael Mario
Administrative Assistant: Judy Lasell
Sexton: Todd Murray

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