

Dreaming God's Dream

Stewardship 2025

November 16, 2025

The Dream That Needs Us

**We are an Open and Affirming
and Just Peace Congregation**

*No matter who you are,
Or where you are on your life's journey,
You are welcome here!*

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Salem, Oregon



**Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ in Salem, Oregon.
Whether you come every Sunday or this is your first time,
know that you belong here!**

Please take a moment during the **welcome** to sign our **Friendship Pad** at the end of the pew. If you are new, we'd love to get your contact info so we can reach out during the week. Let us know if you would like to get on our mailing list so we can share our weekly newsletter with you.

We Love Kids and Families!

We have created a space in the back of the sanctuary for families and children. It is a space designed for kids to do quiet activities during worship—art projects, legos, reading, etc.—and we have **Busy Bags** as well to help the “*smallers*” share this time with us. If you sit in the back and find the quiet activities are distracting to you we invite you to sit in the main part of the sanctuary. Help us support our intergenerational community by sitting where you can get your needs met.

Thank you for sharing your time and spirit with us this morning!

When you see an asterisk, () please stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

NCH = New Century Hymnal, Black Hardbound Cover

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We offer the following acknowledgment of the communities of Indigenous People who first lived in the land we call the Willamette Valley. These are the tribes with whom we are walking together even today: the Kalapuya, tribes that include Tualatin (Atfalati), Yamhill (Yamel), Ahantchuyuk (Pudding River), Luckiamute, Santiam, Chepenefa (Mary's River), Chemapho (Muddy Creek), Tsankupi (Calapooia River), Mohawk (Mohawk River, OR; unrelated to the Mohawks of NY), Chafan (near Eugene), Chelamela (Long Tom River), Winefelly (Mohawk, McKenzie and Coast Forks of the Willamette River), and the Yoncalla peoples.

PRELUDE *A Lesson for the Organ* Selby/arr. Biggs

WELCOMING ALL

CENTERING REFRAIN *Dream God's Dream* Bryan Sirchio
Pick-up Choir

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CALLING IN THE SPIRIT

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Many: Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy;

One: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice.

Many: **May those who sow in tears reap with joy.**

One: Sing over us the dreams you have for us, that joy may once again arise in our hearts.

Many: **We rejoice and delight in your dreams, O God.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ, and the dream of God, be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

***SINGING TOGETHER**

God, We Thank You for Our People

NCH 376

PRAYER FOR GOING DEEPER

One: Divine Dreamer, Maker of the Stars, Keeper of the Wind, Lover of our Souls, thank you for this church, for this city, for this state, for this nation, for the world you lovingly made for all of us to share and enjoy. Thank you for the faithfulness you show to us, even when we are unfaithful. Thank you that when we delight in you, you breathe your desires into our hearts.

Many: **Surprise us with your goodness when we least expect it. Invite us into your dreams once more. Help us to love you, our world, and each other as we do our part to make these dreams a reality.**

(silence)

One: We rejoice that you have chosen the foolish things to shame the wise, that your heart is for the least of us, and that you trust us to care for them as the very reflection of our brother Jesus.

Many: **Thank you for your presence, your strength, and your compassion for us and all that you have made.**

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ, and the dream of God, be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

DREAM REFLECTION INTERLUDE *To Be at Peace*

Ritter

You are invited to reflect on the following questions during the musical meditation:

- ♦ ***Where is God's dream calling you to shine more light?***
- ♦ ***What small act of justice, compassion, or repair is stirring in you today?***

Action:

Take a star from your bulletin and write one action you feel called to this, a way you can help God's dream take root in the world. Then join with those around you and tie your stars together with the string in your pew to form a constellation. During the meditation, you are invited

to bring your constellation forward and hang it around the Dreamcatcher as we create a growing galaxy of shared commitment.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer refrain: **God of dreams... awaken us to your presence.**

PRAYER SONG

Come and Find a Quiet Center, v. 1

**Come and find a quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Master Dreamer, who is in and through and all around us, holy is your name. Your visions come, and your desires be done, in the seen and unseen realms. Give us today the food for our bodies and our souls, and forgive us our pride and envy, as we forgive those who have wounded us in theirs. Lead us not into the prisons of resentment and self-righteousness, but deliver us from the fears that blind our hearts. For yours is the dream that finds us, the love that sustains us, and the hope that will never let us go, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER SONG

Come and Find a Quiet Center, v. 3

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our lives and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain.
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.**

DREAM TELLER INTERVIEW

Shepherding Team interviewer: Cheryl Beaver

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:6–12

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

The Dream That Needs Us

DREAM RITUAL

GATHERING OUR GIFTS

If you wish to make a financial donation today, you may

- ♦ Text the amount of your donation to **(833) 367-9224**
- ♦ Use the QR code to the right:
- ♦ Give online at www.uccsaalem.org by simply clicking on **Donate** button



- ♦ Or you can always leave a check or cash or mail a check to our physical address: First Congregational Church UCC, 700 Marion Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge and who gives through their bank or other electronic portals.

OFFERTORY *As the Deer* Nystrom/arr. Hayes

***DEDICATION CHORUS** *What Does the Lord Require of Us?* **NCH Back Cover**

***DEDICATING OUR GIFTS**

LIFE IN COMMUNITY

Please read the announcements printed in the bulletin. If you have something to share that is not in the bulletin, please raise your hand and someone will bring the microphone to you. Please remember to fill in your name and contact info in the Friendship Pads and join us for fellowship downstairs.

***SINGING TOGETHER** *Dare to Live the Dream God Gave You* Insert

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune in D* **Blake**

During the Postlude, you are invited to leave or remain and quietly listen to the music.



With Thanks to:

Ushers/ Greeters: **Roger and Sue Fletcher**

Liturgist/Reader: **Deb Mandeville**

Worship on Duty: **Diane Bunn**

Finance on Duty:

About today's keyboard music:

William Selby was an English organist and harpsichordist. In 1773, at age 35, he emigrated to America, following the lead of his brother John, also an organist, who had emigrated in 1771. Some denominations of early American churches allowed only unaccompanied singing, but in those allowing accompaniment, the organ was the only instrument used. The pipe organs were relatively small and mostly followed the design of the English organs of the time. William Selby's "A Lesson for the Organ" is a suite of three short pieces, the last of which is a brief, cheerful jig. As most English organs of the time had no pedals, the pieces are for manuals only and call for only a small number of stops.

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, oh God" is the opening of Psalm 42. Seattle composer Martin Nystrom is best known for his song is based on the psalm and composed it while attending summer school at Christ for the Nations Institute in Texas

during the summer break from his teaching position. His roommate challenged him to go on a fast to afford more time for prayer and reading the Bible, and the song came to him when he spotted a Bible open to Psalm 42.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a look at the online calendar on the website for upcoming meetings, special events, and more. www.uccsale.org

Final Advent Planning Workshop today after worship!

Today we will have our final Advent Worship Planning workshop after worship. If you are part of this year's planning team, please grab some coffee and a snack and meet in the Gathering Room upstairs. *We will not be having a regular November Worship & Arts meeting on Thursday, November 20.*

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship

On Tuesday **November 25th** there will be an **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service** at **7 PM** at **St. Mark's Lutheran Church**. There will also be a **simple soup supper** at **6 PM** for anyone who wants to share a meal of gratitude before worship.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Join **TEAM WELCOME** on Thursday, November 27, **Thanksgiving Day**, for a community meal at **1 PM**. Team Welcome will bring the turkey, stuffing, ham, tofurky, gravy and beverages. Gluten-free items provided! Sign up to bring a side and a smile. Signup in the Narthex. Let us bring our gratitude, remember the indigenous people who do not celebrate this day, and share community fellowship and love. All are welcome!

Family Promise Hosting - extended version

Family Promise hosting 'week' is November 16-26. Please see signup sheet in Narthex, to see where you can fit in to help us give warm hospitality that week. We have a lot of options, from small to large.

Pledge Sunday – November 23

On Sunday, November 23, we will bring our pledges for 2026 as a tangible act of hope and commitment. As we come forward during worship, we'll place our pledge cards in the small church model as an act of placing ourselves inside the dream God is weaving through us.

Whether you've been here a few weeks or many years, your commitment of time, talent, and treasure helps shape what is possible. Together, we are dreaming God's dream for justice, welcome, renewal, and joy.

Let your commitment be part of the dream of love and transformation we are creating for 2026, and beyond.

Braver Angels-

Still accepting registrations!!! Braver Angels Family & Politics Workshop, THIS Saturday, November 15 from 9:00-12:00, Broadway Commons. FREE, but need to register at <https://braverangels.org/oregon/> Scroll to bottom for "Upcoming Events"

Ella Curran Food Bank

In addition to diapers, T.P., feminine pads and tuna, the Food Bank is collecting *winter coats* to distribute. NO other winter clothing items can be accepted due to limited space in our facility. Thank you for your continuing support!

Prayer in Three Breaths

For the World, we pray...

- That we may calm our hearts and minds to find gratitude, and comfort others rather than hate. Include all you can.
- That the people of the United States would join the global Antifascist movement and usher in a global era of peace and justice for all.
- That all who are impacted by the loss of SNAP benefits find enough food and that those with more than enough find ways to share.
- For all who are affected by the government shutdown, particularly air traffic controllers, health service providers, the VA, and all living on benefits programs administered or funded by the government.
- That the water, river, forest, desert, and habitat keepers of the world would keep showing us how to live in harmony with our beautiful Mother Earth.

For the world we share—its pain, its beauty, its longing for justice—we breathe in hope and breathe out peace.

For Our Community, we pray...

- Prayers for all living with Alcoholism. Pray for them that they may have hope.
- That all those living outside as the nights get cold find shelter, warmth, compassion, and an opportunity to heal.
- ♦ That all in our Salem government seeking to bring healing and a just peace to our city be lifted up in prayers of gratitude and grace.

For our community—its workers, its dreamers, its weary and its bold—we breathe in compassion and breathe out courage.

For Our Beloveds, we pray...

- For Dave Gilbert as he has heart surgery on Friday.
- For Amy, and for Erin Hull.
- For Madelyn as she has surgery to take out her wisdom teeth on Tuesday.
- For a member's brother who begins chemotherapy on Thursday.
- For Linda, who is in ICU.
- For Tammie and Gus. For the family to have peace.
- For Michael Arighi as he recovers from minor surgery.
- For Dana's cousin, Dennis Finegan, who has passed away, and for his daughter Carrie.
- For Tari Nixon as she recovers from shoulder surgery.
- For Jeff Standy that he would find relief from pain.
- For Roger and Sue Fletcher's son-in-law as he recovers from hip surgery.
- ♦ For First Congregational United Church of Christ in Eugene, Oregon, and their pastor, Eric Elnes.

WE ARE A JUST PEACE AND OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

This church welcomes everyone without regard to race, gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic class, marital status, or physical/mental abilities and encourages all to share in the full life and leadership of this congregation.

PASTOR ROBIN'S OFFICE HOURS

- ♦ Monday and Tuesday - 1 PM to 4 PM
- ♦ Wednesday - 9 AM to 1 PM
- ♦ Other times by appointment

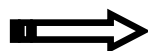
Want to explore your questions and share something of your journey? Pastor Robin welcomes your calls and visits. You may contact her via cell (971)666-3442, at the church (503-363-3660) or email: pastor@uccsalem.org.

If you prefer to meet outside, she is always up for a walk and talk!

Friday and Saturday are Pastor Robin's Sabbath days.

GET CONNECTED: The **Weekly Word**, our email newsletter which comes out every Thursday will keep you up to date on all that is happening at FCCUCC. Links to the livestreaming worship as well as the bulletin are included. To subscribe, find the link on our webpage www.uccsalem.org, or email the office—office@uccsalem.org. Our phone number is **503-363-3660**

webpage QR



CHURCH STAFF

DESIGNATED TERM PASTOR	Rev. Robin Lunn, ext. 312
SEMINARY INTERN	Amy Tobey
ORGANIST	Dr. Marcia Hauff
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR	Lily Walker, ext. 310
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CUSTODIAN	Joe Martin

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