

Dreaming God's Dream

Stewardship 2025

November 9, 2025

The Dream That Grows 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 are 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.

PRELUDES *Voluntary on the Hymn Tune “Morning Song”* arr. Page
 We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder Spiritual/arr. Young

WELCOMING ALL

CENTERING REFRAIN *Dream God's Dream*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CALLING IN THE SPIRIT

One: Come, dreamers and doers, bakers and builders, makers of webs and keepers of visions.

Many: **We come bringing the pieces of our lives, ready for God to weave them into something filled with justice and peace.**

One: The Holy One hides dreams in small things: a bead, a seed, a flash of color, a whisper in the night.

Many: God's dream is rising in us, stretching toward light.

One: Let us come to this time of worship ready to imagine, ready to risk, ready to notice what is becoming new.

Many: May the kin-dom be sown again in us today, and may the Holy Dreamer show us the way of love.

***SINGING TOGETHER**

Now the Green Blade Rises

NCH 238

PRAYER FOR GOING DEEPER

One: Dream-Giver, sometimes your visions come to us before we are ready for them. Like Joseph, we can be naïve; so eager to be special that we forget the sacredness of others. And like his brothers, we can be wounded by comparison, jealous of what we do not understand, quick to bury what feels too hard to hold.

Yet still you come searching — for the dreamer and the doubter alike, for the proud and the hurt, and for all of us who lose our way inside our own hearts.

Many: Meet us again in your mercy, O God. Find us in our frailty, and teach us the humility that opens space for grace. Where we have silenced another's dream, forgive us. Where we have dismissed your calling in our own lives, forgive us. Plant in us the quiet trust that your dream is always larger than our understanding.

(silence)

One: Beloved of God, the Holy One never tires of seeking us. Even our missteps become part of the path, and even what we meant for harm can be woven into healing. The dream still finds us. The love of God still claims us.

Many: Thanks be to God, who meets us with tenderness, and invites us to begin again. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

Many: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer refrain: God of dreams... hear our prayers.

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 *(please use the words that are most meaningful for you)*

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: Susan Smith

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 28:10–17

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

The Dream That Found Us

DREAM RITUAL AND REFLECTION INTERLUDE*Reflection*

Hill

During this time of musical meditation, you are invited to come forward, as you are able, and add your bead or sacred object to the Dreamcatcher. Each piece represents the beauty, struggle, and story you bring to God's dream among us. If you would like help, or prefer that someone else place your item, please raise your hand and one of our ushers will come to you and add it on your behalf. As we weave these pieces together, may we remember that God's dream is made real through the many colors and textures of our shared life.

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.uccsalem.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 *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love* Scholtes/arr. Bock

***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** *Restless Weaver* tune: HYFRYDOL

**Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom;
Dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home;
Gathering up life's varied fibers—every texture, every hue:
Grant us your creative vision, with us weave your world anew.**

**Where earth's fragile web is raveling, help us mend each broken strand.
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land.
Through the Spirit's inspiration—offering health where once was pain—
Strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again.**

**When our violent lust for power ends in lives abused and torn,
From compassion's sturdy fabric fashion hope and trust reborn.
Where injustice rules as tyrant, give us courage, God, to dare
Live our dreams of transformation. Make our lives incarnate prayer.**

**Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life—now and yet to be—
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry:
You have called us to be weavers. Let your love guide all we do.
With your Reign of Peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.**

*BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

arr. Reuss

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



With Thanks to:

Ushers/ Greeters: Laura Perez and Jim Mankins

Liturgist/Reader: Susan Mankins

Worship on Duty: Mesheal Tracy

About today's organ music: The hymn tune *Morning Song* was based on a folk tune and first appeared as a hymn in the 1813 "Repository of Sacred Music" published by John Wyeth. The tune is most often connected with the text "Awake, Awake to Love and Work," and this hymn is #89 in our hymnal. The topic of Jacob's ladder first began appearing in spirituals in the early 1800s, with a variety of texts and tunes, such as "Wrestle On, Jacob" and "Wake Up, Jacob." The version we are familiar with now was first published in 1907 in "Calhoun's Plantation Songs." The Postlude is in recognition of Veterans Day. Known as "the Navy Hymn," *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* was written in 1860 by William Whiting, who at age 35 was in a violent storm at sea and believed his life was spared by God. Inspired by Psalm 107, and associated with seafarers and the dangers of the sea, the hymn assures us that God quiets the storm and will bring us back safely.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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, our **Dream Tellers** for our Commitment Sunday will be community leaders who have dreams that we can be a part of. Come hear **Andrea Castañeda**, Superintendent of the SKSD, **Kyle Dickinson**, Executive Director of the Salem Leadership Foundation, and **Dr. Tommy Van Cleave**, Assistant Dean for Civic Engagement at Willamette University. This will be the day we will bring our pledges for 2026 as a tangible act of hope and commitment. 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 Family & Politics Workshop

Saturday, November 15, from 9:00-12:00, at the Broadway Commons.

FREE, but need to register at <https://braverangels.org/oregon/>

Scroll to bottom for "Upcoming Events"

Pick-Up Choir for Sunday, November 16

Our only practice will be right after church **today** for a half hour in the choir room, following worship. Anyone is welcome to join!! *Rebecca Ralston*

Ella Curran Food Bank

In addition to diapers, T.P., feminine pads and tuna, the Food Bank will start collecting winter coats to distribute.

Thank you for your continuing support!

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

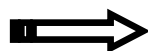
Want to explore your questions and share something of your journey? Pastor Robin welcomes your calls and visits. You may contact her via cell (971)666-3442, at the church (503-363-3660) or email: pastor@uccsalem.org.

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
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Zanne D'Anna, Kim Colantino, Elijah Gores
CUSTODIAN	Joe Martin

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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.
- ♦ Prayers of thanksgiving that all of the trees and plants and animals are getting a good long drink this week. The leaves have been a blessing of color and beauty.
- ♦ That the international community would hold Israel accountable for the genocide they are committing.
- ♦ That the power of the No Kings Rallies globally will fuel a larger movement to reform our democracy so that it works for all.
- ♦ 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 effected by the government shut down, 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...

- ♦ That the members of the Oregon National Guard being deployed against their friends and neighbors would follow their oath to the Constitution and not the commands of corrupt leaders.
- ♦ 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 Ricky, that he may recover from his cold and feel better!
- ♦ For Michael Arighi as he recovers from minor surgery.
- ♦ For Julie and Steve Woodward as Steve continues to recover from his motorcycle accident.
- ♦ For Dana's cousin, Dennis Finegan, who passed away last week, 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 all who are grieving the loss of a loved one, especially the families of Gail McDougal and Tammie Waterman.
- ♦ For anyone not feeling well this week.
- ♦ For Riverside Community United Church of Christ in Hood River, and their pastor, Vicky Stifter.
- ♦ For our beloveds—those near and those far, those with us and those we remember—we breathe in love and breathe out gratitude.

Do you have a special need for prayer and support? If you would like to be on our weekly prayer list, please contact the church office: office@uccsalem.org

*God who knows us completely, receive every breath as prayer, and let your Spirit move through us until all creation rests in your peace. **Amen.***

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