



## **On Fire for Mission**

Igniting Passion  
for Transformation

## **Mission Reflection**

### **Feed My Sheep**

*Mission Partner  
Focus*



***May 4, 2025***

*There's no reason not to feed the hungry.  
There's only the choice not to.  
— Sara Miles, Take This Bread*

*"When we break bread together, we make room for the kingdom of God  
to take root in the world."  
— Inspired by Luke 24:30–35*



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**  
SALEM OREGON  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

***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!***

## **Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ. Whether you come here every Sunday or are here for the first time, know that you are welcome!**

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**

*I've Got Peace Like a River*  
*Neo-Classique*

arr. Eithum  
Hayes

### **WELCOMING ALL**

### **RINGING THE BOWL**

### **CALLING IN THE SPIRIT** (*Psalm 30 – Adapted*)

One: We will exalt you, O God, for you have lifted us up—not because we were powerful, but because we are beloved.

**Many: You did not let despair have the final word. You turned our mourning into dancing.**

One: O Holy One, we cried out to you for help, and you brought healing—not only to our bodies, but to our weary spirits.

**Many: You drew us up from the pit, restoring life when we felt nearly undone.**

One: Sing praises to the Eternal One, all you faithful!  
Give thanks to the One whose compassion outlasts the night.

**Many: For anger may flash for a moment,  
but divine love endures through every season.**

One: Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.

**Many: We come to worship the God who lifts the lowly, who welcomes  
the outcast, who transforms sorrow into song, and who calls us  
to rise with courage and joy.**

**\*SINGING TOGETHER**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**THE HYMNAL #92**

**PRAYER FOR GOING DEEPER**

One: Let us enter into a time of prayer—a time for honest reflection, a time for deeper listening, a time to release what burdens us and receive what heals us. Let us pray.

**Many: Loving God, you call us again and again to love, to serve, to feed your sheep— but we confess that we often turn away. We forget that we are needed. We believe the lie that we are too old, too tired, too late. We carry regrets for what we didn't do, and shame for what we've done. Still, you come. You prepare a table. You ask, "Do you love me?" And you invite us once more to follow you. Restore us, O Christ. Rekindle our courage. Renew in us the joy of being your people— beloved, forgiven, and free.**

*Holding Silence Together*

One: Beloved of God, hear this good news: There is no expiration date on grace. No moment too late to be called again. No wound too deep for God's healing love. You are forgiven. You are free. And you are needed.

**Many: We will serve in gratitude for all that we have been given. We will follow Christ's call with open hands and willing hearts.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with one another and the world.*

## **PRAYERS FOR ALL CREATION**

*You are invited to share a prayer requests/concerns by using a prayer card that is in your bulletin. Remember, our prayers are live-streamed so please note when names and personal information is NOT to be shared.*

**PRAYER SONG**            *Come and Find a Quiet Center, vs. 1*   Shirley Erena Murray

**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.**

*Let us gather all our prayers into one, saying together this prayer in the spirit of the one Jesus his followers to pray, saying:*

**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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER SONG**            *Come and Find a Quiet Center, vs. 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.**

## **STORY PAGES FOR KIDS**

**STORY PAGES FOR ADULTS**    John 21:1–19

**REFLECTION**                    Resurrection Witness: Feed My Sheep

**SHARING THE MEAL OF LOVE** — *This table is open to all, believers and skeptics, curious and committed. You do not need to be a member of this church or any church to participate in this blessing. This week, we will bring the elements to you in your seat. Please eat the bread when it is given as a symbol of your personal walk with God. Please hold the cup so we can drink it together as a symbol of our common life in Christ. We celebrate with Gluten Free bread and grape juice.*

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### COMMUNION PRAYER

One: Let us give thanks.

**Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Holy and gracious God, we thank you for your love made known in creation, in the covenant with your people, and most fully in Jesus Christ, who shared our life, who ate with sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. With thanksgiving, we remember that on the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when he had blessed it, he broke it and said: "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sin. As often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." We remember. We give thanks. We offer ourselves.

**Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

### UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We give you thanks, O God, for the nourishment of your Spirit, for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. May this meal strengthen us in love, keep us in your grace, and send us forth in peace. Amen.**

### 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](http://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**      *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*      arr. Clemens

**\*DEDICATION CHORUS**      *What Does the Lord Require of Us?*      **NCH BACK COVER**

**\*DEDICATING OUR GIFTS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please read the announcements printed in the bulletin and in the entryway video. If you have something to share that is not in the bulletin, please come to the microphone at the front or 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.*

**\*SINGING TOGETHER**      *Jesus Call Us, O'er the Tumult*      **The Hymnal #375**

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**      *Immortal, Invisible*      Welsh hymn/arr, Howell

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



**With Thanks to:**

**Ushers/ Greeters :**      Maya Close and Bill Hayden

**Liturgist/Reader:**      Dana McBrien

**Worship on Duty:**      Dianne Bunn

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The May 'Share the Plate' Offering recipient:** Willamette Riverkeepers  
Willamette Riverkeepers is the guardian of our river, seeking to protect and restore the Willamette River. Its programs include enforcing clean water laws, Trashy Tuesday river cleanups, monitoring sensitive species, and events to encourage knowledge and use.

### **COUNCIL/CIRCLE/TEAM MEETINGS**

**5/4/25 @ 12 noon -- Book Club -- location:** New Conference room

**5/4/25 @ 6:00 PM—Council Meeting — location:** New Conference room

## **PRAYER IN THREE BREATHS**

### **For the World we pray.....**

- For the people in Gaza, Israel, and across the Middle East, that there would be peace, protection of civilians, and a just resolution to cycles of violence.
- For refugees and migrants worldwide, especially those fleeing war, persecution, and climate disasters—that they would find safety, dignity, and welcome.
- For communities facing hunger and famine: Haiti, Sudan, Yemen, and the Horn of Africa—where food insecurity threatens daily life.
- For those impacted by climate disasters, including island nations, flood and drought-stricken regions, and Indigenous land and water protectors.
- For global health workers serving on the frontlines in under-resourced areas.
- For children in conflict zones, especially those in Ukraine, Congo, Afghanistan, and Palestine.

### **For Our Community we pray....**

- For State Legislators and Public Servants: we pray for wisdom, courage, and integrity as they shape policies that impact all Oregonians—especially the most vulnerable.
- For local Justice and Advocacy Organizations Including groups like the ACLU of Oregon, PCUN, and Indivisible Salem who are working for equity, democracy, and human rights.
- For unhoused neighbors and the organizations that serve them, especially Church at the Park, Family Promise, and all working to provide shelter, dignity, and long-term solutions.
- For Youth and Young Adults in our community and those navigating mental health challenges, identity struggles, housing insecurity, and the uncertainties of a changing world.
- For faith leaders and congregations in Salem, that we may be bold in love, united in purpose, and faithful to our calling to seek justice, show mercy, and walk humbly with God.

### **For Our Beloveds We pray....**

- For a Customer Service person who really stepped up and made way for Scott to go to a concert he is really looking forward to! Thanks be to God!
- For Omar's health and vitality.
- For an anonymous family member -- that he may be released from the effects of PTSD, gain control over his deep seated anger issues, and find a more tolerant attitude and love for his fellow human beings.
- For Zanne's neighbor, Patty, and her family, whose husband Bryce died recently from cancer.
- For Amy Knowles - that her body will give her peace.
- For Octavio and Tammie's family to be safe and well, and for Tammie's health.
- For Kathy Crummer as she adjusts to her new apartment.
- For Gay Brewer-Wallin as she recovers from knee surgery.
- For all of our beloveds struggling with mental health concerns.
- For those elders unable to be with us in person at this time.
- For Waverly Heights Congregational United Church of Christ in Portland, Oregon and their pastor Rob Tulloch.

# **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
- ◆ Thursday - 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](mailto: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](http://www.uccsalem.org), or email the office—[office@uccsalem.org](mailto: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, Jim Mankins, Kim Colantino, Elijah Gores, Amy Knowles
CUSTODIAN	Joe Martin

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## **Our Covenant**

*adopted 2023*

We are a community of faith drawn together in our common search for spiritual life. We are a community of covenant rather than creeds. Acknowledging our commitment to the teaching and practices of Jesus of Nazareth, whom some of us call Christ, we believe in the freedom of each individual to pursue their own spiritual journey. Therefore,

We Covenant to be a progressive Christian community that values inclusivity and embraces diversity. We Endeavor to be a congregation of extravagant welcome that respects the spiritual life and journey of each person.

We Listen to the “Still Speaking God” who emboldens us to Seek Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

## **Our Open and Affirming Statement**

*adopted 1993*

We are an Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation that welcomes everyone without regard to race, gender identity and expression, citizenship status, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic class, marital or educational status, physical or mental abilities, or appearance. We encourage all people to share their talents, gifts, and energy in the liturgy, life, and leadership of our congregation. We affirm that it is our call to work for peace and wholeness by overcoming attitudes and acts of injustice, discrimination, violence, and hatred in ourselves and others.

## **Our Just Peace Statement**

*adopted 1991*

We are a Just Peace Church. We seek to keep the vision of shalom central to our corporate and individual lives, working to deepen our understanding of the many dimensions of peace and justice in our time. Through our worship, programs, and outreach, we seek to be a community of reconciliation, hope, and courage, as we work and pray for peace and justice in our world.

## **What Kind of Christians Are We?**

By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean we are Christians who...

1. Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:  
Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,  
Believers and agnostics,  
People of other faiths and good will.
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
6. Strive for peace and justice among all people;
7. Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth;
8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love

*We seek to live out these values, however imperfectly, offering grace freely as we seek to follow Jesus. If our values fit yours, please consider becoming a part of our community.*