



April 6, 2025

“When we dare to believe in the abundance of love, even sorrow becomes fertile ground.”

— Joyce Rupp

Joyce Rupp is a spiritual writer and retreat leader whose work explores the freedom found in walking with grief, trusting love, and leaning into God’s healing presence.



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.

PRELUDE *Allegro Moderato, from Sonata 6 in g minor* C.P.E. Bach

WELCOMING ALL

RINGING THE BOWL

CALLING IN THE SPIRIT

Voice One: We have wandered the wilderness, and God has been our guide.

Many: We come to worship.

Voice Two: We have lifted our laments, and God has heard our cries.

Many: We come to worship.

Voice One: We have dug around barren trees, and God has nourished the roots.

Many: We come to worship.

Voice Two: We have run toward mercy, and God has met us on the road.

Many: We come to worship.

Voice One: And now, like Mary, we pour out love and sorrow, trusting that God's love transforms even the hardest hearts.

Many: We come to worship.

***SINGING TOGETHER**

As We Gather At Your Table

NCH 332

PRAYER FOR GOING DEEPER

One: God of love, we come with burdens too heavy to carry, grief too deep for words.

Many: We bring our grief to you.

(Silence for reflection)

One: You meet us in our sorrow and show us that love can still be poured out.

Many: We offer you our tears, our hopes, and our hearts.

(Silence for reflection)

One: Forgive us when we have turned away, when fear has kept us from loving fully.

Many: Open us to your mercy and make us new.

(Silence for reflection)

One: Beloved of God, you are not alone. You are not forsaken. God's love transforms even the hardest hearts.

Many: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***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.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Cantique

Peeters

PRAYERS FOR ALL CREATION

You are invited to share a prayer requests/concerns by using a prayer card that is available in your pew, by using the paper strips that are alongside the prayer tapestry, or by creating a prayer tile in the back. Remember, our prayers are live-streamed so note when names are 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 Loving God, who meets us in sorrow and joy, holy is your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven— even when the way is hard.
Give us this day the bread we need,
and sustain us when grief leaves us empty.
Forgive us when fear holds us back,
as we forgive those who have caused us pain.
Lead us through the wilderness,
through grief and uncertainty, and deliver us into hope.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, now and 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 -- *we finished Crossing Bok Chitto last week and next week we will have a special time with the young and young at heart. This week we are having communion so we won't have any story pages for kids.*

STORY PAGES FOR ADULTS John 12:1-8, Philippians 3:4b-14

REFLECTION *Freedom From Grief: A Turning Point of Anointing*

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. You are invited to come forward to receive the elements. Please eat the bread when it is given as a symbol of your personal walk with God. Please drink the cup together after you return to your seat as a symbol of our common life in Christ. We celebrate with Gluten Free bread and grape juice. If you desire a blessing instead of the elements, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you cannot come forward, we will bring the elements to you in your seat.*

COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*

NCH 330

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Extravagant God, we thank you for this holy feast, where grief is honored, where hope is kindled, where love is poured without reserve.

May the fragrance of this table linger with us -- reminding us to offer ourselves as gifts of compassion and tenderness for a world in need.

In the name of Christ, we go forth. 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 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** *O Sacred Head Sore Wounded* arr. J.S. Bach
- *DEDICATION CHORUS** *What Does the Lord Require of Us?* **NCH BACK COVER**
- *DEDICATING OUR GIFTS, GIVEN AND RECEIVED**

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** *O God, How We Have Wandered* **NCH 202**
- *BLESSING**

- POSTLUDE** *Toccata in C Major* Černohorský

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



With Thanks to:

- Ushers/ Greeters :** **Judith Steele and Bill Hayden**
Liturgist/Reader: **Michael Arighi**
Worship on Duty: **Diane Bunn**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAYS

@ 9:00 AM—Coffee and Conversation w/Pastor Robin at Prismatic Coffee, 3996 Cousteau Dr SE, Salem

@ Noon—Book Group; online, except for first Mondays in-person

4/7/25 @ 5 PM—Session 3 Spring New Member/FCCUCC 101 Classes:

Join Pastor Robin for a fun **4-part series** for anyone interested in learning more about the national United Church of Christ, Salem UCC, and what being a member here entails.

Dates: 4/7, 4/14

Location: online—please call the office for the link

4/9/25 @ 10:30 AM Women's Fellowship is packing the College Treat Boxes for mailing. **Location:** Talkington Hall

4/9/25 @ 4:30 PM—Soul Food: Reflections on Lenten Scripture Themes & 5:30—Simple Soup Supper

Dates: 4/9, 4/16

Location: Small conference room: **ALL are welcome!!!**

COUNCIL/CIRCLE/TEAM MEETINGS

4/7/25 @ 6:00 PM—Council Meeting — location: new conference room

SPECIAL EVENTS

4/12/25 @ 10:00 AM—Spring Clean Up and Planting Day; come help spruce up our yard and plant some spring flowers as we prepare for the Easter season.

4/17/25—Maundy Thursday: We are hosting Maundy Thursday observances this year and sharing with First Christian Church. At 5:30 PM we are hosting a modern Seder Meal and will be learning about the Passover Celebration that Jesus most likely observed, before moving to the sanctuary for a traditional Tenebrae observance at 6:30 PM.

April Loose Plate Offerings will go to Habitat for Humanity.

PRAYER IN THREE BREATHS

For the World we pray.....

- For the Future of Democracy.
- Lord, please bless the Earth, which is suffering, yet still offers beauty and abundance.
- For the places where war, famine, weather related disasters, and violence are making it impossible for people to simply live, particularly the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Myanmar, and Sudan.
- For the planet and all of her inhabitants as we face the loss of biodiversity, ocean acidification, deforestation, rising global temperatures and the impacts of potable water and food.

For Our Community we pray....

- For the surveyors going into the neighborhood as part of our research for "resurrection".
- For those in fear of losing Medicaid: children, under-employed; retired, etc.
- To calm our mutual and individual stress so we can continue to minister to all those around us.

For Our Beloveds We pray....

- For Nelson Olvera and his sister as they move to California.
- For our church, and for Pastor Robin as she leads us.
- For Laura Perez and her family.
- For Jan, who is having surgery.
- For Omar's health.
- For Tammie & Gus -- may they be well.
- For an anonymous member -- for strength in recovery, and for healing.
- For Amy's pain management.
- For my friend Larrilee, to give her strength caring for her daughter this past year.
- For the Bingham family on the passing of Julie's father.
- For Klamath Falls Congregational Church of Christ and their pastor David Hedelman

Holy One, we gather all of the names, all of the places, all of the concerns into you and ask that they be held, healed, transformed, and loved into the fullness of their calling as part of your blessed Creation. May we hold them with you in tenderness and grace. In the name of the Christ who shines in you. Amen

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

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.

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, 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.