

PRAYING OUR THEOLOGY

August 3-31, 2025



August 3rd

God of Steadfast Love

Encountering the Divine through tradition and praise.

*Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for humankind,
for the Lord satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.*

Psalms 107:8-9

**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

Whether you are here every Sunday or this is your 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

Adagio

Beethoven

WELCOMING ALL

***CALLING IN THE SPIRIT**

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.

Many: We gather to praise the One who calls us beloved, who redeems and restores.

One: As a parent tenderly leads a child, so the Holy One has led us through wilderness and wandering.

Many: When we cried out in thirst, God gave us living water. When our souls were faint, God renewed our strength.

One: The Lord has gathered us from every place and path, binding up what was broken, calling us home.

Many: Let us worship the God of steadfast love—Creator of earth's beauty, Redeemer of all, Sustainer of life eternal.

One: With grateful hearts and voices raised, we praise the Living God!

***SINGING TOGETHER**

For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH 28

PRAYER FOR GOING DEEPER

One: Let us draw near to the God who leads us with cords of kindness and bands of love. Let us offer our hearts in prayer.

Many: Holy and Gracious God, You have called us out of the wilderness and into your mercy, but we confess how often we resist your leading. We forget your steadfast love, we grow weary of trust, we choose scarcity over gratitude.

Like children uncertain of their path, we turn from your embrace—yet still, you call us beloved. Still, you provide. Still, you gather us in.

Forgive us, O God. Deepen our faith. Open us to your transforming grace.

Silence is shared.

One: Beloveds, hear the good news: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Though we may wander, we are never abandoned. Though we forget, God remembers. Though we fall, love lifts us up.

Many: We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God!

***SHARING THE PEACE**

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

GRATITUDE FOR THE WORLD, COMMUNITY AND BELOVEDS

Unison response after each section...

Many: We give you thanks, O God.

LORD'S PRAYER *(please use the words that are most meaningful for you)*

Our Father...

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.**

STORY PAGES FOR ADULTS Hosea 11:1–11; Psalm 107:1–9

REFLECTION God of Steadfast Love

COMMUNION HYMN *Let us Break Bread Together* **NCH 330**

SHARING THE MEAL OF LOVE

MEDITATION MUSIC *The Holy Presence* Sergisson

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 *Scherzo* Beethoven

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

***DEDICATING OUR GIFTS**

Many: We give in gratitude and hope.

One: Bless these offerings, O God—bless every hand that gives, every heart that prays, every soul that serves. May these gifts bear fruit in this congregation, in our city, and in your world.

Many: We give in gratitude and hope. Amen.

LIFE IN COMMUNITY

***SINGING TOGETHER** *Praise to the Living God* **NCH 8**

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Allegro

Beethoven

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



With Thanks to:

Ushers/ Greeters : **Jim and Susan Mankins**

Liturgist/Reader: **Judith Steele**

Worship on Duty: **Diane Bunn**

Finance on Duty: **Michael Arighi**

About today's organ music: The three Beethoven pieces are from his "Suite for a Mechanical Organ, Op. 39" composed in 1799. Although Beethoven studied the organ and played for a church, he composed only a few pieces for the organ. The "mechanical organ," for which the suite was intended, was a specific instrument, an organ operated by a clockwork mechanism (also referred to as a "flute-clock") owned by Count Josef Deym, who owned an art gallery in Vienna. A clockwork instrument can easily play any number of notes in any arrangement, while the same notes can be very awkward for human hands. Once the suite was finally published in 1902 for human organists, they have had to use creative fingerings and maneuvers to play and share these delightful pieces.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August **Share the Plate** recipient is: Family Promise.

While the loss of a home is a tragedy for anyone, it's especially devastating for families. Since opening their door in 1999, Family Promise here in Salem has served over 10,000 of our neighbors. They have a 95% success rate of helping families build a life of self-sufficiency.

To see more about each of the events listed below, please go to the website and click on Events [**www.uccsalem.org**](http://www.uccsalem.org)

- ♦ August 4th : **Council Meeting @ 6 PM:** Gathering Room 1st floor
- ♦ August 5th: **Team Earth Meeting @ 11:30 AM :**Gathering Room 1st floor
- ♦ August 5th: **Mission and Justice Circle Meeting @ 1 PM**
- ♦ August 5th: **Exploring the Many Faces of Theology, Class 1 @ 6:30 PM**
- ♦ August 9th: **Women's Fellowship Dilly Bean Making @ 9 AM**
- ♦ August 11th: **CE Team Meeting @ 6:30 PM**
- ♦ August 10 - 13: **Salem Youth Collective Summer "City" Camp**
- ♦ August 13th: **Exploring the Many Faces of Theology, Class 2 @ 6:30 PM**
- August 23: **New Moon Labyrinth Under the Stars @ 8 PM.**
- August 30: **Beginning a journey to Eloheh @ 10 AM**

Family Promise Hosting Update : August 3-10

Our volunteer signup for hosting week is going well. We still have a space for you, though. See online link or visit our table in the Narthex on Sundays. If you are unable to physically do any job this time, but can donate monetarily, we will be buying lunch materials for the day center, where the families are located during the day. Any amount will help us in that endeavor.

We will have 4 families with us (10 adults and 5 children, ages 7-13).

One person does not eat gluten, but is not highly allergic, so if he does, it won't be a problem. We will provide a loaf of gluten-free bread and if you are providing a dessert that has gluten, just alert us.

PRAYER IN THREE BREATHS

For the World, we pray...

- For aid convoys, humanitarian workers, and peacebuilders moving through danger zones, especially those bringing food and medical supplies into Gaza.
- For those detained by ICE and other immigration enforcement bodies, and for families still separated in the U.S. detention system.
- For those who are undocumented, or who are not citizens, who are trying to visit family members without fear of being deported.
- For the residents of the Texas Hill Country as they recover from flood damage, and to all of the families that lost loved ones in the tragedy.

For Our Community, we pray...

- For local nonprofits and mutual aid networks, many of whom face rising demand and shrinking funds, especially those working with unhoused neighbors, LGBTQ+ youth, and mental health supports.
- For our unhoused neighbors and those living in vehicles or temporary shelters, may they know they are not forgotten.

For Our Beloveds, we pray...

- For Sarah.
- For Betty Helm.
- For Tammy & Gus.
- For Katie, who is returning to University for her senior year in journalism. God bless new journalists.
- For R's family as they deal with the loss of a loved one.
- For Susie and Dick Francois as they continue healing in their grief over the death of Susie's brother, Bruce.
- For Beth's dental surgery.
- For our Congregation and our Pastor. May we stay strong and blessed.
- For Camp Adams in Molalla, Oregon.

*Holy One of every border and blessing, we lift before you all that is broken and beautiful—The cries of the earth, the grief of the people, the ache for justice, the longing for peace. Gather into your boundless compassion the names we have spoken and the ones held only in our hearts. Let your Spirit move through us, stirring tenderness, emboldening action, and awakening hope. Make of our lives a prayer, our community a sanctuary, and this moment an offering of love. In the name of the One who weeps with us, walks beside us, and shines through us. **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

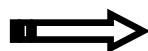
Want to explore your questions and share something of your journey? Pastor Robin welcomes your calls and visits. You may contact her via cell (971)666-3442, at the church (503-363-3660) or email: pastor@uccsalem.org.

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.