



# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

■ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TRYON ■



*Sojourner Truth* by Kelly Latimore

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

5 February 2023 ❖ 10:00 in the morning

**W**elcome to this service of worship. Open your heart to the familiar and the new, and may your spirit relax into the peace of God's presence as we share this time together.

**For those worshipping in-person:** While masks are optional, for the safety of our community and congregation, as well as your individual health, **we strongly urge all those worshipping in person to wear KN95 or N95 masks** without respirators, over their nose and mouth, regardless of vaccination status. Please respect those who may wish to social distance.

**Live Stream:** Please be advised that our service is live streamed. You may appear on camera.

**Worship Response Cards & Prayer Requests:** Please complete the weekly Worship Response Card online or place it in the offering plates. Submit prayer requests on card or to the Pastor.

**Restrooms:** Restrooms are located down the hallway, behind the sanctuary.

**Children:** Children are always welcome to join us in the sanctuary for worship. If you choose to use it, our family worship space is located in the front right of the sanctuary. For those children who wish to participate in Children's Worship, please join the class outside, prior to worship. Our downstairs nursery is also available for parent use. See usher for directions. Children who attend Children's worship will rejoin the congregation at the time of offertory.

Worship is at the center of the life of The Congregational Church, UCC. Please prepare your heart and mind for worship.

Whether you are a long time member or first time visitor, we are glad you are here. If you would like to discuss matters of faith or learn more about our church, we invite you to contact our pastor at (828) 859-9414.

The people's responses are in **bold**.

Kindly silence your devices upon entering the Sanctuary

† Please rise in body or in spirit as you are able.

## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together to prepare our hearts to worship as the people of God.*

MORNING MEDITATION

Prayer - Gregory Hamilton

¶ *Please quietly recall the presence of God and prepare yourself for worship as you receive the gift of our prelude music.*

† HYMN #250

*Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Called to be light,  
**we would carry God's hope into the shadows of the world.**  
Called to be salt,  
**we would enhance the lives of those around us, with joy.**  
Called to live in God's reality,  
**we would welcome everyone as sisters and brothers in faith.**

CALL TO COMMUNITY

PRAYER

Thom White, *liturgist*

**When we see the hungry and refuse to pass them by; when we humbly notice those walking shoeless in winter before we repair the holes in our souls, we will worship you truly, God of the Feast and the Fast. When we think the line workers are as valuable as the CEOs; when we give our in-law apartment to a homeless family, we will follow you faithfully, Servant of the oppressed. When we mend fences with our siblings and build bridges to our enemies; when our cries for justice are louder than a vuvuzela, we will proclaim your hopes, Spirit of justice. Then we will be like a beautiful botanical garden watered by that grace which never runs dry. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

*Lord Jesus Christ, Your Light Shines* - Jacque Berthier (Taize)

†THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

¶ *Greet one another with a sign of the reconciling peace of Christ (a handshake, an embrace, or a non-contact gesture).*

Listening

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song as we listen.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALM

A reading from the book of Psalms:

Praise the LORD!

**Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.**

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

**Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.**

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;

in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;

their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away;

the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

**Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.**

112:1-10 (NRSVue)

¶ *The People stand as the Word is brought among the People to be heard and received.*

†SUNG ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia* - Fintan O'Carroll & Christopher Walker

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Alleluia acclamation. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and the second staff is labeled 'Fine'. Both staves are in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the notes on both staves.

## †THE GOSPEL

Let us listen for the Word of God.

**Our ears are open.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:13-20 (NRSVue)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

¶ *The People sit*

SERMON

Rev. Meghan D. Young

### Responding

*We respond to the hearing of God's word through prayer.*

GIFT OF MUSIC

Ann White, soloist

*In This Very Room* - words and music by Ron Harris & Carol Harris

THE OFFERTORY

To contribute, you may put your gift in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary, click on the “Give” tab at [ucctryon.org](http://ucctryon.org), scan the QR code, or mail in your pledge.

Reflect on the blessings you have been given, and how you are called to bless others.



†SONG OF GRATITUDE #46

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

†PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

†HYMN #311

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY: JOYS & CONCERNS

**Feasting At The Table: The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*This church practices open Communion – all are welcome to receive, including children, and regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation.*

*Our “Communion Liturgy for Black History Month” is adapted from liturgies by Rev. Amantha Barbee, Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, & Rev. Dr. Mary C. Johnson.*

INVITATION

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

**Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: RECALLING THE STORY

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**O God, with gratitude and praise you have blessed and fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us hope in the face of turmoil, to remind us that in you, everything is already alright. Make us children of remembrance so that herstory and history lives on in us. Send us from this place with purpose and in your power, blessed, transformed and bent toward the arc of justice for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us out into the world to love God and our neighbors.*

†HYMN #364

*This Little Light of Mine*

†BLESSING

†SENDING SONG

*We Will Walk With God*

We will walk with God, my brothers, we will walk with God.  
We will walk with God, my sisters, we will walk with God.  
We will go rejoicing, till the kingdom fhas come. (Repeat)

POSTLUDE

*Praise Him with the Sound of the Trumpet - Robert Lau*

**OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED. NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.**

***We are a church that believes life is worth living,  
people are worth loving, and God is worth trusting.***

*Thank you to those assisting in today's service.*

Worship Leaders:  
Lindsay Lewis  
Dr. Susan Lyle  
Rev. Meghan Young

Usher:  
*Sign-up online or in the narthex.*

Liturgists:  
Thom White  
*Sign-up online or in the narthex.*

Music:  
Ann White  
The Chancel Choir

Sound & Video:  
Lisa & Ray Owens

Community Hour:  
Andrea Walter  
*Sign-up online or in the narthex.*

Flowers:  
*Sign-up online or in the narthex to donate flowers to benefit the Love Your Neighbor fund.*

**Pastor Meghan's door is always open,** so please email or call if you would like to schedule a time to meet. Friday is her sabbath day, but she can be reached by cell (860-966-2432) in case of pastoral emergencies.

Community Hours this week will be Wednesday from 9 - 10 AM at All Good Things Bakery in Tryon.

## UPCOMING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check eblasts for more information about upcoming gatherings, volunteer opportunities, and ways to participate in community care. Get involved, connect, and enrich your spiritual life and your relationships in the church community.

### Planning Your Memorial Service 101

TODAY, at 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

Join Pastor Meghan as she talks about planning a memorial service, as well as how we do green burials in the church's memorial garden. A document to help you get started, will be provided.

### Special showing of the documentary *E.O. Wilson—Of Ants and Men*

*Wilson—Of Ants and Men*

February 7, 6:30 PM, Tryon Theatre, Free

As part of the Gardening for Life Project, partners Conserving Carolina and the Congregational Church of Tryon's Creation Care Team are hosting a special screening. Mark your calendars and register online before seats run out.

### Kudzu Eradication Starting Back

February 11, 10 AM, Back Parking Lot

Join us to rework the area from last year and remove any debris possible. We're identifying natives and restoring our historic woodlands. Ask family, friends, and neighbors if they would like to help. It is a wonderful donation to God's world. Contact Carol Meeske for more information.

### Fat Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper

Wed., February 22, 5:30 - 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

After a 2 year hiatus, it's back! Fat (Shrove) Tuesday + Ash Wednesday. Pancake Supper and pancake games, followed by a short Service of Ashes to help us transition into Lent. Sign up online.

### Youth Group - Sunday, February 26 at 11:30 AM

We will meet at the church, watch the movie, *Puss n Boots: Last Wish*, and discuss mental health issues addressed in the movie. Lunch will be provided. Grades 6-12.

### The Very First Annual Church Variety Show: "The Congregational Church Follies"

Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 3 PM in the Sanctuary

Have you a "hidden" talent you've been wanting to dust off and share, just for fun? Do you play



## Looking Ahead This Week

February 5–February 12, 2023

### Sunday, February 5

11:00 am ~ Community Hour

11:15 am ~ Planning Your Memorial

### Monday, February 6

1:00 pm ~ WISE Book Club

### Tuesday, February 7

7:00 pm ~ Film at Tryon Theatre

### Wednesday, February 8

12:00 pm ~ Online Prayer Group

12:00 pm ~ Kiwanis

1:15 pm ~ Church Contract Bridge

1:15 pm ~ Chancel Choir

5:00 pm ~ Bell Choir

### Thursday, February 9

9:00 am & 12:30 pm ~ Bridge

11:00 am ~ Tryon Estates Worship

### Friday, February 10 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Bridge

### Saturday, February 11

10:00 am ~ Kudzu Eradication

### Sunday, February 12

10:00 am ~ Worship

10:00 am ~ Children's Worship

11:00 am ~ Community Hour

Full calendar listings in our weekly "Be The Church" email and on our website.

an instrument? Like to sing? Perform magic or tell jokes? Do you like to tell stories or read poetry aloud? Are you an “actor” and would enjoy working up a monologue, a scene or a funny skit with other people? Here is your chance to have some fun. Please let Susan Lyle or Patty Short know of your interest and your idea. All ages are welcome.

### **Church T-Shirt Design Contest**

We need your creativity and help. See eblast for more details.

### **Church Office Hours**

*Monday & Tuesday, 9 AM - 2 PM. Wednesday & Thursday, hours vary.*

If you want to drop something off at the church outside of set office hours, or discuss a church matter, please contact Pastor Meghan at 860-966-2432.

**Get help with Breeze.** Contact the church office for help registering or getting set up on your phone. Breeze will better connect you with the congregation and our ministries.

### **WEEKLY GATHERINGS**

**Prayer Group** - *Wednesdays at 12 PM on Zoom (link in email)*

Join us as we pray for the congregation, the community, and the world.

**Church Fun Contract Bridge**—*Wednesdays, 1:30-4:30 PM, 4th floor of the church*

Social bridge group. No fee, just fun. Open to all. Contact Miles Southworth to RSVP.

### **Prayer List**

*Prayer requests are submitted by filling out the Worship Response Card with a prayer request and placing it in the offering plate, or notifying the Pastor.*

**Joys:** February birthdays and anniversaries.

**Ongoing Concerns:** Sheila Jackson, Jerry Soderquist, Melissa Cox (*cancer*), Barney Eiserloh, The Mullin Family, Corie Watkin (*cancer*), Brett Serrett, Buddy & Quanita Williams, Matt Brown, Cathy Berlin, Students and their teachers, Sonja Karlsen, Baby Eloise, Marge Short, those killed and hurt by gun violence, our military and deployed personnel, Ginger Leavitt, Judith Cloud, for our country, all those in need of healing from Covid-19, Ruth Foy. All the CAREGIVERS among us who affect and touch so many lives.

**Grieving:** The Family and Friends of Julien Besnard. The Family and Friends of Leah Justice. The Family and Friends of Joe Boals. The Family and Friends of Ann Harvey Morgan. The Family and Friends of Dick Gillespie.

**United Church of Christ:** The ongoing work of our Southern Conference minister The Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, our Interim Western North Carolina Association Associate Conference Minister, The Rev. Warren Casiday, and of our partner churches in the Western North Carolina Association, Eastern North Carolina Association, and Eastern Virginia Association.

**Global Ministries:** The ongoing work of our partners in Global Ministries Mission personnel serving in Costa Rica.

**Those Who Serve:** For teachers, health care workers, first responders, poll workers, essential workers and all who sacrifice and serve. For the families that support those who serve through deployments, trainings, and each shift. For veterans and their families, who have given and sacrificed so much.

**Our Neighbors:** Those impacted by the evils of gun violence. The people of the Ukraine. For those impacted by climate disasters. All seeking refuge, peace, and justice. Those lacking adequate shelter, food, safety, and assistance in Polk County and beyond.



*An Open and Affirming Community*

*Founded in 1891*



*The Congregational Church of Tryon welcomes persons of all ages, races, social and economic circumstances, sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, abilities and church backgrounds to participate in the life and ministry of our church.*

**“WHOEVER** you are and  
**WHEREVER** you are on life’s journey,  
you are **WELCOME** here.”

**The Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)**

210 Melrose Ave, Tryon, NC 28782 ❖ 828.859.9414 ❖ [www.ucctryon.org](http://www.ucctryon.org)

Ministers, *The Members of The Congregational Church, UCC in Tryon*

*Learn more about our life of faith together on our website or on Facebook.*

Pastor, *The Rev. Meghan D. Young* ~ [pastor@ucctryon.org](mailto:pastor@ucctryon.org)

Minister of Faith Formation, *Lindsay Lewis* ~ [faithformation@ucctryon.org](mailto:faithformation@ucctryon.org)

Minister of Music, *Dr. Susan Lyle* ~ [music@ucctryon.org](mailto:music@ucctryon.org)

Church Administrator, *Michele Brulé* ~ [accounts@ucctryon.org](mailto:accounts@ucctryon.org)

Custodian, *Brittany Plumley* ~ [custodian@ucctryon.org](mailto:custodian@ucctryon.org)