



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

■ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TRYON ■



Red Vineyards near Arles, by Vincent van Gogh

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

1 October 2023 ❖ 10:00 in the morning

Welcome 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, we urge you to wear a mask if you may have been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms, 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 on our website or by using your phone to scan the QR code to the right. Paper copies may be found in the back of the sanctuary and placed in the offering plates. Submit prayer requests via the response 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

Elegy - Edward Landin

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

†HYMN (insert)

Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Becoming a baby,

Christ transformed all of us into his sisters and brothers.

Telling us stories we had forgotten,

God helps us to walk the paths of discipleship.

Becoming foolish in the world's eyes,

the Spirit teaches us all we need to find our way into the kingdom.

CALL TO COMMUNITY

PRAYER

Maryneal Jones, Liturgist

When we think your job is to listen to our petty quarrels, you lean over, put your finger to our lips, whispering, 'let me tell you a story.' Rock Splitter, we worship you. When we want to ask you all sorts of questions, and demand to see your background check, you put your arms around us, gently saying, 'I want you to meet some friends of mine.' Self Emptier: we follow you. When we are burned out by our chronic anger, when our throats are parched by our litany of laments, you take us by the hand, inviting, 'let's go get a cold drink down at

Rock's cafe.' Sharing Spirit, we adore you. God in Community, Holy in One, you are God, to whom we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Here is the good news: God does not hold a grudge against us.

God lets go of anger to welcome us as sisters and brothers of Jesus.

We will not be afraid, but will open our hearts and lives to God's compassionate grace.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Kyrie - Dvorak

†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 FIRST LESSON

A reading from letter to the Philippians: If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:1-13 (NRSVue)

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

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

†SUNG GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia - Fintan O'Carroll & Christopher Walker





†THE GOSPEL

Let us listen for the Word of God. **Our ears are open.**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew: When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 21:23-32 (NRSVue)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Meghan D. Young

Responding

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

GIFT OF MUSIC

The Chancel Choir

Come Share The Lord - Bryan Jeffrey Leech

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, 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 #44

Doxology (OLD HUNDREDTH)

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 #171

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES: BLESSING OUR MINISTRIES

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY: JOYS & CONCERNS

Feasting At The Table: The Sacrament of Holy Communion

At Christ's table we practice open Communion— all are welcome to receive, including children, and regardless of church membership or denominational affiliation. When indicated come forward to receive communion using the center aisle. Return using the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward, raise your hand, and a communion server will come to you. Gluten free wafers are provided in the bowls on the bread trays. The cups are filled with non-alcoholic grape juice.

INVITATION

adapted from liturgy by Maren C. Tirabassi

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

God, we give you thanks that someone taught us about the four directions, for we take this sacrament into us so that we can face the east and the north and the west and the south, not claiming to know what we find there, but asking that you turn us the particular way we should go tomorrow. Amen.

Sending

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

†HYMN #420

In the Morning When I Rise

†BLESSING

†SENDING #360

We Are Walking

**We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God.
We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God.
We are walking in the light of the light of God. We are walking,
walking, we are walking, walking, we are walking in the light of God.**

**marching/singing/dancing/praying*

POSTLUDE

Chant Heroique - George Blake

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED. NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Thank you to those assisting in today's service.

Worship Leaders:
Dr. Susan Lyle
Rev. Meghan Young

Ushers:
Peggy Franklin
Dianne Poague
Sherril Wingo

Liturgists:
Maryneal Jones

Music:
The Chancel Choir

Sound & Video:
Andrea Walter

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

Flowers:
Sign-up for worship leadership positions, and to donate flowers, online or in the narthex.

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.

Join Pastor Meghan for Community Hours this week on Wednesday, from 2-3 PM, at All Good Things Bakery.

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.

Abundant Life: Annual Giving Campaign

On Sundays, October 8, 15, and 22 we will be focusing on "Abundant Life". We are invited to consider three aspects of genuine abundance - community, compassion, and justice/love - as well as the ways our church, by God's grace, helps provide those three gifts to the world. On October 22, Giving Sunday, you will be asked to prayerfully fill out your annual pledge card.

Interested in Membership?

If you are interested in joining the church, or have questions about the United Church of Christ, this church, or what it means to partner and covenant with us as a member, please contact Pastor Meghan. New member Sunday will be in October.

Worship Conversations

TODAY, Sunday, October 1, Following Community hour. Discuss sermons from the past month, look ahead to coming scripture texts, and discuss worship & music.

Super Sunday: Apple Picking

TODAY, Sunday, October 1, at 1 PM. RSVP requested. Join us at Justus Farm for apple picking. Made possible through the generosity of the Roger's Fund.

Banned Book Club

Wednesday, October 4, 6:30-7:30 PM, Church Parlor
It's Banned Book Week, so we're kicking it off by discussing Out of Darkness, by Ashley Hope Perez.

Living The Questions - Sunday, October 8, after worship in the Fellowship Hall & on Zoom

Topic: "Creative Transformation". The essence of human nature is to take part in the dynamic and imaginative process of creation; transforming us, our relationships, our institutions, and our world.

Justice Hour - October 11, 6:30-7:30 PM, Church Parlor, in person and on zoom.

A monthly conversation about scripture, theology, justice, and current events. Participants must commit to respectful dialogue and fostering "brave space".

Church Office Hours - Monday & Tuesday, 9:30 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.



Looking Ahead This Week

September 24 - October 1, 2023

Sunday, October 1

11:00 am ~ Community Hour
11:15 am ~ Worship Conversation
1:00 pm ~ Super Sunday: Mini Golf

Wednesday, October 4

12:00 pm ~ Online Prayer Group
12:00 pm ~ Kiwanis
1:15 pm ~ Church Contract Bridge
4:00 pm ~ Choir
5:00 pm ~ White Chapel Ringers
6:30 pm ~ Banned Book Club

Thursday, October 5

9:00 am & 12:30 pm ~ Bridge

Friday, October 6 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Bridge

Sunday, October 8

10:00 am ~ Worship
11:00 am ~ Community Hour
11:15 am ~ Living The Questions

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

Breeze will better connect you with the congregation and our ministries.

WEEKLY & MONTHLY GATHERINGS

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.

Connect Groups

Connect groups are small groups that gather monthly, from September to May. Connect groups create space to connect, share, and learn together. If you missed the sign-up, contact Pastor Meghan.

Game Night & Dinner - *3rd Saturday of the month 5-7 PM Fellowship Hall*

Bring your favorite game! Free will offering for dinner. Sign-up appreciated.

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

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

Support Group for LGBTQIA2S+ Youth and their Parents

Meets every last Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall & Parlor. Parents meet from 7-8 PM, Youth from 7:30-8:30 PM with time to socialize beforehand. A therapist will be present.

Tryon Thrift at UCC - *Saturdays, 9 AM–3 PM, enter through the back parking lot*

A youth run thrift store to benefit the ministries of the church and area non-profits. Donations of clothing, shoes, accessories (jewelry, bags, hats, etc.), books, CD's, & records are always being accepted.

WISE Book Club - *1st & 3rd Mondays at 2 PM in the Church Parlor*

Any and all interested women are welcome. The group is starting a new book, "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" by Rachel Joyce.

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

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: October birthdays and anniversaries.

Ongoing Concerns: John Hensley, Bob Reynolds, Sharon Maynard (*facing a second round of possible cancer and having surgery*), Tom Rounds, Beth Laughridge, John Vining, The Mullin Family, Corie Watkin, Matt Brown, Sonja Karlsen, Eloise, Marge Short, Ginger Leavitt, Ruth Foy.

All the CAREGIVERS among us who affect and touch so many lives.

Grieving: The family and friends of: Cathy Berlin; Judith Cloud; Jill Crean (*Erin Alley's Mom*); Joe Cunningham.

United Church of Christ: The ongoing work of the United Church of Christ, including our General Minister & President The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, 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 work of our partners in Global Ministries Mission serving in Mexico.

Those Who Serve: For teachers, health care workers, first responders, poll workers, essential workers and all who sacrifice and serve. For those who serve, our military, deployed personnel and their families. For veterans and their families, who have given and sacrificed so much.

Our Neighbors: Those suffering from climate change. 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

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

Minister of Music, *Dr. Susan Lyle* ~ music@ucctryon.org

Staff Accountant & Building Support Manager, *Tracie Lutz* ~ accounts@ucctryon.org

Custodian, *Brittany Plumley* ~ custodian@ucctryon.org

Community Gatherings Coordinator, *Lindsay Lewis* ~ faithformation@ucctryon.org

559 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
 3. Here vouch - safe to all thy ser - vants what they ask of
 4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or

cor - ner - stone; cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 Hosts, to - day! With thy faith - ful lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee for - ev - er
 to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear thy peo - ple as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one; one in might and

help for - ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.
 one in glo - ry, while un - end - ing a - ges run.

WORDS: 7th cent. Latin; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851
 (Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7)

MUSIC: Henry Purcell, ca. 1680; adapt. by Ernest Hawkins, 1842

WESTMINSTER ABBEY
 87.87.87