



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

■ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TRYON ■



Food and water are provided by God to the Israelites during the Exodus, by Dieric Bouts

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

24 September 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

Prayer for Peace - Robert Lyons

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

†HYMN #258

Morning Has Broken

†CALL TO WORSHIP

In the prayers and the praise, in the words and the wonder:

we are given enough joy to live each day.

In the justice for the oppressed, in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

we are given enough compassion to use in service each day.

In the promises made to all, in the mercy offered to each:

we are given enough grace to share each day.

CALL TO COMMUNITY

PRAYER

Jackie Weedon, Liturgist

Fresh as each morning you come to us, Crafter of manna. Your grace rests gently upon us, waiting to be gathered, to become the bread of life we share throughout the day. Fresh as compassion's justice, you come to us, Servant of the poor. Choosing to give as you desire, you show us the last, so we can make them first in our hearts and hopes. Doing no wrong, you make us right with God for all time. Fresh as the water

which turns a desert into a meadowland of flowers, Spirit of uninterrupted grace, you come to us. When we would grumble, you give us the gospel to live out; when we would protest, you teach us songs of praise; when we would utter laments, you fill us with God's laughter. **God in Community, Holy in One, refresh us with your presence. 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 the book of Exodus:

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall

have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' ”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Exodus 16:2-15 (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

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

† THE GOSPEL

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

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew: “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20:1-16 (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

Rain Down - Jaime Cortez

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 #527

For the Fruit of All Creation

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY: JOYS & CONCERNS

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.

Sending

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

†HYMN #314

As We Gather at Your Table

†BLESSING

†SENDING #375

Weave

Weave, weave, weave us together. Weave us together in unity and love. Weave, weave, weave us together. Weave us together, together in love.

POSTLUDE

Marching to Zion - Lani Smith

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:
Carol Jean Vosburgh

Liturgists:
Jackie Weedon

Music:
The Chancel Choir

Sound & Video:
Sign-up online or in the narthex.

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

Flowers:
Given by Pat Gass in memory of Eric Gass.
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.

Worship & Faith Formation Programming

Look for your fall programming guide, and yearly adult faith formation guide in the narthex and eblast.

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.

Quarterly Conversation with the Governing Board & Ministry Team Training

TODAY, Sunday, September 24, following worship
Join us for a quarterly update on the ministries and finances of the church, as well as a brief ministry team training.

Pollinator Party - TODAY, Sunday, September 24, 2-5 PM
Champions for Wildlife will be presenting about pollinators and how to support them. Our Creation Justice Team will give tours of our gardens and woodland to talk about our projects, plant choices, tools and experiences. There will also be lemonade, iced-tea and cookies!

Worship Conversations

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

Super Sunday: Mini-Golf

Sunday, October 1, at 1 PM. RSVP requested.
Join us for an intergenerational mini-golf. 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.

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, September 24

- 11:00 am ~ Community Hour
- 11:15 am ~ Quarterly Conversation w/
Governing Board & Ministry
Team Training
- 2:00 pm ~ Pollinator Party

Tuesday, September 26

- 7:00 pm ~ LGBTQ+ Support Group

Wednesday, September 27

- 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

Thursday, September 28

- 9:00 am & 12:30 pm ~ Bridge
- 11:00 am ~ Tryon Estates Worship

Friday, September 29 - Office Closed

- 9:00 am ~ Bridge

Sunday, October 1

- 10:00 am ~ Worship
- 11:00 am ~ Community Hour
- 11:15 am ~ Worship Conversation
- 1:00 pm ~ Super Sunday: Mini Golf

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: September birthdays and anniversaries.

Ongoing Concerns: John Hensley, Bob Reynolds, Sharon Maynard (*facing a second round of possible cancer and having surgery*), Tom Rounds, Rick Dunn, Joan McAdam, 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 Germany.

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