



# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

■ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TRYON ■



*Entrusted Talents, by Paulamaria Walter*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

19 November 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, 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. Our Fellowship Hall and downstairs nursery is also available for parent use. See usher for directions.

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

The White Chapel Ringers

*Let All Things Now Living - arr. by Lloyd Larson*

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

### WELCOME & GREETING

¶ *Following the welcome, you are invited to greet your neighbors. By introducing ourselves and sharing a warm greeting, we express the hospitality of our congregation. Please share a smile and a welcoming word with those around you.*

### †HYMN #526

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

Before there was any time,  
**there was God.**  
When we wandered the wilderness,  
**God built a way for us.**  
When we lived in exile,  
**our homes were built by God.**  
When we are overwhelmed with life,  
**God unknots the tightness in our shoulders.**  
When we seek to serve faithfully,  
**God provides the opportunities.**  
When tomorrow comes,  
**we find God awake and waiting for us.**  
When time ends,  
**there will still be God.**

Again we must confess, Master of the Universe, our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they make. Now, in the silence, when we struggle to control our lives, may we, once again, empty ourselves of our pride and fears, to be filled with your hope. Now, in these moments, when we cannot let go of our worries and doubts, may we, once again, open our hands to hold your faith. Now, on this day which is only and always your gift to us, may we, once again, live into your kingdom. Now, as we lift our hearts to you, God in Community, Holy in One, we once again pray. Amen.

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Servant.  
**The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness,  
 but the fullness of grace and hope in our God. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

## †THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*¶ Passing of the Peace confers the blessing and peace of God as a spiritual act of unification. In response to the prayer of confession and words of forgiveness, please turn to your neighbors, in the pew next to you, and offer a sign of Christ's reconciling peace with the words "the peace of Christ be with you" and a handshake, an embrace, or a non-contact gesture).*

## SUNG RESPONSE #278

*Hear Our Prayer, O God*

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;  
 incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

Listening

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

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## THE FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Psalms:

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth

or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past

or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.  
You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.  
For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.  
The days of our life are seventy years or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.  
Who considers the power of your anger?

Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.  
So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Psalm 90:1-12 (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 #486 (*refrain only, sung twice*)

*For All the Saints*

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

†THE GOSPEL

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

A reading the Gospel according to Matthew:

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSVue)

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

SERMON

Rev. Meghan D. Young

Thank you to those assisting in today's service.

**Responding**

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

GIFT OF MUSIC

The Chancel Choir

*O Give Thanks - James Corfe*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: 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.**

GIFT OF MUSIC

The White Chapel Ringers

*Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us - arr. by John Purifoy*

CALL TO COMMUNITY

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 #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

**Sending**

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

†HYMN #23

*We Gather Together*

†BLESSING

†SENDING #27

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices, who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

POSTLUDE

*Come, Ye thankful People, Come - arr. by Douglas E. Wagner*

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

Worship Leaders:

Dr. Susan Lyle

Rev. Meghan Young

Ushers:

Mary & Tom

Rounds

Liturgists:

Dorothy Kirk

Music:

The Chancel Choir

The White Chapel

Ringers - Jane

Patterson, Director

Sound & Video:

Ray & Lisa Owens

Community Hour:

Caring Ministries

Team

Flowers:

The non-perishable items in today's cornucopia will be donated to Outreach to benefit our neighbors who struggle with food insecurity.

**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.

There will be no Community Hours this week.

## 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**  
Prayerfully fill out your 2023 annual pledge card.

**Community Thanksgiving Service**  
Please join us today, Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 4 PM at Tryon United Methodist Church for our Annual Community-wide, ecumenical, Thanksgiving Service. Bring non-perishable items (to be donated to Outreach) for the offering.

**Outreach Holiday Gift Program (Angel Tree)**  
Your generosity will help children, families, and seniors in our community experience some joy this Christmas. Gift cards and toys are due back on Sunday, November 26. Please take a card, with directions, from the Narthex and fill out the sign-up sheet.

**Advent Wreath Making & Greening the Church**  
*Sunday, December 3, 2023, Following Worship*  
Prepare for the season by making an Advent wreath with fresh greenery. For Advent Wreath making, wreath forms and candles will be provided. Bring some clippers and fresh evergreens from your yard to share. Sign-up for Advent Wreath Making. We will also be decorating the church grounds and sanctuary for the season.

**Christkindlmarkt**  
Join us on Saturday, December 9, from 1-6 PM, outside the church, for a Family Christmas Market with Santa, food, carolers, and artisans. Sign-up online or during Community Hour, to volunteer.

**Vacation Coverage:** Pastor Meghan will be on vacation, November 21-27, 2023. For pastoral emergencies, please call Rev. Lynnette Sills at 828-980-3133. For building or grounds questions please contact, Tracie Lutz at [accounts@ucctryon.org](mailto:accounts@ucctryon.org).

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



## Looking Ahead This Week

*November 19 - 26, 2023*

### Sunday, November 19

11:00 am ~ Community Hour  
4:00 pm ~ Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

### Wednesday, November 22

12:00 pm ~ Online Prayer Group  
1:15 pm ~ Church Contract Bridge  
4:00 pm ~ Choir  
5:00 pm ~ White Chapel Ringers

Thursday, November 23 - Office Closed  
**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

Friday, November 24 - Office Closed

Saturday, November 25 - Office Closed  
9:00 am ~ Tryon Thrift UCC

### Sunday, November 26

10:00 am ~ Worship  
11:00 am ~ Community Hour  
11:15 am ~ Monthly Chat with the  
Governing Board

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

## 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. Contact Pastor Meghan for more information.

**Monthly 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 currently reading and discussing, "Learning To Walk In The Darkness" by Barbara Brown Taylor.

*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:** November birthdays and anniversaries.

**Ongoing Concerns:** Bob Brueckner (Ann White's brother, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer), Meredith (the Vosburgh's daughter), Hersh Goldberg & all those being held hostage, Jenny (battling cancer), Susan Hettinger, John Hensley, Bob Reynolds, Sharon Maynard, Tom Rounds, Beth Laughridge, John Vining, The Mullin Family, 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 & Friends of Ronnie Blackwell. The Family & Friends of Dan Trumbull

**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 East Timor.

**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:** The people of Israel and Palestine - we pray for a just peace. 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](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 Music, *Dr. Susan Lyle* ~ [music@ucctryon.org](mailto:music@ucctryon.org)

Staff Accountant & Building Support Manager, *Tracie Lutz* ~ [accounts@ucctryon.org](mailto:accounts@ucctryon.org)

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

Community Gatherings Coordinator, *Lindsay Lewis* ~ [faithformation@ucctryon.org](mailto:faithformation@ucctryon.org)