



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

▪ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TRYON ▪



The Transfiguration, Christ Brazelton

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Transfiguration

11 February 2024 ❖ 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. 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

Meditation on Love Divine, All Loves Excelling - Gerald Peterson

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

WELCOME & GREETING

¶ *By introducing ourselves and sharing a warm greeting, we express the hospitality of our congregation. Please share a welcoming word with those around you.*

†HYMN #250

Here in This Place

†CALL TO WORSHIP

You are with us, God of sunrises:
**you awaken us with each bright new day,
overflowing with promise.**

You are with us, Inviting God:
**calling us to respond to all the chances
to share the spirit of grace and hope.**

You are with us, Glory of God:
**gathering us into the presence of your peace,
listening to the deep sighs of our hearts.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dorothy Kirk, *Liturgist*

Glory of all creation: as the sun nudges us out of bed each morning, so you gently lift the veil of doubts and fears from our hearts that we might see your joy. At the setting of the sun, you do not leave us alone, but you sit with us through the night, sharing stories of hope. And we

do not lose heart.

Joyous Face of God: on the peaks of promise, we discover your grace, sparkling with gentle delight as it comes to rest within our weary lives. In the valleys of despair, as we trudge long, our burdens dragging behind us, we turn to discover you putting them on your shoulders, the gentleness of your compassion lighting the way to the kingdom. And we do not lose heart.

Listening Spirit: in the hard times which life may offer, you are there with us, hearing not only our struggles, but the hopes singing silently in our souls. In the barren seasons through which we may walk, we find you ahead of us, planting the seeds of joy which will once more blossom in the springtime of God's love. And we do not lose heart. God in Community, Holy in One, we lift our hearts, our hopes, our voices as we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

We know who God is – the One who comes to love us, to forgive us, and to save us.
**Thanks be to God. We will spread this good news,
and share this grace and hope, with everyone we meet. 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. 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 #341

Peace I Leave with You

**Peace I leave with you, my friends, peace the world cannot give.
Peace I leave with you, my friends, so that your joy be ever full.**

Listening

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Kings:

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2 Kings 2:1-12 (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

Sing Alleluia to the Lord

†THE GOSPEL

Let us listen for the Word of God.

Our ears are open.

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark:

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9:29-39 (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

Elaine Jenkins, soprano & Jackie Weedon, alto

There Is a Balm In Gilead - arr. Lloyd Larson

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.

†HYMN #485

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

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, 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 #445

Be Thou My Vision

†BLESSING

†SENDING SONG #467, v. 1 & 4

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime, Lord, and anywhere.
I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime, Lord, and anywhere.
I'm gonna sing...

POSTLUDE

Praise Ascending - David Paxton

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:
Tom & Mary
Rounds

Liturgists:
Dorothy Kirk

Music:
Elaine Jenkins
Jackie Weedon

Sound & Video:
Andrea Walter

Community Hour:
Dorothy Kirk

Flowers:
Donated by Dorothy
Kirk in memory of
her mother.

*Sign-up for worship
leadership positions or
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.

We're Hiring!

We are hiring a part-time Church Administrator & Accountant. See our website for more details. Please share with those you think might be a good fit.

Joy & Justice Book Club

Today, February 11, 2024

following community hour in the Fellowship Hall

For our next Joy & Justice Book Club we will be reading and discussing Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus, by Reggie Williams. The book is a bit expensive, so a packet of selected chapters will be provided.

Lenten Brochure & Devotionals

Pick up your Lenten brochures and devotionals at the back of the sanctuary.

Fat Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 14, 5:30 - 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall

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.

Monthly Game Night & Dinner

Saturday, February 17, 5-7 PM Fellowship Hall

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

Worship Conversations

Sunday, February 18, Following Community hour.

Discuss sermons from the past month, look ahead to coming scripture texts, and discuss worship & music.

Revelation Class

February 24, 9 AM-4 PM, 4th floor conference room. Sign-up by February 18.

Maryneal Jones has offered to teach an all-day, Saturday seminar on the book of Revelation. The seminar would offer a cumulative grasp, serious bible study, and engagement. Sign-up requested.

2nd Annual Church Variety Show - March 3, 3 PM, Sanctuary, potluck to follow.

Contact Dr. Susan Lyle if you would like to participate. All ages and talents encouraged and welcome.

Church Office Hours - Monday & Thursday, 9:30 AM - 2 PM. Tuesday & Wednesday, 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

February 4 - February 11, 2024

Sunday, February 11

11:00 am ~ Community Hour

11:30 am ~ Joy & Justice Book Club

Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm ~ Online Prayer Group

1:15 pm ~ Church Contract Bridge

4:00 pm ~ Choir

5:00 pm ~ White Chapel Ringers

5:30 pm ~ Fat Ash Wednesday

Thursday, February 15

9:00 am & 12:30 pm ~ Bridge

Friday, February 16 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Bridge

Saturday, February 17 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Tryon Thrift UCC

Sunday, February 18

10:00 am ~ Worship

11:00 am ~ Community Hour

11:30 am ~ Worship Conversations

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.

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: February birthdays and anniversaries.

Ongoing Concerns: Witt, Libby Boone (*on hospice*), John Short (*cancer*), Mary Young (*hospice*), Madeleine Crolla, Chuck Hooker, Kory Hemenway (*cancer*), Survivors of child abuse and neglect, Gary Poague, Brett Surret, Adam Gumble, Bob Brueckner, Meredith, Hersh Goldberg & all those being held hostage, Jenny, John Hensley, Bob Reynolds, Sharon Maynard, Tom Rounds, 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: John Brown (*Lori Gedding's Dad*), Ken Yeager, Susan Hettinger, Ronnie Blackwell, and 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 Fiji.

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

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