



# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

■ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TRYON ■



*Earth's Beauty—Russian Ridge Open Space, California, junaidrao*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Easter

21 April 2024 ❖ 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

*A Garden Prayer - Roberta Rowland*

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

### WELCOME & GREETING

Thom White, *Liturgist*

¶ *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 #258

*Morning Has Broken*

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

The morning stars profess God's glory:

**the waking birds harmonize a refrain of grace.**

The sun warms us with God's hope,

the night sky whispers peace to our sleepy souls:

**creation's voice echoes continually in our hearts,**

**reminding us of God's steadfast love.**

Our wisdom is shattered by God's absurd love;

God's vulnerability strengthens our feeble faith:

**God's words place joy in our hearts; we follow them to peace and hope.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Scripture tells us that "creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed."

**Creation is waiting for us.**

To open our eyes to the devastation in our world.

**Creation is waiting for us.**

To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful.

**Creation is waiting for us.**

To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.

**Creation is waiting for us.**

To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self.

**Creation is waiting for us.**

To remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

**Creation is waiting for us.**

In all these things and more, creation waits for us  
to assume our roles as its servants and protectors.

**With God's help, we will answer creation's call. Amen.**

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

When brokenhearted prayers replace piety, when we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God's powerful love.

**We are healed, to bring healing to our world; we are strengthened in faith, to become spent for others; we are set free from our bondage to sin, so we may become servants of Christ. Thanks be to God. 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 book of Psalms:

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,

and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them,

and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can detect one's own errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19 (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 ACCLAMATION, #209, vs 1

*Alleluia! The Strive is O'er*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun: Alleluia!**

†THE SECOND READING

Let us listen for the Word of God.

**Our ears are open.**

A reading from the book of Leviticus:

The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a Sabbath for the LORD. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in their yield, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the LORD: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. You may eat what the land yields during its Sabbath—you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound laborers who live with you, for your livestock also, and for the wild animals in your land all its yield shall be for food.

"You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the Day of Atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee for you: you shall not sow or reap the aftergrowth or harvest the unpruned vines. For it is a Jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces.

Leviticus 25:1-12 (NRSVue)

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

SERMON, *Give it a Rest*

Rev. Dr. Joan M. Saniuk

**Responding**

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

GIFT OF MUSIC

The Chancel Choir

*I Trust in the Lord* - Joseph Martin

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 #54

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

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 #49

*Easter Doxology (OLD HUNDREDTH)*

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord.  
The life laid down, the life restored; Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

†PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

**Sending**

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

†HYMN #51

*All Creatures of Our God, Now Sing*

†BLESSING

†SENDING SONG, #333, vs. 1

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace: oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

POSTLUDE

*Psalms 19* - Benedetto Marcello

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

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

Worship Leaders:  
Dr. Susan Lyle  
Rev. Dr. Joan M. Saniuk

Ushers:  
Tom & Mary Rounds

Liturgists:  
Thom White

Music:  
The Chancel Choir

Sound & Video:  
Andrea Walter

Community Hour:  
*Sign-up online or in the Narthex.*

Flowers:  
Donated by Christel Walter  
*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.

There will be no community hours this week. Community hours will resume on May 1.

## 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.

### Welcome!

Today we welcome back The Rev. Dr. Joan M. Saniuk, of Hendersonville, a retired pastor ordained in the Metropolitan Community Church.

### Earth Day Garden Party - TODAY, April 21, 3-4:30 PM

Join our Creation Justice team as we learn from Spriggly's Beescaping. There will also be garden tours featuring our native plantings, lemonade, and cookies.

### Tryon Bell Fest - TODAY, April 21, 4 PM

Participating choirs include The Congregational Church, UCC, Holy Cross, First Baptist Church of Tryon, Tryon Seventh-day Adventist, and Tryon UMC. Concert will be in the Morgan Center at Tryon Seventh-day Adventist Church.

### Vacation & Reading Week Coverage

Pastor Meghan will be on a partial reading week and vacation, April 16-25, 2024. For pastoral emergencies, please call Rev. Lynnette Sills at 828-980-3133. For building or grounds questions please contact, Lisa Owens at [accounts@ucctryon.org](mailto:accounts@ucctryon.org).

### Quarterly Conversation with the Governing Board

*Sunday, April 28, following worship, Fellowship Hall*  
Join the Governing Board for a quarterly update on the ministries and finances of the church.

### Banned Book Club - May 1, 6:30 PM, Parlor

Join us as we discuss *Lawn Boy: A Novel* by Jonathan Evison.

### Kudzu Clean-Up Workday

*Saturday, May 4, 9-11 AM, Back parking lot*

Join us as we remove invasives and restore our native woodlands. Bring work gloves and dress appropriately.

### 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

*April 21 - April 28, 2024*

### Sunday, April 21

11:00 am ~ Community Hour  
3:00 pm ~ Earth Day Garden Party

### Wednesday, April 24

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

### Thursday, April 25

9:00 am & 12:30 pm ~ Bridge

### Friday, April 26 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Bridge

### Saturday, April 27 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Tryon Thrift UCC

### Sunday, April 28

10:00 am ~ Worship  
11:00 am ~ Community Hour  
11:15 am ~ Quarterly Conversation

*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:** The baptism of Stevie Juniper Haynes, April birthdays and anniversaries.

**Ongoing Concerns:** Sarah Gibson (*cancer*), Barbara Paulk (*cancer*), Ann Franklin, Chris Bartol, Gratitude for the warmth and light of spring, Adam Gumble, Marty Morgan (*cancer*), Witt, John Short (*cancer*), Madeleine Crolla, Kory Hemenway (*cancer*), Brett Surret, Bob Brueckner, Tom Rounds, The Mullin Family, Eloise, Marge Short, Ginger Leavitt, Ruth Foy. All the CAREGIVERS among us who affect and touch so many lives.

**Grieving:** The Family & Friends of: Bob Reynolds, Ernst Heubach, (*Christel Walter's brother-in-law*), Libby Boone, Carol Lawrence, and Susan Gautsche.

**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 Lebanon/Syria.

**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)

Interim Church Administrator & Accountant, *Lisa Owens* ~ [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)