



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

■ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TRYON ■



Christ: Consider The Lilies, Kelly Latimore

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

7 July 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

For the Bread Which You Have Broken - Anthony Giamanco

¶ *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 #6

Bring Many Names

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet God provides for the basic sustenance of life.

May our hearts be open to trust you.

Look at the birds of the air; they neither study nor plan nor plot their course and yet God writes the instinct for migration into their hearts.

May our eyes be open to see you.

Look at the birds of the air; they neither talk nor vote nor debate their responsibility yet God weaves them into communities which nurture and defend.

May our hands be open to serve you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sandra Gass, Liturgist

Because we live in this modern, tech-driven, twittering age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing. We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new computer skills, but

have forgotten that life is more than a machine. We have more than we could ever use yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily. Forgive us, Restorer of life. As you clothe us with your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little. As our hearts overflow with your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet. As you feed us with your joy and hope, may we welcome to the Table all those whose lives are filled with tears and pain. As we gather with family and friends during this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news: as God dresses creation in wonder, so you will be clothed in grace; as God pours out abundance upon the earth, so you will be blessed with peace and joy. **We don't say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy. We are blessed, for 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. 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 #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.**

Listening

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew: "And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If, then, the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Matthew 6:16-23 (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, #296, vs 1 & 2, no refrain *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*

**Open your ears, O faithful people, open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O faithful people, God now speaks to you.**

**They who have ears to hear the message, they who have ears, now let them hear;
They who would learn the way of wisdom, let them hear God's word.**

†THE GOSPEL

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

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew: “No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today. “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

Matthew 6:24-7:5 (NRSVue)

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

†SUNG GOSPEL ACCLAMATION#296, Sing refrain only x2 *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*

**God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

¶ *The People sit following the acclamation.*

SERMON, *The Sermon on The Mount: Finding Your Treasure*

Rev. Meghan D. Young

Responding

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

GIFT OF MUSIC

Katelyne Graham, *viola solo*

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus - Louisa M.R. Stead and Wm. Kirkpatrick

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: JOYS & CONCERNS

†HYMN #443

Seek Ye First

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.



Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

†PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

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

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

adapted from liturgy by Rev. Quinn Caldwell

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

written by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette

God who makes all things new, we thank you for letting us come as we are and share in this meal. We know that we are what we eat, and having taken into ourselves the bread and cup of Jesus, we gain his power, his healing abilities, his commitment to justice for all people. Help all of us gathered here to work together as the different parts of the body of Christ—hands, eyes, voice, and conscience—to carry on Christ’s work and witness and worship. Amen.

Sending

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

†HYMN #481

Lift Every Voice and Sing

†BLESSING

†BLESSING RESPONSE, #291

Danish Amen

Amen, amen, amen.

POSTLUDE

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus - Michael Burkhardt

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:
Leslie Lewis
Jackie Weedon

Liturgists:
Sandra Gass

Music:
Katelyne Graham

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

Community Hour:
Lisa Schulenburg

Flowers:
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.

Summer Worship Series: Sermon on The Mount

June 9, 2024 - July 14, 2024

Join us as we explore Jesus' rich teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. Not so much a sermon but rather a series of discrete teachings, found in Matthew 5-7, is what Amy-Jill Levine, in her book *Sermon on the Mount*, describes as "a beginner's guide to the kingdom of heaven." She writes that "the kingdom of heaven occurs when people take the words of Jesus in these chapters to heart and live them." Over the next six weeks, we'll explore the Beatitudes, Jesus's Torah interpretation, Jesus's thoughts on practicing piety, the Lord's Prayer, and see how profound it is when heard through the ears of a first-century Jew living in the Roman Empire. Then we'll move to Jesus's wise words about how we find our treasures, and how easily we are distracted by what we don't actually need. We'll end with "living into the kingdom" and what that might mean for us.

Pastor Meghan's Parental Leave

Pastor Meghan's last Sunday preaching will be Sunday, July 14. She expects to return to the pulpit on Sunday, September 22 or 29. During this time we will be using staff and volunteers to maintain the ministries of the church. Rev. Lynette Sills & Rev. Rob Parsons will be available for emergency pastoral care needs, and the caring ministries team will be leading up pastoral visiting. We also are excited to welcome several guest preachers during the 10 weeks of Pastor Meghan's leave. Please check upcoming bulletins & eblasts for more information.

Kudzu Clean-Up & Choir Room Workday - Saturday, July 13, 9-11 AM, Back parking lot

Join us as we remove invasives and restore our native woodlands. Bring work gloves and dress appropriately. We'd also love your helping moving furniture back into the Choir Room.

Worship Conversations - July 14, 2024 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for our monthly conversation about worship and music.

Christkindlmarkt Craft Day - July 20, 3:30-5:30 PM, 4th Floor Conference Room

Join us as we make a variety of crafts to be sold at the market. Donations of cards and old calendars appreciated.

You're Invited: Maryneal Jones' 90th Birthday Party - August 11, 2024 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall

The Jones family invites you to celebrate Maryneal's 90th birthday at a luncheon. Special music will begin at 11:30 AM. Lunch will be served at noon. Fun and frolic will continue with dancing thereafter. Learn to clog, shag, disco or just watch. No gifts please. The honor of your presence is all that is desired. So that the caterer may plan services, RSVP by July 28. Sign-up online or call Maryneal at 828-894-5784.

Caring Ministries Team invitation

The Caring Ministries team is working to coordinate an ongoing group of church folks to visit our homebound members. If you're interested in being part of this effort, bringing joy and companionship to our beloved church



Looking Ahead This Week

July 7 - July 14, 2024

Sunday, July 7

11:00 am ~ Community Hour & Cornhole

12:00 am ~ Governing Board Retreat

Wednesday, July 10

12:00 pm ~ Online Prayer Group

1:15 pm ~ Church Contract Bridge

Thursday, July 11

9:00 am & 12:30 pm ~ Bridge

Friday, July 12 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Bridge

Saturday, July 13 - Office Closed

9:00 am ~ Tryon Thrift UCC

9:00 am ~ Kudzu & Choir Room Workday

Sunday, July 14

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.

members, please contact Dianne Poague.

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.

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: July birthdays and anniversaries. The birth of Eno Oliver Haynes (*The Haynes' grandson*).

Ongoing Concerns: Robin Vosburgh (*recovering from surgery*), Julia Hodges (MS), Linda Miner (*cancer*), Michael Collier (*brain cancer*), Rev. Christopher Huff (*Pancreatic Cancer*), Barney Eiserloh, Sarah Gibson (*cancer*), Ann Franklin, Adam Gumble, 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: Don Wilson, Marty Morgan, Linda Eiserloh, and Barbara Paulk.

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 Sri Lanka.

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

Interim Church Administrator & Accountant, *Lisa Owens* ~ accounts@ucctryon.org

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

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