

WORSHIP - 10AM

- The congregation is invited to rise, in body or spirit.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: "O Lord, Thou Art My God and King"

- Broughton

Call to Worship

Liberating God, we worship and praise you
for delivering your people of old from enslavement in Egypt
by opening up a new and unexpected future before them.

**They experienced your grace and mercy
in awesome and life-sustaining ways
which must have been like an impossible dream coming true.**

Through these acts you showed your compassion
for the weak and powerless of this world.

**You opened a new future for us
when your love and compassion, your mercy and grace
became enfleshed in Jesus Christ.**

Through him, the impossible once more became reality when love defeated evil once and for all.
We pray that this time of worship will be a true offering of our wonder and praise that you should care for us so deeply and so faithfully. Amen.

- Hymn: "Come, Ye Faithful Raise the Strain" #169
- Call to Confession
- Prayer of Confession (in unison)
It is never easy for us to confess but deep down inside, we know that graced, we have trouble being grace-full to others; forgiven, we are eager to judge and punish all who hurt us; freed, we find ways to put restrictions on people we fear.
Forgive us, Servant God. You show mercy more often than we deserve; you pardon us more times than we can count. And why? Because we are the Lord's – sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, who died and lived again, so we might live beyond death with you. Amen.
- Words of Assurance and Grace
God's hand of mercy is stretched out to us,
making a way through all that threatens us,
to touch us with grace and hope.
We stand before our God,
singing praise to the One who turns our despair into joy,
our fears into faith. Amen.
- Sung Response verse 1, #1
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Responsive Reading of Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

**Who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting
to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children.

Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 14:19-31

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith written by Michael Perry

**We believe in God the Father,
who reveals his love to us in Christ.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who pours out God's Holy Spirit on us.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who teaches us God's truth.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayer of Our Savior/ The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sung Response: "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

#501

**Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Call to Offering and Stewardship Moment

"Where Grace happens, Generosity happens."

-Max Lucado

Offertory: "The Hand of God"

- Sewel

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

- Prayer of Dedication

**God, it is our prayer that this money,
the symbol of all that we have received as a gift from you,
will be used through our church community and beyond
to further your never-ending renewal in our world. Amen.**

- Benediction

- Three-fold Amen

- Hymn: "*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

See Insert

- Postlude: "Praise the Lord, Who Reigns Above"

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Anyone giving electronically, may do so now by using the QR reader on your phone to scan the QR

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### **CONTRIBUTIONS – September 10, 2023**

Attendance: 33 (IP); 8 (Zoom)  
(IP) = In-person

|                 |           | To Date:   |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Income Needed   | \$3,168   | \$117,216  |
| Income Received | \$2,006   | \$90,421   |
| Difference (-)  | \$(1,163) | \$(26,795) |

## 457 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

D D G D

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;  
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;  
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

A Bm G D G/D D

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
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G D Bm

In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,

D A7 Bm G D

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
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 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

8

## Announcements – 9/17/2023

### Today's Worship Helpers

|                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Greeter:                  | Missy Seasholtz              |
| Lay Reader:               | Betty Yerger                 |
| Ushers/Offering Stewards: | Gail Stevens / Joe Seasholtz |
| Tech Team:                | Joe Seasholtz                |

### Next Sunday's Worship Helpers: \*

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greeter:                  | Barb Yoder                  |
| Lay Reader:               | Alec Hoffman                |
| Ushers/Offering Stewards: | Teri Hoffman / Betty Yerger |
| Tech Team:                | Alec Hoffman                |

*\*If you are scheduled to serve in worship and are not able to serve on your scheduled Sunday, kindly switch with someone on the schedule and please notify the office of the changes. Thank you!*

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### **DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN / NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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*The newsletter deadline for November is Friday, October 13*

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### **PASTORAL CARE**

If you or a loved one is in need of pastoral care, a visit, a prayer or even just a chat, please reach out to Pastor Stephanie.

Pastor Stephanie can be reached by Call/ Text: 267-834-5305  
Church office: 215 234-4941  
Email: [pastor.friedensucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.friedensucc@gmail.com)

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### Sunday, September 17

The Deacon's are meeting immediately after worship this morning.

### Sunday, September 24

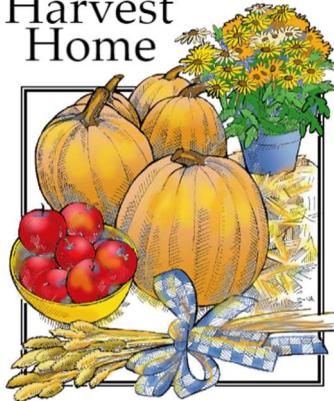
Harvest Home

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Since the choir is not able to return to its normal schedule due to Gia's absence, Marilyn Mellon is willing to coordinate a Women's Choir for October 8. *Rehearsals will be at 9am on October 1 and 8.* We plan to do something very simple, possibly all in unison. All women are welcome to sing!



## Harvest Home



Harvest Home will be celebrated on Sunday, September 24 during our weekly worship service. Rev. Brad Mellon will be preaching. Donations for The Open Link Food Pantry are needed.

### HARVEST HOME MUMS

Today is the deadline for ordering mums. Please give order slips to Judy Kulp or put in Offering Plate in an envelope marked as mums. Thank you.

The United Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need offering will be received on Sunday, October 1. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.



### OPEN LINK Food Pantry Donations

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Pastor Stephanie has started a biweekly email newsletter. If you are not receiving it, AND would like to, please make sure Pastor Stephanie has your email. You can email her at [pastor.friedensucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.friedensucc@gmail.com) OR you can subscribe directly by going to this web address <http://eepurl.com/ixz68o>

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Blessings and prayers will be offered individually for people and their beloved pets. Come to the fellowship hall parking lot. The event will be held rain or shine.

Animals on leashes or in crates are welcome. Photos of pets are also welcome. Special stuffed animals, pet rocks and mementoes will also be blessed. Animals on leashes or in crates are welcome. Photos of pets, stuffed animals, pet rocks and other mementoes will also be blessed. There will be a donation basket for local animal shelters. Some needed items are: cat and dog canned food, cat toys, paper towels and laundry detergent. All items collected will be given to the SPCA in Perkiomenville.

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PSEC's Conference Minister, Rev. Bill Worley and Rev. Dale Davis lead a discussion around Andrew Root's book: Churches and the Crisis of Decline. The thesis of the book is designed to reframe the current crisis many local congregations face, from a preoccupation with attracting resources and members to save the institution, to a re-focus on developing a community of "mystical and faithful presence."

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**Happy Birthday to the following members and friends!**

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|---------------|---------------------------------|
| September 17  | Craig Pedersen, Scott Sowers    |
| September 20  | Jodi DelConte, Brad Mellon      |
| September 21  | Brett Long                      |
| September 22  | Delphine Morris,                |
| September 23  | Lillian Hess, Matthew Hess      |
| September 24: | Bill Pierson, Robert Smith, Sr. |
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### **To connect online:**

If you are able to join online, type the link below into your browser. The meeting ID is **853 4942 3467**. The password is **850291**. You will need to download the Zoom Cloud Meeting app to join in digitally. The zoom link for Sunday's worship service is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85349423467?pwd=ZmpkRFBwNVMwRURsaHRITmozZUxkZz09>

### **To call in by telephone:**

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## **Prayer**

Dear God,  
Each day we behold the beauty and goodness of all that you have created.  
Each day we breathe in your air, drink your water, and enjoy your fields of harvest.  
We rejoice and give thanks for the gifts of your creation!  
Amen.

## **Litany of Wonder**

**Leader:** Let us behold the wonders of creation. Let us marvel at the infinite artistry of nature.

**People:** Let our senses take it all in: each tree, each flower, each blade of grass.

**Leader:** All around us are gifts that have been bestowed upon us by God.

**People:** Today, we renew our spirits and fill our hearts with gratitude

**Behold!**  
With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, thorough the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.

**Please donate today!**

**For more resources and to share and learn best practices for environmental justice, visit**  
[\*\*ucc.org/nin\*\*](http://ucc.org/nin)

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Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

**[www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Thank You!**





Artist: Alexis  
Age: 15  
Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO

# BehOLD!

*"God saw everything God made  
and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31*

## Young environmental advocates lead the way.

**A**t First Congregational Church in Montclair, New Jersey, young climate leaders like Jey Cook and Simona Graceffo have played a leading role in advancing the care of God's creation both within and beyond their church. With a sense of passion and purpose, they created an uplifting video to kick-start the all-church process of becoming a UCC Creation Justice Church. Each of them was also a climate justice fellow at their church over the course of the summer as they engaged with efforts in the broader community to promote local sustainability and food security. Witness the leadership of Cook and Graceffo in their video:

<https://bit.ly/CreationJusticeVideo>



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**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

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The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
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**For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting  
to everlasting on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children.

**Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

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"Where Grace happens, Generosity happens."

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Offertory: "The Hand of God"

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**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
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*See Insert*

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D D G D

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A Bm G D G/D D

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 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
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G D Bm

In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,

D A7 Bm G D

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
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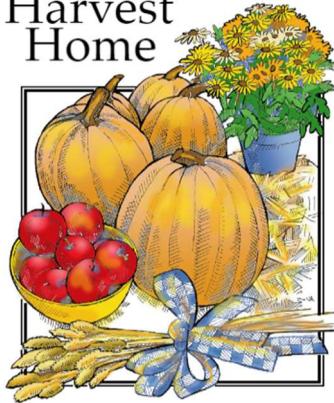
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**For more resources and to share and learn best practices for environmental justice, visit**

**[ucc.org/nin](http://ucc.org/nin)**

Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

**[www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin). Thank You!**





Artist: Alexis  
Age: 15  
Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO

# BehOLD!

*"God saw everything God made  
and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31*

## Young environmental advocates lead the way.

**A**t First Congregational Church in Montclair, New Jersey, young climate leaders like Jey Cook and Simona Graceffo have played a leading role in advancing the care of God's creation both within and beyond their church. With a sense of passion and purpose, they created an uplifting video to kick-start the all-church process of becoming a UCC Creation Justice Church. Each of them was also a climate justice fellow at their church over the course of the summer as they engaged with efforts in the broader community to promote local sustainability and food security. Witness the leadership of Cook and Graceffo in their video:

<https://bit.ly/CreationJusticeVideo>



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