# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WINTER PARK



God is still speaking,

"a traditional and nurturing church celebrating God's grace through reason, education, diversity, inclusion, and social justice"

We are an Open and Affirming Church

MAY 26, 2024

Masking is welcomed, but not required.

Kindly silence all cell phones during worship

\* All who are able to do so comfortably, please stand

## Preparing to Hear God's Word

PRELUDE Chancel Bell Choir

WELCOME Rev. Shawn Garvey

INTROIT "Now Thank We All Our God" Chancel Bell Choir

Kevin McChesney
Please refrain from applauding

\* RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Garvey

10:00 a.m.

People: "Bless the name of our God!"

**\*OPENING PRAYER** 

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

All children please come forward for Young Church.

YOUNG CHURCH Ms. Kerry Weisner

#### "The Lord's Prayer or Prayer of Our Savior"

PreK-Kindergarten will meet for Sunday school in the LIBRARY at the back of Fellowship Hall. Grades 1-12 may leave for Flock Sunday and continue the Sunday lesson, with the older youth helping to mentor the younger children. Children and youth (infants through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) should be picked up immediately following the worship service. Childcare for infants through 3 years old is available in the PARLOR located at the back of Fellowship Hall. Please check your child out with the teacher. Children are only released to the parent.

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SONG OF SUPPORT

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul. (2x)

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean in my soul. (Repeat)

HEBREW Isaiah 6:1-8 Rev. Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM "Out in the Fields" Frederick Blanchard, Tenor

Please refrain from applauding

GOSPEL John 3:1-17 Rev. Shawn Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE "What Just Can't Have Nice Things" Rev. Shawn Garvey

The central theme of this passage is that God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus, God's only son, as a gift. We then had the choice to decide what to do with that gift, and we know how this story plays out...we brutally destroy the gift. Sometimes this text can be read as if God knowingly gives Jesus up to be crucified, but what if that wasn't the case? What if God gave us this gift with the faith and hope that we would receive it for what it meant? How heartbroken would God be watching what we end up doing with this beloved gift for us? How deep is God's love when we consider that God's love continues for us even after what we did to Jesus? Why is it so hard for us as a People to have nice things and not destroy them?

#### Responding to God's Word

CALL TO PRAYER/JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Offertory "Arioso" Chancel Bell Choir

J.S. Bach
Please refrain from applauding

**\*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.

\*CLOSING HYMN "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" No. 596

\*BENEDICTION Rev. Garvey



**Special Offering**: Please consider donating to the fund to help for changing the lighting from flourescent to LED in the Preschool building. Any amount is helpful. Envelopes are available in the pew pockets.

<u>If you are leaving for the summer</u>, *please* remember to pay your pledge. Attendance declines during the summer months and the church relies on this revenue to meet our expenses. Please consider paying in advance for the weeks or months that you will be gone and help us out during this critical cash flow time frame. Thank you.





### The Food Pantry Needs our Help!!

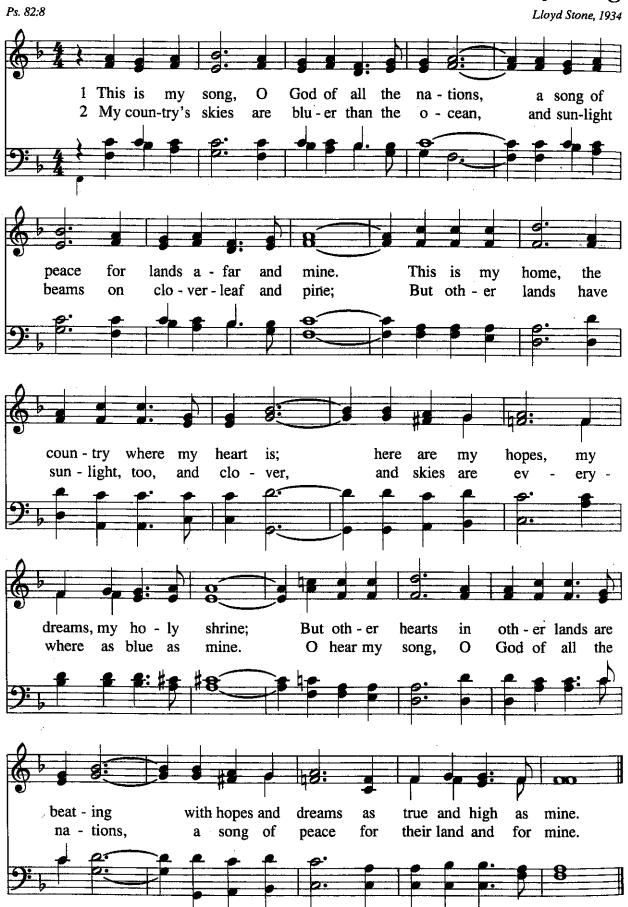
Next time you go grocery shopping consider donating to the food pantry!

Shop the BOGO's and specials!

PULL TOP lids are very helpful for the homeless.

Please only donate items that have not expired.

If you shop COSTCO – buy a case of microwaveable mac 'n cheese, Chef-Boyardee spaghetti or ravioli, canned meals, etc. (Remember, there are a lot of children that prepare their own meals while their parents are working.)



These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.10.10. Jean Sibelius, 1899 Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

#### 596

# Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



Augustus Toplady first published this poem as part of an extensive article in which he likened the English national debt to the burden of sin. The present form is a hybrid of the original and revisions in 1815 by Thomas Cotterill.

Tune: TOPLADY 7.7.7.7.7.

Thomas Hastings, 1830
Alternate tune: REDHEAD NO. 76

# CHURCH GUEST WIFI PASSWORD: LetMeInPlease!



You can access our weekly bulletin through our website:

fccwp.org

Look for the tab labeled "Bulletin"

Help us reduce our carbon footprint and use your smart technology!

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June 2
Lunch Bunch
Immediately following worship
Cocina 214, dutch treat