

duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

Epaphras, my fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow-workers.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

RESPONDING

SHARING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

All are welcome - to Christ's Table at First Church UCC- No exceptions!
We come forward to gather around the table as we sing the communion hymn.

[Front pews are left open for those who would prefer to sit.]

You may place offerings in the plates as you come forward.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE (spoken in unison)

We come to this table

Not because we must, but because we may;
Not because we are strong, but because we are weak;
Not because we have any claim on God's blessing,
But because we stand in constant need of God's mercy.
We come not to express an opinion or a doctrine,
But to seek a Presence and to pray for a Spirit.

***COMMUNION HYMN** *Let Us Break Bread Together*
(at the end of the bulletin)

*CHURCH AT PRAYER

Peter Dennebaum

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer (a new version)

Eternal Spirit

Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.

Loving God in whom is heaven,

the hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Peter Dennebaum

*SHARING BREAD AND CUP

(We dip the bread in the cup of grape juice.)

*THANKSGIVING PRAYER (in unison)

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of the resurrected. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN

Blessed Assurance
(please see insert)

NCH, #473

*BENEDICTION

Peter Dennebaum

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in C Major
Dudley Oakes

David N. Johnson

Those who are able are invited to stand.

NCH = New Century Hymnal

Worship Leader: Nancy Withbroe labors as a fundraiser for Share Our Strength, a national nonprofit working to end childhood hunger in America. She also share the work of running a household with her husband, Paul Smolinsky, and their teenage sons Ben and Peter, at their home in Takoma Park. A member of First Church since 1987 and lifelong member of the UCC, she embraces worship as the "work of the people," as the Greek word liturgy implies.

Today's Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession can be found at www.ucc.org, along with other worship resources.

THIS WEEK

Today

2:00 pm Fellowship Hour. Coffee Hour Hosts: BBZ, Joe Zikmund, Joe Alfred, Gail Sonnemann

Monday, September 6

Office closed

Wednesday, September 8 - Saturday, September 11

11:00 am - 7:00 pm Penn Quarter Festival

Thursday, September 9

7:30 pm - First Choir Rehearsal after the summer time

Sunday, September 12 - Homecoming Sunday

12:00 pm Bible Workbench

12:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

1:00 pm Worship Service

Preaching: Peter Dennebaum

2:00 pm Potluck/Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour Hosts: Dudley Oakes, Tom Mitts, Marian Drake, Mark Jensen

Birthdays:

September 5 - Anne Mascolino; *September 6* - Ariston Ross, Camilla [Mia] Mecagni, Peter Byrne; *September 7* - Ralph Ross; *September 10* - Steve Ostrander

September 11 - Marlene Ross

Ministers:

Peter Dennebaum

Bonnie Hardy

Interim Music Director:

Dudley Oakes

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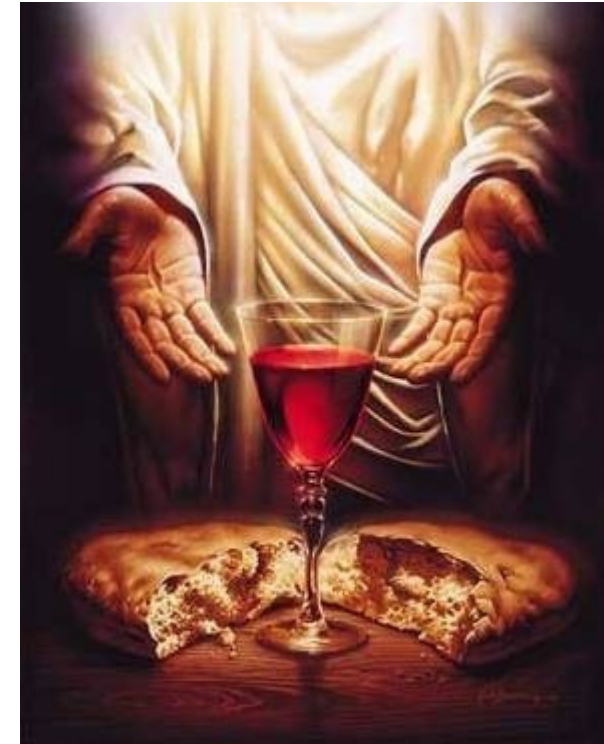
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First Congregational United Church of Christ

A Just Peace, Open and Affirming,

Multiracial and Multicultural Congregation

Intentionally Inclusive...Expect the Unexpected



“A New Identity”

September 5, 2010 – Twenty-Third Sunday