



Congregational Church of Pinehurst UCC

895 Linden Road, Pinehurst, NC 910-295-2243

www.youarewelcomehere.org

The Congregational Church of Pinehurst, UCC

July 15, 2018

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CHURCH COUNCIL

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Kathy Nekton (knektion@gmail.com/910-245-7304)



The Congregational Church of Pinehurst, UCC, is called to follow Jesus' way of love, justice and inclusion by recognizing and celebrating the diversity of God's people.

Excerpts, *No, I Would Not Leave You If You Suddenly Found God*
From *The Next Ancient World*

Praise wild dancing in the kitchen.
Praise sitting and talking to the doctor.
Praise phone calls from my sister.
Praise phone calls from you, a little drunk, leaning toward me.
Praise old lovers who show up when they are needed.
Praise our mothers, safe in another state.
Praise my apartment with its three wide rooms.
Praise the blue sky above the brick buildings.
Praise my back windows: trees, fire escapes, cafe lights.
Praise coffee (it destroys sadness)....
Praise the salt in sweat. We are not alone. Praise making you laugh.
Praise making you proud.
Praise the second cup of coffee.
Praise having a party to go to tonight.
Praise my halting therapist.
Praise mixed baby lettuce.
Praise my confidence.
Praise my talent.
Praise bravery in the face of fear.
Praise my fearlessness.
Praise my fear.
Praise pickled herring with onions.
Praise the Arctic Circle....
Praise the Virgin.
Praise the Magdalene.
Praise Magellan.
Praise Central Park.
Praise your uneven teeth....
Praise the land, and what I know about its bedrock.
Praise David, dancing wild around the ark of his Lord.

(Continued on last page)

...Praise your faith in me.
Praise your courage.
Praise my faithfulness....
Praise other people's poems....
Praise swimming out so far, I forget the fact of land....
Praise living at the millennium....
Praise broccoli rabe with garlic and olive oil.
Praise total abandon.
Praise bringing out the harpies.
Praise using every muscle.
Praise thirst and water.
Praise the landing on the moon.
Praise singing loud and hard.
Praise going to bed exhausted.
Praise your poems.
Praise my poems....
Praise Australopithecus.
Praise speaking the truth.
Praise knowing that life is an endeavor of truth.
Praise knowing that life is the becoming towards truth.
Praise the authentic moments of working with someone towards truth.
Praise desire....
Praise north and south....
Praise oranges....
Praise the bird....
Praise rhyme.
Praise meter.
Praise certainty.
Praise indivisibility.
Praise the movies; praise writing songs....
Praise talking to myself alone in the dark.
Praise my endless pleasure in the godless solitude of my private mind.
Praise the giraffe and the porcupine....
Praise travel.
Praise the refusal of travel....
Praise that we used to dance in public and that now we dance at home.
Praise faith.
Praise glory.
Praise praise....
No, I will not leave you if you want to worship God.

Announcements:

Congregational Meeting July 29 after Church!

Your church Council has been hard at work revising the budget given the results of this year's stewardship campaign. **Please come to a congregational meeting after church on Sunday, July 29 to discuss and approve the budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19.**

Potlucks with Pastor Terry

Come join potlucks with Pastor Terry for a time of fellowship and getting to know her—and each other—better! They are being organized **by the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, a.k.a. John Arnold, Mary Scott, and Kathy Nekton.** The second was held this past Tuesday—many thanks to our hosts **Beth and Betty Chapman** for a wonderful evening! **Two more dates remain in August, with more to come in September. Sign up to attend soon!**

GATHERING AS THE CHURCH

Welcome. We gather together from many directions and traditions. As we share in worship, please use the language that is comfortable for you while welcoming language that is meaningful to others.

Preparation for Worship

Robert Wicker

Greetings and Announcements

Chiming the Hour

***Call to Worship**

One: We come to worship lonely or empty or frightened.

Many: We come to worship sick or grieving or discouraged.

One: We come from households spiky with anger.

We come from unfinished projects, ruined plans, multiple irritations.

Many: We come from broken diets, hidden drinking, unanswered e-mail, and a week without bedtime prayers.

One: We turn away from news and local opportunities to help someone.

**Many: From inadequacy we seek God's wholeness;
from delinquency we seek God's forgiveness;
from self-imposed impotence we hope to be freed for love and service by the Gospel's power.**

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come, and let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn #129 *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*

Confession (unison)

O, Holy God, we confess our lack of love. We do not love ourselves nor our neighbors. We pass by suffering and misfortune because of fear or busyness or preoccupation. We hold prejudices against people as deep

****You are invited to stand as you are able.
Bold type denotes congregational response.***

as those against the Samaritans. Heal our pains, amend our faults, and guide us into dangerous compassion, for we pray in the name of Jesus, our most beloved neighbor, who cared for us even to the cross. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

God is merciful and gracious, offering forgiveness freely and willingly. All that we regret shrinks in importance—all that we hope blossoms and grows. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

Children's Time Mary Scott Arnold

Choral Anthem *I Danced in the Morning* by Sydney Carter

Hebrew Bible Reading 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 **page 280**

Pastor: God is still speaking
People: We are listening with our lives.

Sermon *From Hater Upstairs to Partying for the Lord* Rev. Terry Yasuko Ogawa

—a brief period of silent reflection—

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Hymn of Response #290 *I Cannot Dance, O Love*

The Prayers of the People

Saying Farewell to Michelle, Christopher, and Thalia
Sung Blessing #434 *God Be With You*
Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Mother and Father who art in heaven...

—Silent prayer—

Prayer Response #306

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Invitation to Give

Offertory

*Doxology #47 **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

GOING OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE

*Closing Hymn #586 *Open My Eyes, That I May See (verses 1-2)*

Sending Out Disciples

*Benediction

*Congregational Response #586 *Open My Eyes, That I May See (verse 3)*

Worship Notes:

-The **Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Grace**, are from *Touch Holiness*, eds. Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi, 2012.

Our thanks for today's Liturgist—**Marian Maroney**; Greeter—**Roger Nekton**; Coffee Hour Host—**David Klauder**; Sound System Technician—**Dave Kinney**; Pianist—**Robert Wicker**.