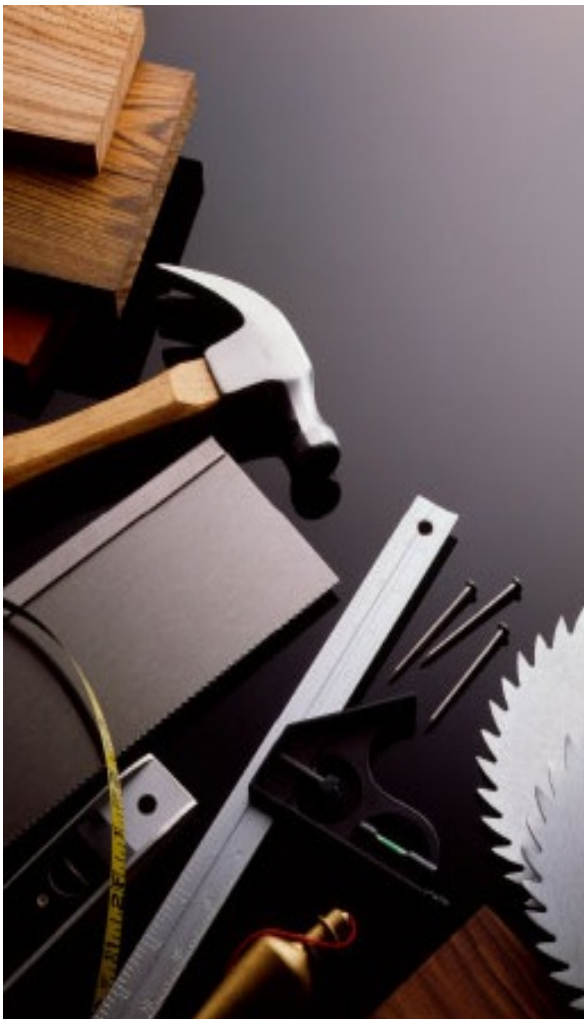


July 15, 2012

Building and Blessing  
Constuir y Bendecir

A Celebration for Those  
Who Built Our New Church



God built a sanctuary like the  
high heavens, like the earth,  
which is founded forever.

(Psalm 78:69)

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**

945 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.*

# ORDER OF CELEBRATION

*What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor. Walls and a roof sheltering people, windows for light, an open door. Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here, and know our God is near.*

Huub Oosterhuis, tr. David Smith

## GATHERING TO BUILD

### SOUND OF THE BELL

*(Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Worship begins.)*

PRELUDE

*Sellenger's Round*

William Byrd

WORDS OF GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sidney D. Fowler

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Meg Maguire

One: Good people, come from all walks of life to this holy place.  
Come, all of you, with your many gifts.

All: Together, by the love and wisdom of God,  
let us build, in this hour, a sanctuary of hope, justice, and love.

One: ¡Alabado sea Dios! God is here today!

All: Dios está aquí. Rejoice! Praise God!

\*HYMN

*God Is Here Today/Dios Está Aquí*

God is here to-day; as cer-tain as the  
Dios es-tá a-quí, tan cier-to co-mo y ai-re

air I breathe, as cer-tain as the  
que res-pi-ro, tan cier-to co-mo la ma-

morn-ing sun that ris-es, as cer-tain when I  
ña-na se le-van-ta, tan cier-to co-mo que le

sing you'll hear my song.  
can-to y me pue-de o-ir.

## PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

*(Please pray using words from your own language  
and tradition or one of the following versions.)*

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen

Dios nuestro que estás en los cielos  
Santificado sea tu Nombre  
Venga a nosotros tu reino  
Hágase tu voluntad  
Así en la tierra como en el cielo  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día  
perdona nuestras deudas  
como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores  
y no nos dejes caer en la tentación  
más líbranos del mal.

Amen.

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

*(Please turn to those around you, introduce yourself, and greet  
one another with words such as "The peace of God be with you.")*

## ANTHEM

***What Is This Place?***

*Text by Huub Oosterhuis tr. David Smith; music Komt Nu Met Zang (16th c. Dutch hymn tune) arr. Thomas Keesecker*

*What is this place?  
What is this place where we are meeting?  
Only a house, the earth its floor.  
Walls and a roof sheltering people  
windows for light, an open door.  
Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here,  
and know our God is near.  
Words, from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed:  
names for our God, dreams, signs and wonders sent from the past are all we need.  
We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard:  
God's free redeeming word.  
And we accept bread at this table, broken and shared, a living sign.  
Here in this world, dying and living, we are each other's bread and wine.  
This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase:  
our justice and God's peace.*

# FOLLOWING A BUILDING PLAN

SHARING OUR FAITH

Bonnie Hardy

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Peter 2:4-10

Lucille Dickinson

Come to Christ, a living stone, though rejected by mortals, yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in that one  
will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, that one is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner', and  
'A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called you out of darkness into God's marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*New Testament and Psalms: An Inclusive Version*

1 Pedro 2:4-10

Tony Saudek

Acérquense, pues, a Cristo, la piedra viva que la gente desechó, pero que para Dios es una piedra escogida y de mucho valor. De esta manera, Dios hará de ustedes, como de piedras vivas, un templo espiritual, un sacerdocio santo, que por medio de Jesucristo ofrezca sacrificios espirituales, agradables a Dios. Por eso también dice la Escritura:

"Yo pongo en Sión una piedra  
que es la piedra principal,  
escogida y muy valiosa;  
el que confíe en ella no quedará defraudado."

Para ustedes, que creen, esa piedra es de mucho valor; pero para los que no creen se cumple lo que dice la Escritura:

"La piedra que los constructores despreciaron,  
se ha convertido en la piedra principal."

Y también esto otro:

"una roca, una piedra con la cual tropezarán."

Pues ellos tropiezan al no hacer caso del mensaje: ése es su merecido.

Pero ustedes son una familia escogida, un sacerdocio real al servicio del rey, una nación santa, un pueblo adquirido por Dios. Y esto es así para que anuncien las obras maravillosas de Dios, el cual los llamó a salir de la oscuridad para entrar en su luz maravillosa. Ustedes antes ni siquiera eran pueblo, pero ahora son pueblo de Dios; antes Dios no les tenía compasión, pero ahora les tiene compasión.

*Dios Habla Hoy*

\*HYMN

*Lord, Prepare Me To Be a Sanctuary*



Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - a - ry, pure and  
God, em - pow'r me to be a wit - ness for you, act - ing



ho - ly, tried and true; \_\_\_\_\_ with thanks -  
bold - ly in your name; \_\_\_\_\_ seek - ing



giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu -  
jus - tice, where there is hurt - ing, off - 'ring



a - ry for \_\_\_\_\_ you.  
hope - where there is \_\_\_\_\_ pain.

Señor prepárame para ser un santuario  
puro y bendecido, com probado y verdadero,  
a gradicido, seré un santuario  
viviente para ti

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MEDITATION

Sidney D. Fowler and Mari Castellanos

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*(A time of prayerful personal reflection.)*

**CELEBRATING**  
**A BUILDING COMPLETED**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

*iGlo - ria a Dios, glo - ria a Dios,*  
*Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,*  
*glo - ria en los cie - los!*  
*glo - ry in the high - est!*  
*iA Dios la glo - ria por siem - pre!*  
*To God be glo - ry for - e - ver!*  
*iAl - le - lu - ya, A - mén!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, A - mén!*  
*iAl - le - lu - ya, A - mén!*  
*Al - le - lu - iam A - mén!*

LITANY OF CELEBRATION FOR WORKERS

Peg: If these stones and mortar could talk, they would tell us stories of creativity and beauty, trial and error, aspiration and fulfillment, hard work and tired bodies.

Randy: These stones do speak and so do the glass and metal, the wood and wire, the ceiling and lights. They tell us that God is present here through those who worked here. We know some of their names. Others, only this building will remember. Look around and celebrate the skills and talent it took to complete this holy place – from the most complex structural challenges to each tiny detail.

John: God is here among us. All this belongs to God, the Living Stone, the cornerstone of hope. So on this glad day, we offer our thanks to God for ingenuity, labor, and persistence...

All: **We give you thanks, O God. Te damos gracias.**

Peg: For surveyors and engineers, demolition and recycling crews, fence installers, excavators, sheeting and shoring workers, concrete workers, masons who worked with stone, brick, and tile, site utility and landscape crews...

All: **Te damos gracias, Oh Dios. We give you thanks.**

Randy: For carpenters, steelworkers, wood and ornamental metal workers, and specialists who worked on glass, glazing, and curtain walls...

All: **We give you thanks, O God. Te damos gracias.**

John: For waterproofing and roofing crews, spring isolation installers, framers, finishers, caulkers and painters, hardware and accessory suppliers and installers, organ builders, and construction supervisors...

All: **Te damos gracias, Oh Dios. We give you thanks.**

Peg: For those who installed the floors and finished them, for acousticians and lighting artists, plumbers and HVAC technicians, electricians, drapery makers, acoustical panel and scrim installers...

All: **We give you thanks, O God. Te damos gracias.**

Randy: For security and fire protection contractors, window treatment and AV specialists, and for the buyers who helped select and purchase our furnishings for this sanctuary and every room in this church, for those who clean and maintain this building, and for those who financed, planned, and designed this building...

All: **Te damos gracias, Oh Dios. We give you thanks.**

John: Watch over these your special people, O God.

All: **Keep them safe and in your care. May the work here nurture their future work everywhere. For all who blessed us, now bless them. We give you thanks, O God. Te damos gracias.**

*(Leaders: Peg Lorenz, Randy Herrick-Stare, John Smeltzer)*

\*HYMN

*God, Creation's Great Designer*

page 8

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Gagliarde, from Ancient Airs and Dances Suite #1*

Ottorino Respighi

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\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

## Announcements

It is our custom to remain seated during the postlude.

The Sanctuary Overlook on the second floor is available for parents and small children.

At the conclusion of worship all are invited to a reception in the Narthex.

Please return your hymnal to the cart at the back of the sanctuary

Assisted listening devices are available.

Please ask an usher if you would care for one.

CD recordings of today's service are available following worship.

Don't forget to validate your parking ticket!

**The validator is on the desk in the Narthex near the coffee.**

We are grateful to Mari Castellanos and Diana Gomez de Molina for the communion table arrangement.

Printed on recycled paper.

# God, Creation's Great Designer

God, cre - a - tion's great de - sign - ner,  
 Hear our thanks for those who found ed  
 Sing we, too, of church - es stand ing  
 Shape us as your con - gre - ga - tions,

ar - chi - tect and ar - ti - san,  
 in this place a church for praise,  
 not a lone in wood and stone,  
 called to - ge - ther, sent a - far,

dream - er, build - er, and re - fin - er,  
 Firm in Christ their faith was ground - ed  
 but in hu - man lives com - mand - ing  
 so as peo - ple or as na - tions

how we mar - vel at your plan.  
 as they lived their earth - ly days.  
 con - fi - dence in you where we are.  
 we can serve you

You have formed us to re - flect you,  
 Build - ers, they, in brick and stone - work,  
 For high arch - es, ris - ing, yearn - ing,  
 O ac - cept the praise we bring you,

filled us with your Spi - rit's breath,  
 walls sup - port - ing roof and floors,  
 soar - ing tow'rs that fill with song,  
 bless the work of hu - man hands.

freed us to ac - cept, re - ject you,  
 prais - ing you in all their own work,  
 win - dows o - pened for our learn - ing,  
 Hear the hymns our voic - es sing you,

and in Christ de - feat - ed death.  
 sol - id stee - ple, o - pen doors.  
 God, we praise you all day long.  
 e - cho - ing through years and lands.



# Calendar

## Today

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench, *Chapel*
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care begins, *Education Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Education Suite*
- 10:30 am Worship Service, *Sanctuary*  
Sid Fowler & Mari Castellanos preaching
- 11:30 am Reception for Building Workers, *Narthex*. Hosted by Jessica Prentice, Peter Gerlach-Mack, Cindy Mazur.
- Noon Book Discussion Group, *Chapel/Meeting Room*

## Looking Ahead

### Tuesday, July 17

- 7:00 pm Worship Commission, *Living Room*

### Wednesday, July 18

- 6:30 pm St. Paul Foundation Reception, *Narthex, Sanctuary & Community Hall*

### Thursday, July 19

- 6:30 pm Facilities Commission, *Chapel/Meeting Room*

### Saturday, July 21

- 4:00 pm *Mindset* by Off the Wall Theatre Company, *Sanctuary*.  
Repeats at 7:00 pm.

### Sunday, July 22

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench, *Chapel*
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care begins, *Education Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Education Suite*
- 10:30 am Worship Service, *Sanctuary*  
Sid Fowler preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee Hour, *Narthex*. Hosted by Judith & Bob Oliver, Jennie Hunt, Bob Crossley.
- 2:00 pm 2012 International AIDS Conference *Keep the Promise* March and Rally

## Prayer List

Jeannie and Randy Herrick-Stare • Barbara Berman  
The Kenya and Dwight Davis Family • Bonnie Hardy and Bill Middleton • Robert Coburn  
Judy Davis • Marka, David, and Alexis Joy Hayes • Anne Griffis • Claricia Cummings  
Pearline Rene Coleman • Brooks Pumphrey • Regina Saxton • Virginia Gaddis

## *Building and Blessing/Construir y Bendecir: A Celebration of Those Who Built Our New Church*

Honoring those who labored to build our new  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
at 945 G Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C.

We give thanks for the many skilled people who worked so diligently to create our beautiful building: construction supervisors, surveyors, demolition and recycling crews, excavators, sheeting and shoring workers, site utility and landscape crews, fence installers, concrete workers, stone/brick/tile masons, carpenters, steelworkers, wood and ornamental metal workers, glass, glazing and curtain wall specialists, waterproofing and roofing crews, spring isolation installers, framers, finishers, caulkers, painters, hardware and accessory suppliers and installers, flooring installers and finishers, acousticians and lighting artists, plumbers and HVAC technicians, electricians, drapery makers, acoustical panel and scrim installers, security and fire protection system contractors, window shade specialists, and buyers who helped select and purchase our furnishings – sanctuary chairs and living room furniture, office, music, audio/visual, and kitchen equipment. In Fall 2012, we will complete the building when the organ builders voice our Casavant organ.

During the construction we heard many languages – Spanish, Italian, Serbo-Croatian, French and English – indicating the diverse backgrounds of those who brought to the project their training and international perspectives.

Eight years ago our congregation invested in the vision of a new home to welcome all people wherever they are on life's journey. We hired the best consultants, architects, engineers, developers and lawyers we could find to guide that vision and bring it to life. We are grateful for their brilliance, collaboration, and dedication to this project.

Today we celebrate all who built this place of hope and healing.

The Congregation of First Congregational UCC

### **First Congregational United Church of Christ**

A Just Peace, Open and Affirming,  
Multiracial and Multicultural Congregation



Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church  
Transitional Minister – Rev. Dr. Sidney D. Fowler  
Associate Minister for Christian Education – Rev. Dr. Barbra Hardy  
Director of Music – Mr. Gary Fitzgerald  
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