

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BUCKLAND**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Church Phone: 625-9440 Pastor's Phone: (413) 634-5451  
Rev. Richard T. Fournier, Pastor  
Sandy Carter - Organist / Pianist  
**October 24, 2021**

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*"I think we all suffer from acute blindness at times. Life is a constant journey of trying to open your eyes. I'm just beginning my journey, and my eyes aren't fully open yet." Olivia Thirlby*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: Open our eyes, O Holy One, to what we cannot see despite our looking.

**People: Open our eyes, O Source of all truth, to what we refuse to see.**

Pastor: Open our eyes, O Sacred Coincidence, to the opportunities that pass right before us.

**People: Open our eyes, Alluring Love, to the future you call us to create.**

**ALL: Show us the way that we might shed our sightless selves like an old cloak, and leap, like Bartimaeus, at Christ's invitation to restore our vision. Amen**

**\*HYMN** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" No. 350

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION**

Dear God, we dwell in darkness when we are away from you; ignorant of our own true nature, unaware of life's blessings, disconnected and isolated from the dance of the Cosmos and the blessing that we are. We dwell in light when we open to you; aware that you made us in your image, blessed by the opportunity to be alive, at one with all that is, enveloped by you, luminous in all

creation, and present in our "yes" to life. May the light of Christ shine within us, among us, and from us, wherever darkness reigns. Amen

**\*GLORIA PATRI** "Glory Be to the Father" No. 575

**FIRST SCRIPTURE** Jeremiah 31: 7-9 page 641

**CHOIR ANTHEM** "The One Thing I Ask of the Lord" - Charles McCartha

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

**PRAYER RESPONSE** "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" No. 585

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings" No. 572

**GOSPEL READING** Mark 10: 46-52 page 823

**MESSAGE** "Take Heart" - Rich Fournier

**\*HYMN** "Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound" No. 288

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**\*POSTLUDE**

\*=All who are able, are invited to stand.

### Announcements

The beautiful flower arrangement on the altar is a memorial bouquet for Summer Steele. October 28th is the 5-year anniversary of her passing. On the foyer table, there is a basket of small envelopes with seeds. Please look them over and make your selection to take some. Plant them next spring in memory of Summer. May we never forget the light she brought into this world the short time she was here among us. Please know that her family continues to strive for bus safety in her name.

The Buckland Union Cemetery Association will meet virtually SATURDAY, October 30, 2021 @ 10:00 am. Contact Laurie Benoit for more information (413) 625-8668 or [lbnoit@outlook.com](mailto:lbnoit@outlook.com)

Tina is working on our November calendar which will be distributed next Sunday. Please contact her no later than Wed. 10/27 by noon with any news or info you would like included. Tina would love to find a co-editor or editors to be responsible for the calendar a few times annually to give her a month or two or three off. She'd love to hear from anyone who might like to help with this publication.

The Monday Nighters are once again selling raffle tickets to be drawn at the Silver Bell Bazaar on November 20, 2021! This year's prizes are:

1st prize - Barbara Scott's Grandmother's Quilt finished by the Monday Nighters

2nd prize - a print of Cyndie Stetson's watercolor painting "Autumn Barn"

3rd prize - Christmas themed pillow using the "Around the World" quilt pattern.

Tickets are 3 for \$5 or one for \$2 and are available at the Atherton Farm, from Luahn Page, (413) 634.5451, and will be sold at the Silver Bell Bazaar.



Mary Lyon Church

First Congregational Church of Buckland

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