

The Church of the Red Rocks

United Church of Christ

Inspired by God's grace we love and welcome all, serve all and seek justice for all.

August 27, 2023 – Year A

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Identity” – 9:30AM

Welcome to all - those who are present in the sanctuary, our guests and visitors, and also those who are joining us, via livestream on Facebook and on our YouTube Channel. When you worship with CRR, you are “at home.” We pray you will experience the presence of the Holy Spirit, during this time of worship. If you would like to receive information about CRR please be certain we have your email address. Let us know if you have questions or needs.

To ponder as we gather:

“Never forget what you are, for surely the world will not. Make it your strength. Then it can never be your weakness. Arm yourself in it, and it will never be used to hurt you.” — George R.R. Martin

Gathering for Worship

Prelude

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

arr. Fred Bock

Greeting & Welcome

Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

One: Whoever you are or where ever you are on life's journey...

All: **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

Gathering Hymn

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Hymnal #448

Call to Worship

Jim Rostedt

One: Give thanks and praise to God, our Creator!

All: **We bow down in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.**

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

All: **We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.**

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

All: **We listen in anticipation for the Almighty God remembers God's people.**

Invocation

Jim Rostedt

One: Let us pray.

All: **God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you. You drew us from the primordial and gestational waters. You continue to give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love. May our time together in this sacred space, online or onsite, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love. We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit and place our trust in you. Amen.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Jim Rostedt

All: **Renewing God, we confess that all too often we conform to this world. The voices we prioritize are far removed from you. We drown out your Still Speaking Voice with the noise of consumerism and commercialism. We ignore your gentle nudge in favor of our own desires and comfort. We fail to actively love our neighbor, care for your creation, or even honor ourselves as your divine creatures. We resist transformation through the renewing of our minds and settle for echo chambers of thoughts and ideas that deplete and deprive our souls of abundant life. Forgive us and continually challenge us to be the people you have empowered and equipped us to be.**

Assurance of Grace

Pastor Morgan

The One who created you knows your struggles. God is still speaking, renewing, and transforming. God's grace is still sufficient and made new each day. God has faith in you and abides with you in the journey of new life and transformation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Listening for Our Still -Speaking God

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Kathy Rostedt
Meditation Hymn (<i>seated</i>)	"I Would Be True"	Hymnal #492 vs. 1 only
A Reading from the Gospels	Matthew 16:13-20	Pastor Morgan
Message	"Can Y'all Keep A Secret?"	Pastor Morgan
Anthem	"Open Prayer"	Pepper Choplin

Responding with Prayer and Generosity

Prayers of The People		Pastor Morgan
Invitation to Generosity		Pastor Morgan
Gratitude Moment	<i>E.D.G.E. - Ecumenical, Diverse, Gutsy and Educational</i>	Muriel Nunn
Offertory	"I'd Rather Have Jesus"	George Beverly Shea

*Doxology

**Praise God whose breath fills all the Earth. Whose love reveals our sacred worth.
Whose Spirit forms one family. Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Morgan

Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kingdom. May these gifts be magnified to meet the needs of this community and the whole world.

All: Amen.

Departing to Serve ... with God's Kind of Love

Sending Hymn	"Unite and Join Your Songs"	Hymnal #617 vs.1,2, & 4
**Blessing		Pastor Morgan

Friends, as you go, take the keys of heaven with you. Unlock hope in a world in need of encouragement. Spread joy where there is despair. Give peace room to grow and release love with every encounter. And the God of hope, joy, peace, and love will be with you.

All: Amen!

Postlude	"The Church's One Foundation"	Hymnal #386
-----------------	-------------------------------	-------------

When our worship is over, our service begins. In Jesus' name, go and serve the world God love

Your gifts, tithes and offerings may be placed in a basket as you leave worship today. Your generous giving means that lives will be touched and transformed far beyond our walls. Thank you!

Our church families pray for each other: Please pray for: Bunny A., Elaine G., Sue L., Barb M., Martha T., Pat W., Jed S., Chase J., Arlene P., Jack K., Sonja O., Antonia S., and John L.

If you or someone you love would like to be added to The Prayer Circle, please let the office know.

Purple Prayer Cards are located behind each pew. Please feel free to fill one out and drop it in a basket or give it to one of the ushers. God Bless!

Prayer requests may also be added to the Church of the Red Rocks Prayer Wall at: <https://churchoftheredrocks.com> under the heading "About Us"

WEEKLY:

Monday: Knitting Into the Mystery at CRR 1PM

Tuesday: Bible study at Sedona Winds, in the Library 11 AM

Thursday: Adult Bible Study at CRR 1PM



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

PLEASE CHECK OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR RESUMING CLASSES & GROUPS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER!

RESUMING IN SEPTEMBER ARE THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

E.D.G.E. – Ecumenical, Diverse, Gutsy and Educational- begins again every Friday at 10:15 AM and is a hybrid class via Zoom. We are gathering both in person (CRR Conference Room) and on Zoom.

The meeting begins at 10:15 and concludes at 11:30. We are using the book "Call It Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World", by the Rev. Dr. Serena Jones. Dr. Jones is the President of Union Theological Seminary in NYC. You can purchase this book at any bookstore, or on Kindle, Audible or Amazon. Here's an opportunity to join in conversation with other CRR members and friends discussing Serena Jones' stories and hunches about life and faith. This group is co-convened by John McDougal and David Stabenfeldt.

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82076061997?pwd=endpck9yMkxuK0hLeEJvZFcwdG9hQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 7606 1997

Passcode: 726515

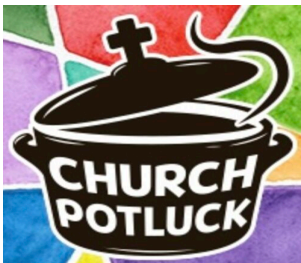
GAME ON! - Begins on Monday September 11th and then EVERY 1st MONDAY OF THE MONTH following in Painted Cliffs Hall from 1PM- 3PM. All players welcome; bring our own beverage & a friend! For more information, please contact Maureen at mfgzgowest@gmail.com or 703-509-4959.

PICTURE DIRECTORY PHOTOS STARING TODAY! In Painted Cliffs Hall, before and after worship.

(8:45-9:15 & 10:45-11:00) We hope you will participate in this effort to help us be more aware and connected with each other.

2nd SUNDAY POT LUCK!! September 10th!- Bring a salad or side dish to serve 8 and leave it in the kitchen before service.

NO SIGN UP REQUIRED! CCM will be providing the main dish: **WE ARE GRILLING!** Hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixins' too! **EVERYONE IS WELCOME! LET'S COME TOGETHER IN FRIENDSHIP AND SHARE A MEAL!**



THE CHURCH of the RED ROCKS UCC

An Open and Affirming / Stephen Ministry Congregation

The Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan, Interim Pastor [PastorMorgan@churchoftherocks.com]

The Rev. Dr. George Ault, Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Ryan Holder, Director of Music

Suzanne Moore, Organist/Pianist

NAU Choral Interns

CRR Choir

KeliAnne Piscopo, Church Administrator

Kathy & Jim Rostedt, Liturgists

54 Bowstring Drive Sedona, AZ 86336

TELEPHONE: (928) 282-7963

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/churchredrocks>

INTERNET: www.ChurchoftheRedRocks.com

EMAIL: receptionist@churchoftherocks.com

Current Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9AM- 5PM

*additional hours on Saturday and/or Sunday (as needed)

Pastoral Counseling by appointment please call the office

Week-At-A-Glance at CRR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Knitting into the Mystery 1PM	*Sedona Winds Bible Study 11AM	Barbershop 5-7PM	Adult Bible Study 1PM T Team 3PM Trudi Slipher's Celebration of Life 5 PM	E.D.G.E. 10:15AM Hybrid	NAU Choral Retreat 8AM- 5PM	

* indicates events NOT @ CRR

Photo credit: KeliAnne Piscopo 2022 ©

