

**Living Psalms**  
**September 6, 2020**  
**#BiggerBalcony**

**SEARCH ME, O GOD,**



**AND KNOW MY HEART!**

Psalm 139:23, ESV

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 6, 2020

10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

*“The Psalms are the only biblical book defined as not the ‘Word of God.’  
They are the brash, whining, encouraging, desperate,  
celebratory words of people.  
Psalms are a valley that invites its own bones to be filled  
with the Spirit and dance new;  
they are the willow branches upon which to hang — not harps —  
but human hopes and needs and joys.”  
~ Maren Tirabassi*

**PRELUDE**

“Psalm 23”

One Accord

by Bobby McFerrin. Copyright Bobby McFerrin,  
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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

David Weasley

**GATHERING SONG**

“Welcome Here”

by Rachael Weasley

Sweet and ho - ly Friend, wel - come here. All of who we are, wel - come here!  
Faith - ful lo - ving Guide, wel - come here. Wel - come he - re!

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**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Sharon Benton

New Revised Standard Version

and

Living Psalm 139, by Maren Tirabassi

*selected verses*

O Adonai, you have searched me and known me.

**O God, you have searched me –  
cancer in remission,  
addiction in recovery,  
incest survivor –  
and known me – and you know  
the not-remission, not-recovery, victim-me, too.**

You know when I sit down and when I rise up.

**You know when I sit down and I rise up ...  
when I sit down because I'm dizzy or my knees ache,  
and when I rise up too many times in the night.**

you discern my thoughts from far away.

**You know my thoughts,  
and the way forgetting makes me afraid**

You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Adonai, you know it completely  
**You search out my marathon ambitions  
and my chronic fatigue syndrome.  
You are acquainted with my T cell count.  
Even when I refuse a hearing aid,  
you listen to me completely.**

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

**Where can I go from your Spirit?**

**High on a drink you are there.**

**Binging and purging you are there.**

**If I take insomnia's wings**

**and settle in my cutting, my secret eating –**

**even there your hand shall lead me,**

**and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

**For it was you who formed me as a body –**

**not just a psyche, a mind, a spirit.**

**You knit and purled the neo-natal me,**

**and then all my years**

**you made the other kind of pearl**

**around the little wounds in my life.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.

**Search me, O God, and know my heart,**

**test me and know my thoughts.**

**See if there is any hurtful way in me**

**and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Sharon Benton

**One:** For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us:

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“The 23rd Psalm”  
by Tim Shepherd

Tim Shepherd

**REFLECTION**

Sharon Benton

“O God, you have searched me and known me. You know \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Where can I flee from your presence? If I \_\_\_\_\_.”

**COMMUNION**

*Please use whatever elements you have available to you, and we will bless them together.*

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

*We invite you to use the language for God that is most comfortable for you:*

*“Our Creator,” “Our Father” or “Our Mother.”*

**Our Creator**

**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.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil,**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power,**

**and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**


COMMUNION HYMN

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

LET US BREAK BREAD


Text: 10 10 with refrain; Spiritual.

Verses




1. Let us break bread to-gether on our knees; Let us break  
2. Let us drink wine to-gether on our knees; Let us drink  
3. Let us praise God to-gether on our knees; Let us praise

Refrain



1. bread to-gether on our knees; When I fall on my knees,  
2. wine to-gether on our knees;  
3. God to-gether on our knees;



With my face to the ris-ing sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: 10 10 with refrain; Spiritual. Music: LET US BREAK BREAD.

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BENEDICTION

David Weasley

POSTLUDE

“Sonata in G Major Op 49 No. 2”  
by Ludwig Van Beethoven

Judy Widrig

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Mid-Year Congregational Meeting will be at **11:00 am Sunday, September 13** via Zoom (please see Friday Announcements to register, or contact the office).

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** We're not in the Sanctuary where you can fill out a prayer card and drop it into the offering plate but we're still praying. Use the Contact form on our website, <https://fccb.net/contact-us/>, to send your requests. We're waiting to hear from you.

**A TIME OF REMEMBERING :** Please mark your calendars and plan to join us to remember Helen McLeod on **Saturday, September 12 at 1:00 pm**. See the Friday Announcement for the link or contact the office.

### WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Worship on Facebook Live. #BiggerBalcony

**WAYS TO CONNECT:** Remember that all of our events are being held virtually. Believe it or not, this isn't everything! For more information about these and other groups and activities, contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net).

- **Tuesday**
  - Book Club, **First Tuesday of the month, 9:30 am**
  - Bible Study for Everyone—Moses Edition, **Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 am**. Exodus 14:19-31
  - Family Story Time on Zoom is on recess for August.
- **Wednesday**
  - Adult Forums are taking August off. Watch for information about the next topics.
  - Faith Formation for Children & Youth is also off for August.
- **Thursday**
  - Pastor David Virtual Office Hours, **September 10, 1:00-3:00 pm**.
  - Poetry Writing Group, **1:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**
  - Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**
- **Friday**
  - Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
  - Coffee Hour, **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays. 1:00 pm**
- **Saturday**
  - Create & Check In, **every other Saturday, 10:00 am**

*To stay up to date, follow us on social media, subscribe to our Friday Email, or check in with our Full Circle Blog, <https://www.fccb.net/blog/>..*

**Open and Affirming (ONA):** As an Open and Affirming congregation believing in a loving God, all people are welcome in this church without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic or social status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**We Try To Use Language** which will help people feel included in our worship. Since not everyone is comfortable with the same language, we invite you to amend the words of the service as we sing and pray if they do not adequately express your faith. We invite you to assist us in creating new expressions of our common faith and life together.

**Technical Support:** If you need help streaming our worship services or connecting in other ways, please let us know.

### **VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF**

In the before time, our pastoral staff were available by appointment. In COVID-19 time, they are available for virtual meetings by appointment. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255

Sharon: [sharon@fccb.net](mailto:sharon@fccb.net)

David: [david@fccb.net](mailto:david@fccb.net)

Sharry: [sharry@fccb.net](mailto:sharry@fccb.net)

You can also email our Office Manager Cydne at [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net) and she'll pass your message on.

### **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ**

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

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**24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255**

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Facebook: [facebook.com/fccbucc](https://facebook.com/fccbucc)

Twitter: @BhamUCC

*Office Hours: 9-12pm & 1-5pm M-Th.; 9-1 pm F*

**LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton**

**PASTOR FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS,**

**& MISSION: David Weasley**

**MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION:**

**Sharry Nyberg**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig**

**NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Vaughn**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig**

**HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Allison Thomas**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran**

**ACCOUNTANT: Renée Relin**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard**

**CARE ADMIN. SUPPORT: Laura Norton**

**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:**

**Alanna Steele**

**HEALTH MINISTER: Carol Nicolay**

**MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan**

**VICE MODERATOR: Bill Henkel**

**PAST MODERATOR: Scout Mitchell**

**CLERK: Dorothy Shimer**

**TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt**

**HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller**

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