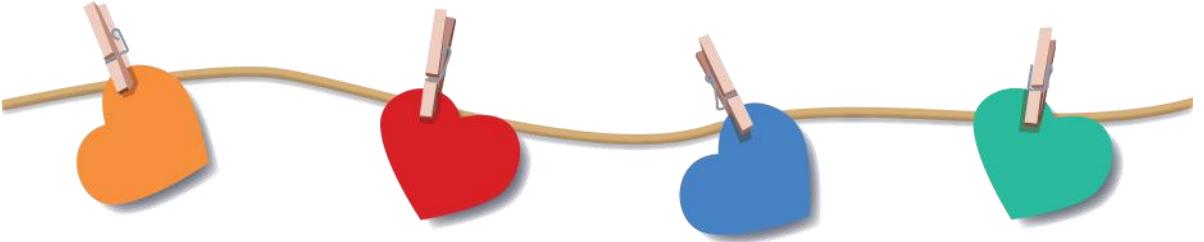


God Is Still Speaking
June 27, 2021
#BiggerBalcony



Because we care ...



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 27, 2021

10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

Never place a period where God has placed a comma.

~ Gracie Allen

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

RINGING THE BELL

Sharry Nyberg

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton & Davi Weasley

SHARING THE LOVE

John Green, Drum

*Please pay attention and honor others' requests for distancing;
with your hand on your heartbeat, greet one another.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Scout Mitchell

One Voice: Newspapers read: "Churches shut down amid pandemic!"

All Voices: **God reminded, "Church is more than a building—
keep being the church!"**

One Voice: Technology teased: "You're not smart enough to figure this out."

All Voices: **God whispered, "I will give you patience and grace and
volunteers who will help."**

One Voice: The world wonders: "Where is the church in these hard times?"

All Voices: **God shouts with all our voices, "We are right here!
Wherever we are, there is the church!"**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharry Nyberg

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Salt Springs”
by Jonathan Reischman

Unbroken Circle

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-24, Luke 2:8-20, Matthew 2:1-12
New Revised Standard Version

Scout Mitchell

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Scout Mitchell

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.

REFLECTION

“God Is Still Speaking”

Sharon Benton

MUSICAL MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Davi Weasley

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.

RITUAL OF RELEASE & VIRTUAL LAYING ON OF HANDS

Blessing

by Janet Malley & Cheryl Smith

Cheryl Smith

One Voice: God of love and laughter, pain and tears,

All Voices: We give thanks for Sharry Nyberg and her ministry among us.

One Voice: For hospitality, especially to children.

All Voices: We give thanks

One Voice: For all the ways children and young at heart were served in and out of church.

All Voices: We give thanks

One Voice: For the use of the arts and our whole bodies in learning and worship.

All Voices: We give thanks

One Voice: For helping us reach out to others in need in our community in service and fellowship.

All Voices: We give thanks

One Voice: For finding ways to make each of us feel special in the eyes of God.

All Voices: We give thanks

One Voice: May the Spirit guide Sharry and Joe move into the next phase of life's journey—including the privilege and freedom that this retirement provides.

All Voices: God bless them both on this path.

The Giving of Gifts

Prayer & Virtual Laying on of Hands

by Cheryl Smith and Janet Malley

Janet Malley

O Lover of Our Whole Lives, we celebrate Sharry's work - now well and faithfully completed. We cheer (through our tears) a season of new beginnings for this church even as we cherish the memories that make this parting so difficult. Help us all to remember the love of God fills us from our heads down to our toes. It wiggles through our fingers and dances on our noses. Give us each the grace and courage to take up the work Sharry has laid down that we may all live so loving grows. Your love fills us up - our hearts and eyes overflow. It has been so. May it always be so. Amen.

Liturgy of Farewell

from The United Church of Christ Book of Worship

Sharon: Our church family is constantly changing.
People come and go.
Babies are born.
Children grow up.
People commit themselves to one another.
Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives.
Individuals move into our community and church life.
Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences,
and new opportunities.

Davi: It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage,
of endings and beginnings.
Today we share the time of farewell with a part of our community
who is leaving.

Recognition of the End

Sharon: Twenty-one years ago, this local church asked Sharry Nyberg to join our
staff. In those years Sharry has served in many different capacities, including
currently as our Minister of Christian Formation.

*Sharry: I thank First Congregational Church of Bellingham, UCC,
its members and friends, for the love, kindness,
and support shown me these last 21 years.
I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.
I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.
As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

**People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness,
and accept that you now leave to minister through retirement.
We express our gratitude for your time among us.
We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.
Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us
at your departure.**

*Sharry: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together
and our parting are pleasing to God.*

Vows of Release

Sharon: Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church of Bellingham release Sharry from the duties of Minister of Christian Formation?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Davi: Do you offer your encouragement for her ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Sharon: And do you, Sharry, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Sharry: I do, with the help of God.

Davi: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Sharry: I do, with the help of God.

BENEDICTION

Sharry Nyberg

POSTLUDE

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

Clara & Mia Kelly

If you're joining us online, please sign in to Worship Connect to let us know you're here!
<http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE CONTACT: As Cydne is spending more time in the office, the office mobile phone is being retired and the office phone number, 360-734-3720, is the best contact number. Email, of course, is still a good option, office@fcb.net.

WORSHIP:

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

WAYS TO CONNECT: For more information about these and other groups and activities, contact office@fcb.net.

- **Monday**
 - ◆ Poetry Writing Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm**
- **Thursday**
 - ◆ Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**
- **Friday**
 - ◆ Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
 - ◆ Prayer Series, **Fridays, 6:30 pm**
- **Saturday**
 - ◆ Creative Connections, **First of the month 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.fcb.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

Davi: davi@fccb.net

Sharry: sharry@fccb.net

You can also email our Office Manager
Cydne at office@fccb.net
and she'll pass your message on.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

Church Office: 360-734-3720

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

office@fccb.net • www.fccb.net

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Twitter: @BhamUCC

Office Hours: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton

PASTOR FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS,

& MISSION: Davi Weasley

MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION:

Sharry Nyberg

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig

LIMITED TERM CHAPLAIN Stevi Hamill

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Harbine

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig

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: Bill Henkel

VICE MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

PAST MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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