

The New Normal
August 8, 2021
#BiggerBalcony



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 8, 2021

10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

with Jeremiah 29:1-7

One Voice: All who are exiles—

All Voices: from family, from security, from the familiar...

One Voice: All who feel “out of sorts” —

**All Voices: waiting for a vaccine,
masking up at a friend’s,
grieving the end of “what was” ...**

One Voice: All who long for renewal—

All Voices: of health, of vitality, of hope, of life...

One Voice: The Divine has a message:

Do not wait for what was and may never be again;
find life in this moment.

**All Voices: With the strength of this community around us,
we choose to live right now!**

PASSING THE PEACE

*Please remain in your seats and welcome the peace offered to you,
or type in the Facebook chat a message of peace to others.*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Roni Woodard

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*There are several options for giving: 1) Mail checks to First Congregational Church,
2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225. 2) Give at our website, <https://fccb.net/giving/>.
3) Use the GivePlus app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!
4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to 208-516-2657, and set up your account. You’re ready
for easy giving by text! 5) Give by PayPal. Our easy link is [PayPal.Me/fccbucc](https://www.paypal.com/mefccbucc).*

A READING FROM THE POETS by enfleshed (enfleshed.com)

*For everything, there is a season.
Very little is as simple as "good" or "bad."
It is more often a question
of who and of when,
a why or a how.*

*There are times to birth new things.
There are times to welcome death.
There are times to plant seeds for those to come
and times for harvesting the long labor of
others.*

*There are times when destruction is necessary,
or at least unavoidable, and there are times
when healing is possible.*

*There are times to create art and times to tear it
down.*

*There are days where only weeping will do;
others for laughing. Some days we can only
mourn, others we dance. We ebb and flow our
way in community.*

*Sometimes we long to be in the arms of another,
other times we need the intimacy of solitude.*

*There are times for seeking a way through the
impossible, and other times for accepting our
losses.*

There is a time to hold on and a time to let go.

*There are times when some of us need to be
silent
and times when the rest of us must speak.*

*Love has its time and hate has its place.
Conflict must be accepted;
and peace welcomed in due time.*

*May we listen our way into and out of each
season,
with Wisdom as our guide,
forcing nothing outside of its time,
receiving everything for what it is,
trusting Love's companionship,
laboring toward liberation together.*

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Creator God, Creating Still”

Lucy Bledig

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Common English Bible

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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.

SERMON

“The New Normal”

Sharon Benton

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Judy Widrig

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.

BENEDICTION

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

*If you're joining us in the #BiggerBalcony, go to Worship Connect to let us know you're here!
<http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect>*

*Our "All Questions Considered" Sermon is coming up on **August 29!**
What have you been pondering? Pose a question for your pastors to consider:
theology, worship, Bible, meaning, church history, faith...
Send your submissions to office@fccb.net no later than **August 22.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE HELP NEEDED: Now that the office is staffed again, we're starting to think about how to meet the existing needs safely. If you're interested in being a teller or an office volunteer, contact Cydne, office@fccb.net.

BACKYARD CONVERSATIONS: Sign up for a backyard conversation hosted by a member of your First Congregational Church family! See the July 21 Midweek Message or contact office@fccb.net for the signup link.

AUGUST CREATIVE CONNECTIONS: Next month Creative Connections will be August 14, 10:00 am live, outside, and in person at a prime location with a big deck and umbrellas for shade. Contact Amelia Bacon at 360-319-6111 for the address or check the Friday email.

DRIVE-BY PANTRY DRIVE: The Mission and Justice and Faith Formation boards invite you to participate in a **Saturday, August 21** pantry drive in support of the Birchwood Food Desert Fighters. Read more on our blog: <https://www.fccb.net/blog/birchwood-food-desert-fighters-pantry-drive/>. And watch your mail for a postcard you can take with you when you shop!

WORSHIP:

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

WAYS TO CONNECT: For more information about these and other groups and activities, contact office@fccb.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, **August 14, 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/>.

Cover image by Jon Tyson on Unsplash

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

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 MUSIC: Lucy Bledig

NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Harbine

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig

ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

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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