

**Labor Day Weekend**  
**September 5, 2021**



**first**  **congregational**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
timeless worship + modern faith

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 5, 2021

10:00 am

*"You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you MAD before it sets you free."*

~ Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr.

**PRELUDE**

Judy Widrig

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Davi Weasley

**RINGING THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Matthew Best

One Voice: It is so easy to retreat to our ivory towers.

**All Voices: Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.**

One Voice: It is so easy to be overwhelmed by the need in the world.

**All Voices: Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.**

One Voice: It is so easy to turn away from call because we might do it wrong.

**All Voices: Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.**

One Voice: Deliver us, o God, from fear, from ignorance, from all that holds us back.

**All Voices: Faith and works together- that is life.**

**CHANT**

**“Be the Change”  
by Marc Kaplan and Colin Britt**

**Lucy Bledig**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**Meg Best**

*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/fccbu](https://www.paypal.com/mefccbu).*

**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.**

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

James 2: 1-17  
New Revised Standard Version

Matthew Best

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Matthew Best

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.**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Meg Best

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

Judy Widrig

**SERMON**

“Faith Without Works is Dead”

Davi Weasley

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“Impartial, Compassionate God”  
by Adrienne Stricker, from *Songs for the Holy Other*

Lucy Bledig

**COMMUNION**

*Gather something to eat and drink;  
the risen Christ will meet us wherever we are.*

Davi Weasley

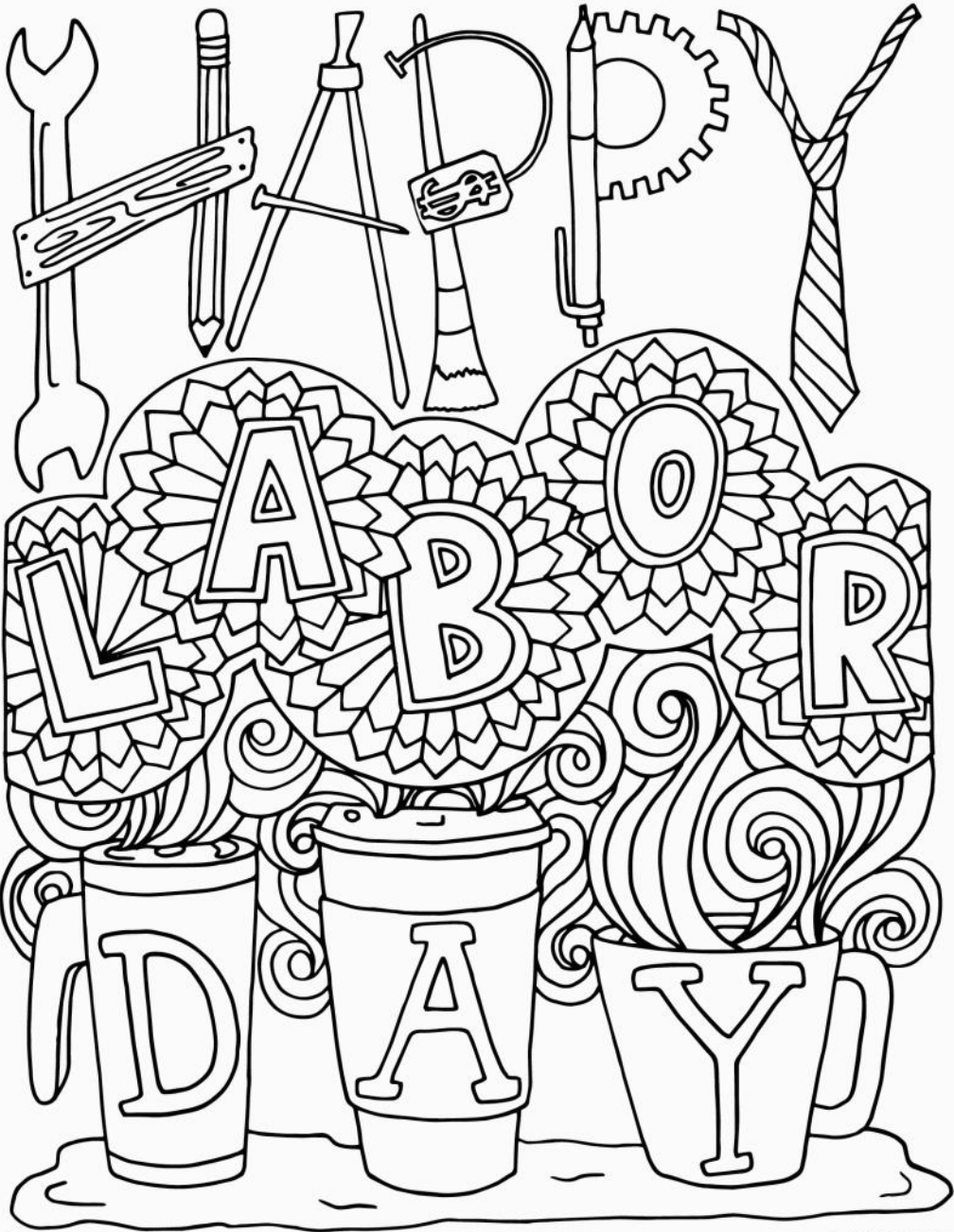
**BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

**POSTLUDE**

Judy Widrig

*Let us know you're here! Go to Worship Connect <http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect> to sign in.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** A surge in cases prompted the Church Council to suspend in-person worship. For more information and to read the statement from the Council visit <https://www.fccb.net/blog/covid-19-update/>.

**FAITH FORMATION GATHERING IN SEPTEMBER 12:** The Faith Formation Board invites families of all sizes, shapes and configurations to join us for a fun zoom meeting **Sunday, September 12 at 2:00 pm**. Hear the stories, ring your bell, eat a snack, try a craft, and share God's love! Activities are designed for age 3 through grade 5. Resource bags for participants will be delivered during the week before the gathering. For more information contact [susan@fccb.net](mailto:susan@fccb.net) or [ted@fccb.net](mailto:ted@fccb.net). You can read more about Faith Formation for the fall on our blog: <https://www.fccb.net/blog/>.

**MISSION & JUSTICE NEWS DIGEST:** For all the news from the Mission & Justice Board visit our blog: <https://www.fccb.net/blog/justice-digest-september-1/>,

### 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](mailto:office@fccb.net).

- **Monday**
  - ◆ Poetry Writing Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 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, **1st Saturdays, 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)

Davi: [davi@fccb.net](mailto:davi@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*

2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

Church Office: 360-734-3720

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

[office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net) • [www.fccb.net](http://www.fccb.net)

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

**INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:**

**Ted & Susan Huffman**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig**

**WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:**

**Skyler Spain**

**NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Harbine**

**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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