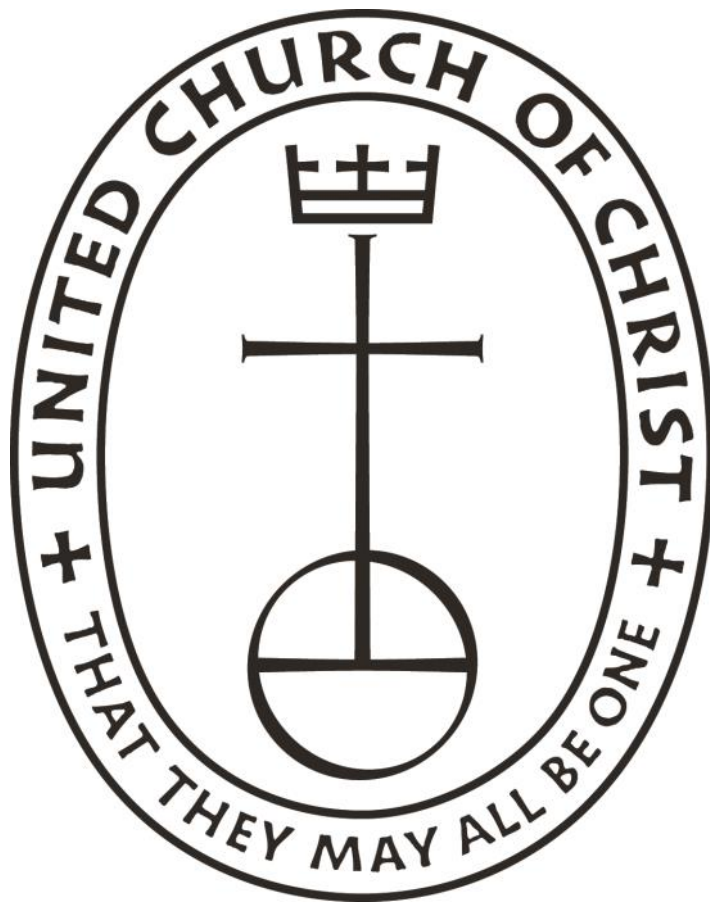


**Going Deeper:
A Faith Vision for First Congregational Church
October 3, 2022**



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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 2, 2022

10:00 am

Welcome! Please participate in as much or as little of the service as you feel comfortable.

*We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too.
There are pillows in the front where they can see the instruments and participate fully,
or the coloring, book, and play area is available in the corner near the windows.
Their movements back and forth are a joy for all of us.*

*...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
-Acts 1:8b*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Davi Weasley

RINGING THE BELL

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

* Rise in body or spirit

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Janet Ott

One Voice: The escaping Israelites walked on dry ground through the Red Sea.

All Voices: Walking, journeying, traveling—following God is a trip!

One Voice: They were frightened of Pharaoh;
sad about leaving everything they knew behind them;
anxious not knowing what they were heading toward.

**All Voices: We've been frightened by statements that "the church is dying";
sad about letting go of beloved traditions, friends, or familiarity;
anxious to know what is ahead of us in this community.**

One Voice: In a pillar of cloud or column of fire, God led the Hebrew people
day and night. There is much they did not need to leave behind.

**All Voices: In community and Spirit, God leads today.
There is so much good we carry with us!**

One Voice: May we listen and journey together.

***HYMN 572**

"When Israel Was in Egypt's Land"
verses 1,3,4

Go DOWN, MOSES

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Ted & Susan Huffman

After Time with Children, preschool & elementary children are invited to attend Church School.

SONG

"Open Our Hearts"

O - pen our hearts, o - pen our minds.
O - pen our lives to you, O lov - ing
God. O - pen our hearts.

Words and Music: Jim Strathdee

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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.**

*If you have a prayer request you'd like to share confidentially with our pastors,
have added to the confidential prayer list, or spoken aloud in worship,
go to www.fccb.net/contact-us/ to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-25, 29
Common English Bible

Janet Ott

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Janet Ott

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.

VISIONING REFLECTION

“In Jerusalem:
Going Deeper in Our Church”

Beth Tyne
Sharon Benton

CONNECTION REFLECTION

*To go deeper into today's story, turn to others and reflect on the question;
consider moving to reflect with some people you don't know as well;*


*If you prefer to reflect on your own, use the open space in your bulletin to write or draw;
if you're online, write in the chat box or phone a friend*

Have you experienced going deep in some way as part of First Congregational Church?

What did that look like for you?

In what ways would you like to go deeper with your church?

What action item(s) within this theme can you imagine engaging?



SONG

“Be Thou My Vision”
Traditional Irish hymn

Unbroken Circle

VISIONING REFLECTION

“In All Judea and Samaria:
Going Deeper in Our Wider Community”

Sharon Benton

CONNECTION REFLECTION

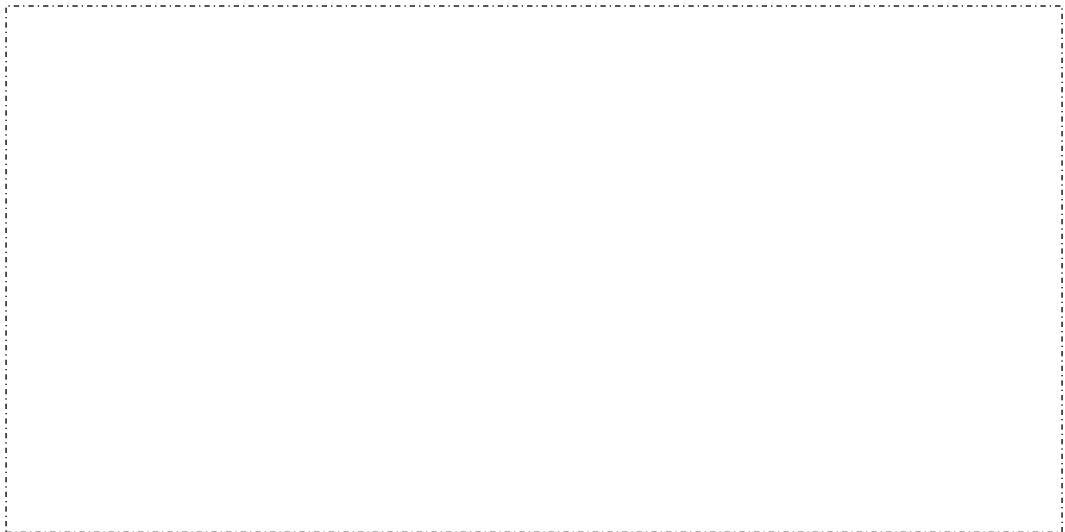
Perhaps choose a different discussion partner; feel free to move around!

Have you experienced going deep in some way regarding homelessness
in our community?

What did that look like for you?

In what ways would you like to go deeper in engaging homelessness?

What action item(s) within this theme can you imagine engaging?



SUNG RESPONSE

“God Bless Every Step”



God bless ev-ery step that I am ta-king, and bless the earth be-neath my feet.

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VISIONING REFLECTION

“To the Ends of the Earth:
Going Deeper in Our World”

Sharon Benton

CONNECTION REFLECTION

Choose another conversation partner/group for this final round of discussion

Have you experienced going deep in some way regarding creation care?

What did that look like for you?

In what ways would you like to go deeper in engaging creation care?

What action item(s) within this theme can you imagine engaging?

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dashed line, intended for handwritten responses to the reflection questions.

SONG

"I Can See Clearly Now"
by Johnny Nash
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Unbroken Circle

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

Janet Ott

*There are several options for giving: 1) Give at our website, <https://fccb.net/giving/>.
2) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225.
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).
Pledge letters are in the mail!*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sung Invitation

Come, Let Us Bring

By Billema Kwillia & Marty Haugen

***Come let us bring our gifts to God in praise,
So that we might minister in countless ways.***

***Come, let us bring the warm and fragrant bread,
Broken here so all God's people might be fed.***

***Come, let us bring the sweet, abundant wine.
In this cup, we taste the joy of grace divine.***

*If you're joining us from home, gather something to eat and drink;
the risen Christ will meet us wherever we are.*

*If you're worshiping in person today, you may come forward to receive communion. Stay distanced, please; and remove your mask briefly. If you wish to remain seated, someone will come around to you in your seat. Raise a hand or indicate that you would like communion as they come around,
If you come forward you will be on the video stream*

***HYMN 562**

“Take My Gifts”

TALAVERA TARRACE

***BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig



ROOM FOR REFLECTION

ROOM FOR REFLECTION



*I would like
to go deep by ...*

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.

APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF

Pastoral staff are available by appointment virtually, or in person with masks. 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

INTERIM MINISTERS OF FAITH FORMATION:

Ted & Susan Huffman

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig

ACCOUNTANT: Erin Kennedy

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost

MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

VICE MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

PAST MODERATOR: Bill Henkel

CLERK: Janet Malley

TREASURER: Jen Sandoval

HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller

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