

The Story Mirror
October 23, 2022



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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 23, 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.*

*Content warning: this week's scripture passage includes sexual violence.
Please take care of yourself and leave worship before the reading, if needed.*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Benton

RINGING THE BELL

INTROIT

*“Christians, We Have Met To Worship”
Dick & Cherie Little, Brian Rapp, Cathy Arnold*

Quartet

THE STORY

Ted Huffman

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

with Psalm 51

Nancy Fayram

One Voice: Have mercy on us, God, according to your faithful love!

All Voices: **Wipe away our wrongdoings according to your great compassion!**

One Voice: Help us hold a mirror up to ourselves and see when we've missed the mark.

All Voices: **Help us hold a mirror up and see your love reflecting back.**

One Voice: We know we're not perfect, God, but we also don't like admitting it.

All Voices: **So we need to know you will forgive us when we have failed to do right.**

One Voice: Even when reconciliation is not possible, help us repair the harm .

All Voices: **You are the One we turn to in our most hidden places.**

You are the One we worship with hope.

***HYMN 519**

"Not My Brother, Nor my Sister"

NEED OF PRAYER

verses 1, 2, 4

CONNECTION REFLECTION

Sharon Benton

*To go deeper into today's story, turn to others and reflect on the question;
if you prefer to reflect on your own, use the open space in your bulletin to write or draw.
If you need more space, use the "Room for Reflection" space on the last page.*

When you look in a mirror, what's the first thing you notice?

Is it something you like or something you wish you could change?

How do you respond when someone points out something beautiful (internal or external) about you? What's your first response when someone offers critique?



SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER

"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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TIME WITH CHILDREN

Ted 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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MOMENT FOR MISSION

Neighbors in Need Offering

Mission & Justice Board

INVITATION TO PRAYER

“Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord”

Quartet

from Mendelssohn’s “Elijah”

Dick & Cherie Little, Brian Rapp, Cathy Arnold

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ted Huffman

The Prayer of Jesus

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

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.**

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

*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

2 Samuel 11 & 12, selected verses

Nancy Fayram

Psalm 51:1-10

Common English Bible

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Nancy Fayram

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 Story Mirror”

Sharon Benton

HYMN 449

“Softly and Tenderly”
verses 1 & 2

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

“Are You Confused About Your Pledge?”
A Brief Quiz, Part 2
by Quinn G. Caldwell

Beth Tyne
& 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 Breeze app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!
4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to (360) 205-1297, and set up your account.*

Offering Music

“In Christ There Is No East or West”
Dick & Cherie Little, Brian Rapp, Cathy Arnold

Quartet

***HYMN 547**

“Amazing Grace”
verses 1, 3, 5

AMAZING GRACE

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

ROOM FOR REFLECTION

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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