

Generation to Generation

October 8, 2023



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 8, 2023

10:00 am

Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.

Say that your main crop is the forest

*That you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest.*

Say that the leaves are harvested

When they have rotted into the mold.

Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus

that will build under the trees

every thousand years.

-from "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front" by Wendell Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:50 am)

RINGING OF THE BELL (10:00 am)

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME

Page

"What We Need Is Here"

Text by Wendell Berry. Tune by Amy McCreath.



Used under OneLicense.net #A-718199

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

**Rise in body or spirit*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

KJ Hayes

*Children may go with Josh to church school in the social hall
or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.*

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

Judy Widrig

*What (vision, investment, etc.) have you planted in the past that you've seen come to flower?
Or, what are you planting, or what would you like to plant, now?*

***COMMUNITY PRAYER**

from BibleWorm

Gail Warren

One: From generation to generation,

All: our God is the One.

One: For our ancestors, yes, and also for us, here, today,

All: our God is the One.

One: In the stories of old, and the story we are still living,

All: our God is the One.

One: Listen — not just with your ears but with your whole self:

All: our God is the One,

and we will love God with all our being.

**You, Holy One, have offered us a story with thousands of generations
of blessing,**

and we come today to hear and to join in.

**You set us free from the empires of destruction, scarcity, and supremacy
so that we can worship you together in community.**

In the midst of the ways of this world,

You call us to another way:

a way full of heart, being, and strength,

sharing your grace with one another.

Help us today to hear you, and to plant possibilities for next generations.

Amen.

***HYMN 433 (black hymnal) "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"**

PROMISE

SILENT PRAYER

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.*

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 5:1-5; 6:4-9
Common English Bible

Gail Warren

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Gail Warren

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

“Generation to Generation”

Sharon Benton

by Dan Forrest, lyrics by Charles Anthony Silvestri

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION

DEDICATION OF SOLAR PANELS

Naming Those Who Led

The Green Team

Liturgy

written by Bernie Bloom

One: Blessed are You, O Divine, Maker of the Universe,
who has granted us life, sustained us
and enabled us to reach this occasion.

Yet during the fleeting years of modernity, we have built our civilization
by unearthing thousands of years of compressed sunlight, releasing from
deep in the earth energy that has been safely stored over the millennia.
But we know we can do that no longer.

So we have come today to dedicate ourselves to living from the sun's
daily gifts of light and power, as we should.

Our tradition teaches that we were given light on the fourth day.

All: We shall use that gift to protect Creation.

One: The Creator of the Heavens said: "I will surely open the abundance of the skies
for you and pour down upon you blessings without end" (Malachi 3:10).
And by capturing the energy of today's sun, we turn our prayers into reality.

All: Blessed are You, Creator of all that is.

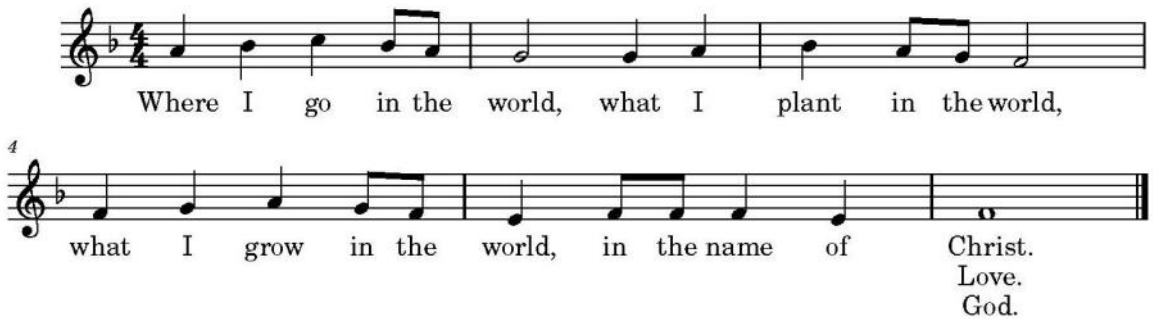
One: In this era of climate change, our turning to the daily gifts of the sun is essential
to saving Earth, our home, for those who come after us. It is for that reason we
inaugurate the solar array on our church's roof. So that you and your children
and their children—*our communal children*—may endure as long as there is a
heaven over the earth.

**All: May this project, and projects to come, inspire our communities, neighbors,
and all who seek a better world. Blessed are you Eternal, Creator of the
Universe, who has given us the opportunity to repair the world. May it be so!**

***SENDING SONG**

"Where I Go in the World"

by Ana Hernández



***BENEDICTION**

Page

POSTLUDE & SHARING

"Still I Sing Alleluia"

One Accord

*After the postlude we encourage you to share with someone your response to today's question:
What (vision, investment, etc.) have you planted in the past that you've seen come to flower?
Or, what are you planting, or what would you like to plant, now?*

*Offering plates are available near the doors as you leave;
thank you for your gift helping to build justice and compassion.*

There are several other ways to give: 1) Give at our website, <https://fcb.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.

5) Scan the QR code above or on the back cover of the bulletin.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you receive our Friday Announcements email? Contact office@fccb.net to sign up!

Save the Date: Trunk or Treat, October 29

WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Hybrid worship in person, and on Facebook or on Zoom, our #BiggerBalcony.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

For details, see our Connection Calendar in the Friday email or contact office@fccb.net.

Monday

Walking Group: weekly, **10:30 am**, Barkley Pond

Board Meetings: **2nd Mondays, 6:30 pm**

Church Council: **4th Mondays, 7:00 pm**

Poetry Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 pm**

Tuesday

Book Club: **1st Tuesdays, 9:30 am**

Pilgrim Circle: **2nd Tuesdays, 12:00 noon**

Green Team: **2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:00 pm**

Wednesday

Glee Club: weekly, **5:00 pm**

Adult Forum: weekly, **7:00 pm**

SPIRIT Group: **1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 pm on Zoom**

Thursday

Grandparent Group: **2nd Thursdays, 10:30 am**, Fireplace Room

Evening Book Study: **2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5:00 pm**

Young Adult Peer Philosophy Group: weekly, **7:00 pm**, Fireplace Room

Friday

Knitting Group: weekly, **10:00 am**

Quilters: weekly, **12:00 noon**, off-site

Game Night: **3rd Fridays, 6:00-9:00 pm**

Sunday

Chancel Choir: weekly, **8:30 am**

Children's Church: weekly, **during worship**

Going Deeper: weekly, **11:30 am**

Handbells: weekly, **11:30 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.

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: On Sabbatical

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

Summer Office Hours: M-Th, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them

SABBATICAL PASTOR: L Page, she/they

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

ACCOUNTANT: Marinda Seholm, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/they

MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

VICE MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

PAST MODERATOR: Beth Tyne

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

OneLicense #A-718199

CCS #12615

