

Finding the Book

November 26, 2023



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

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

November 26, 2023

10:00 am

“We don’t like to make our passions other people’s concerns.” ~ Dar Williams, *Iowa*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55 am)

WELCOME

Davi Weasley

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME SONG

“What We Need Is Here”

Text by Wendell Berry. Tune by Amy McCreath.



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THE STORY

Davi Weasley

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Davi Weasley

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

**Rise in body or spirit*

MUSIC FOR CONTEMPLATION

“Doxology (Old Hundredth)”

Handbell Choir

*What’s a teaching you’ve lost track of that you’d like to reclaim?
Do you want to reconnect with a habit, a proverb, a story or a friend these days?*

***COMMUNITY PRAYER**

Kris Johnson

One: God of memory and story, we thank you for what has been passed down to us.

**All: Bless our relationship with history,
that we might learn the wisdom that is for now.**

One: God of longing and waiting,
we thank you for the times you have been with us in silence.

**All: Bless all the moments when the world seems scarce,
when hope is hard to come by.**

One: God of renewal, we thank you for transformation and new beginning.

**All: Bless the reform that is ours, and bless the new life that even our fear
cannot stop. Amen.**

***HYMN 573** (black hymnal)

“Lead On, Eternal Sovereign”

LANCASHIRE

WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Davi Weasley

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.*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“With Sighs Too Deep for Words”

Judy Widrig

by Anne Krentz Organ. Used with permission.

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 22:1-10, 23:1-3

Kris Johnson

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Kris Johnson

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

“Finding the Book”

Davi Weasley

ANTHEM

“For the Music of Creation”
by Sally Ann Morris

Chancel Choir &
Handbell Choir

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION

TESTIMONY

Creation Care Prayer
Dorothy Shimer, Darlene Mathias, & Laurie Hoyt

The Green Team

CREATOR GOD,
who multiplies blessings,
bless these symbols
and the actions they represent
as we join with you to heal and protect
our planet from pollution and destruction.

HELP US
to set aside the desire for material riches,
opening our hearts to the myriad life forms
around us and the rich beauty
of this planet that we hold dear.

GUIDE US
as we learn to make sustainable changes
in our everyday lives.

AND BLESS
the scientists, researchers, activists,
and advocates for climate justice
as they multiply the blessings we offer.

WE PRAY
in awe
of the life and the beauty
on this planet that we call home.

AMEN

***SENDING SONG**

"Where I Go in the World"

by Ana Hernández



Where I go in the world, what I plant in the world,



what I grow in the world, in the name of Christ.
Love.
God.

***BENEDICTION**

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE & SHARING

Judy Widrig

*Offering plates will be passed during the postlude
for you to share a gift to support the ministries we serve.*

After the postlude we encourage you share with someone your response to today's question:

Please leave your offering gift in the plates as you leave the sanctuary.

*Your generosity allows the work of this place nurture beloved community,
grow authentic Christian faith, and live Christ-inspired action. Thank you! .*

There are several other ways to give: 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.

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!

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, **10:00 am**, Barkley Pond

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**

SPIRIT Group, **1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm**

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

Wednesday

Glee Club: weekly, **3:00 pm**

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

Thursday

Men's Breakfast Group, **1st Thursday, 9:00 am**, Country Club

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

20s/30s/40s/ Group, **5:30 pm**, **last Thursday** of the month.

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

Friday

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**, Social Hall

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/>.

Cover image by Mick Haupt 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.

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

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

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them

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

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