

# Annual Congregational Meeting February 11, 2024



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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

February 11, 2024

10:00 am

*People who believe in the resurrection,  
in God making a whole new world in which everything will be set right at last,  
are unstoppably motivated to work for that new world in the present.*

*-N.T. Wright, Surprised by Hope*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Davi Weasley

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME SONG

“God Welcomes All”  
by John Bell

*Energetically*

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains chords and rests, while the bass staff contains a simple bass line. The lyrics 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;' are written below the first system. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains chords and rests, and the bass staff contains a simple bass line. The lyrics 'God's love is strong and it ne - ver ends.' are written below the second system. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

**THE STORY**

Sharon Benton

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

Jen Sandoval

*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

*Think of a time you felt adrift and someone helped you find solid ground again.  
How might you have been a gift to the other in that exchange?*

**WE ARE A NURTURING BELOVED COMMUNITY.**

**\*COMMUNITY PRAYER**

Janet Ott

One Voice: Holy One, sometimes life feels like a shipwreck.

**All Voices: We're thrown into roiling waters,  
clinging to whatever remains for us.**

One Voice: : Thank you for locals who welcome us in when we're adrift.

**All Voices: Thank you for their wisdom and willingness  
to share what they know and have.**

One Voice: : Help us remember we have much to share, too,  
even when we feel rocked by change.

**All Voices: Amen.**

\*HYMN

“The Church of Christ, In Every Age”

O WALY WALY

The church of Christ, in ev - ery age be - set by  
A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing

3  
change, but Spir - it led, Must claim and test its her - i -  
of in - jus - tice cry For shel - ter and for bread to  
church that longs to be A part - ner in Christ's sac - ri -

6  
tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.

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Tune O WALY WALY English folk tune. Public domain

A READING FROM THE POETS

from “catalogue of unabashed gratitude”

Janet Ott

by Ross Gay

SUNG PRAYER

“With Sighs Too Deep for Words”

by Anne Krentz Organ. Used with permission.

Leader:

This is the sound of our Prayers And the Spirit in - ter - cedes for us

All:

with sighs, with sighs too deep for words. With sighs, with sighs too deep for words.

**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.**

*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/](http://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**

Acts 27-28, selected verses

Janet Ott

Common English Bible

**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.

SERMON

Sharon Benton

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Jesus on the Mountain Peak”  
by Michael Burkhardt

Chancel Choir

**WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.**

TESTIMONY

\*HYMN 391 (black hymnal)

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

NEW DIMENSIONS

\*BENEDICTION

Davi Weasley

POSTLUDE & SHARING

Judy Widrig

*After the postlude we encourage you share with someone your response to today's question:  
Think of a time you felt adrift and someone helped you find solid ground again.  
How might you have been a gift to the other in that exchange?*

**PLEASE STAY FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
ON ZOOM OR IN PERSON. ALL VOICES ARE WELCOME;  
COVENANTED MEMBERS MAY VOTE.  
YOUR PRESENCE HELPS US COLLECTIVELY LISTEN  
FOR THE SPIRIT'S MOVEMENT IN OUR MIDST.**

*You may make an offering either in the plates at the door or online.*

*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://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 below or on the back cover of the bulletin.*



**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.

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

*Office Hours: 10:00 am-5:00 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**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:**

**Kurt Aagard, he/him**

**BOOKKEEPER:**

**Eric Bowen**

**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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