

Offering Our Hands, While Following the Opening of Our Hearts

June 30, 2024

What's Going
On?

I'm experiencing
a lot around
aging.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 30, 2024

10:00 am

"There is no love that does not become help."

~ Paul Tillich

PRELUDE

"Wayfaring Stranger"
Traditional

Unbroken Circle

WELCOME

Sharon Benton

We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows and a coloring, book, and play area in the front and in the corner near the windows. Younger kids may enjoy the Narthex play area. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us as they participate fully.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME SONG

"Windy God"
by Rachael Weasley

Windy God, take the fi-re of my tongue and let it sing for you! Windy
God, take the fi-re of my tongue and let it sing for you! Win-dy
God, take the fi-re of my tongue, Windy God, take the fi-re of my tongue and Windy
God, take the fi-re of my tongue and let it sing for you!

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**Rise in body or spirit*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Darlene Mathias

During the summer, children are welcome to move about, sharing in the activities in the children's corner or moving to the tables and pillows in the front.

***HYMN 25** (black hymnal) "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, alt.

Heidi Alford

One Voice: When the signs of age begin to mark my body
(and still more when they touch my mind);

**All Voices: when the ill that is to diminish me or carry me off
strikes from without or is born within me;**

One Voice: when the painful moment comes
in which I suddenly awaken
to the fact that I am ill or growing old;

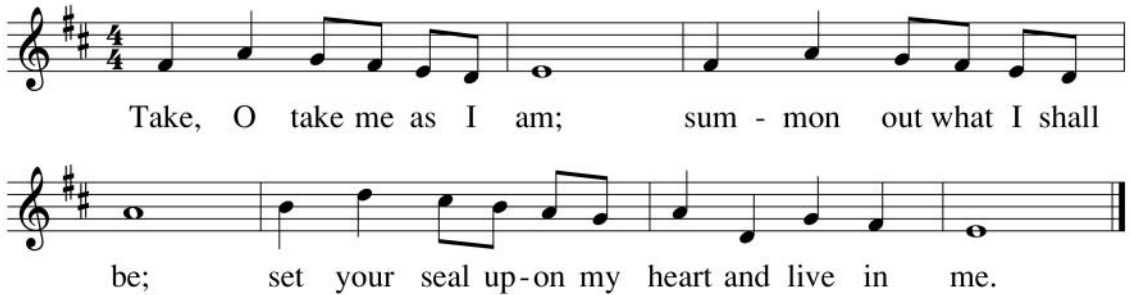
**All Voices: and above all at that last moment
when I feel I am losing hold of myself
and am absolutely passive within the hands
of the great unknown forces that have formed me;**

One Voice: in all those key moments, O God,
grant that I may understand that it is you
(provided only my faith is strong enough)
who are painfully parting the fibers of my being
in order to penetrate to the very marrow
of my substance and bear me away within yourself.

All Voices: Amen.

SUNG PRAYER

"Take, O Take Me As I Am"



Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Sharon Benton

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

Luke 9: 23-25 & 2 Corinthians 4:7-10
New Revised Standard Version

Heidi Alford

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Heidi Alford

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

“Offering Our Hands, While
Following the Opening of Our Hearts”

Rev. Rody Rowe

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Little Bird of Heaven”
by Martha Scanlan

Unbroken Circle

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

TESTIMONY

Patti Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Rev. Sharon Benton

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 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 below on the back cover of the bulletin.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Judy Widrig

***HYMN 351** (black hymnal) “I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry”

BORNING CRY

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

Today's flowers are from Larry & Mary Jo Menninga, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

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

Sunday

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

Monday

Walking Group: weekly, **10:00 am**, Barkley Pond

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

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

Tuesday

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

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Men's Breakfast Group, **1st Thursday, 9:00 am**, Country Club. Not meeting in July.

Thursday Book Group: **2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5:00 pm**, Fireplace Room

20-Somethings Peer Philosophy Group: weekly, **7:00 pm**, Fireplace Room

Friday

Game Night: **3rd Fridays, 6:00-9:00 pm**, Room 32

Saturday

Centering Prayer Group: **Saturdays, 11:00 am**, Chapel

*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/>.*

**Next Sunday is Bellingham Pride!
Consider walking in the parade with Pastor
Sharon. Line up is 10:30 am at Waypoint Park.**

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**

Page **page@fccb.net**

Davi: **on parental leave**

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-4:30 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

**PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them
(on parental leave)**

INTERIM PASTOR: Page, she/they

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/they

MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

PAST MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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