

Everything In Between Lost & Found March 30, 2025



first congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

Vision Statement:

We Are a Nurturing, Beloved Community.
We Are Growing Authentic Christian Faith.
We Are Living Christ-Inspired Action.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 30, 2025

10:00 am

Rarely, if ever, are any of us healed in isolation. Healing is an act of communion. ~bell hooks

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

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

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG

“Praise to the God of the In-Between Space”

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It features three triplet markings over the first three notes of each of the first three measures. The lyrics are: "Praise to the God of the in-between space, Praise for the people who witness to more,". The second line begins with a measure rest of 3 measures, followed by a triplet of notes. The lyrics are: "teach-ing us all of your lim-it-less grace, and for cre-a-tion that more than the cer-tain-ties of ei-ther or, liv-ing as signs of a". The third line begins with a measure rest of 6 measures, followed by a triplet of notes. The lyrics are: "helps us to grow past all the bi-na-ry bound-ries we know. wild mys-ter-y: God in one na-ture, and God One in Three." The piece concludes with a final measure rest of 4 measures.

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**Rise in body or spirit*

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Tina Anderson

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

***HYMN 547** (black hymnal)

“Amazing Grace”
verses 1-3

AMAZING GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION⁺

Carol Garguile

One Voice: Friends, in the Christian tradition many have used “lost” and “found” labels to describe people “out there” versus people “in here.” Many have used “lost” and “found” language to create a damaging dichotomy that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost. But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd. So join me in the prayer of confession, as people who know both ends of that spectrum. Join me as we go to God in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁺

Carol Garguile

One Voice: If God is a painter,

All Voices: let us be the brush.

One Voice: If God is a musician,

All Voices: let us be the song.

One Voice: If God is an architect,

All Voices: let us be the tools.

One Voice: Let us be the hands.

All Voices: Let us be the builders.

One Voice: But if God is a shepherd,

All Voices: who never stops seeking,

One Voice: let us be willing to be found,

All Voices: no matter how lost we feel.

One Voice: Our God is never far away.

All Voices: Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS*

Carol Garguile

One Voice: Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found.
We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves.
We leave the flock and lose our way. But fortunately for us, our God
is a shepherding God who is always by our side. So hear and believe
the good news of the gospel:

All Voices: **No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds
of God's grace. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON



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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 15:1-10
Common English Bible

Carol Garguile

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Carol Garguile

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

“Everything In Between Lost & Found”

Sharon Benton

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Be Thou My Vision"
Arranged by Jeff Cranfill

Intergenerational Orchestra

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

TESTIMONY

Lance Jones
Interim CEO of Northwest Youth Services

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

You may make an offering either in the plates 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://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 on the back cover of the bulletin.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Abide With Me"

Intergenerational Orchestra

by William H. Monk, arr. Paul Barker

*HYMN

"Your Love Is Washing Over Me" I WON'T BE AFRAID ANYMORE

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: E, B, E, E7/D, A/C#, A, B7, and E.

Your love is wash - ing o - ver me, your love
is wash - ing o - ver me. Your love is wash - ing
o - ver me, and I won't be fright - ened an - y more.

Your mercy's washing ...
Your peace is washing ...
Your joy is washing ...
Your grace is washing ...
Your hope is washing ...

Additional stanzas may be improvised.

Text: Jaylene Johnson (Canada), 2015.
Music: Jaylene Johnson, 2015
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***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

After worship, please visit April from Northwest Youth Services at her table!



+All prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT: *Lost & Found* by Hannah Garrity. Inspired by Luke 15:1-7. Newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing. *On September 27, 2024, I began drawing the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep tenderly wrapped around his shoulders. As I worked, rain pummeled our roof, saturating the ground with an endless deluge as the wide bands of tropical storm Helene reached our high-elevation town of Black Mountain, NC ... [a]s I read this parable again, now over 6 weeks after the storm, what strikes me is the pursuit of the shepherd, so singularly focused on the one who is lost, vulnerable, and at-risk.*

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

Our pastor is available by appointment virtually or in person. Contact her by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255.

Sharon sharon@fccb.net

You can also email our Office Manager Cydne at office@fccb.net and she'll pass your message on.

*During Lent, all prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

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Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Office Hours:

9 am-5 pm, M, T, F & 1:00-5:00 pm W, Th

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her
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

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WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/they

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR

TRAINEE:

Moxy Rogers

MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her

VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval

PAST MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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