

One Body: Mid-Year Congregational Meeting June 29, 2025



Vision Statement:

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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
June 29, 2025 10:00 am

The church meets to imagine what our lives can be like if the gospel were true.
~ Walter Brueggemann (1933-2025)

PRELUDE

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.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Laurie Hoyt

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME SONG “Fire of God, Undying Flame” NUM KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND



1 Fire of God, un - dy - ing Flame, Spir - it who in splen-dor came,
2 Breath of God, that swept in power in the Pen - te - cos - tal hour,



Let your heat my soul re - fine, till it glows with love di - vine.
Ho - ly Breath, be now in me source of vi - tal en - er - gy.

by Albert F. Bayly, © 1998 Oxford University Press. Tune NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND by Johann Walter, harmonized by Melchior Vulpius. Used under OneLicense.net #A-718199

**Rise in body or spirit*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Maya McEachern

*After Time with Children, children may remain on the pillows, sit with their adults,
or use the coloring tables in the front or by the windows.*

*HYMN 562 (black hymnal)

“Take My Gifts”
verses 1 & 3

TALavera TERRACE

COMMUNITY PRAYER

David Fayram

One Voice: Holy One, thank you for making us part of Christ’s body, your church.

All Voices: **There are no unimportant parts of the body,
whether we are younger or older, richer or poorer,**

One Voice: smart in intellect or in intuition, quiet or loud,

All Voices: **a dreamer or a planner, here for this day only or for every week—**

One Voice: we all have a part in this congregation:

All Voices: **some show us how to build a nurturing, beloved community,
others help us grow authentic Christian faith,
and still others lead us in living Christ-inspired action.**

One Voice: Interconnected and interdependent,
none of us can claim we don’t need another.

All Voices: **We have various ways of working, but it’s you, God,
who inspire all of us with our particular gifts.**

One Voice: So bless us in this gathering today,

All Voices: **so we may take your blessings into the world around us. Amen.**

MINISTRY TESTIMONIES

FAITH FORMATION TESTIMONY

Megan Douglas

SUNG RESPONSE

“We Thank You, God, for Teachers”

ELLACOMBE

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

The musical score is written for a single voice in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: "We thank you— God for chil - dren and old - er peo - ple too,". The second staff begins with a measure rest of 6 measures, then continues with the melody. The notes are: E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (half). The lyrics are: "Who val - ue— times of learn - ing and want to grow in you,". The third staff begins with a measure rest of 11 measures, then continues with the melody. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: "Who. seek your prec - ious kin - dom and wis - dom from a - bove". The fourth staff begins with a measure rest of 16 measures, then continues with the melody. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: "For wise ones. of all a - ges still seek_ to learn your love.".

We thank you— God for chil - dren and old - er peo - ple too,

Who val - ue— times of learn - ing and want to grow in you,

Who. seek your prec - ious kin - dom and wis - dom from a - bove

For wise ones. of all a - ges still seek_ to learn your love.

ARTS IN WORSHIP TESTIMONY

Emily Wagnitz-Tracy

SONG

“God of Inspiration”

Scott Ward

by Mark Unbehagen

MISSION & JUSTICE TESTIMONY

Sharon Camblin

SUNG RESPONSE

“Here I Am, Lord”

back cover of the black hymnal

Verse 1

SUNG RESPONSE

"Draw the Circle Wide"

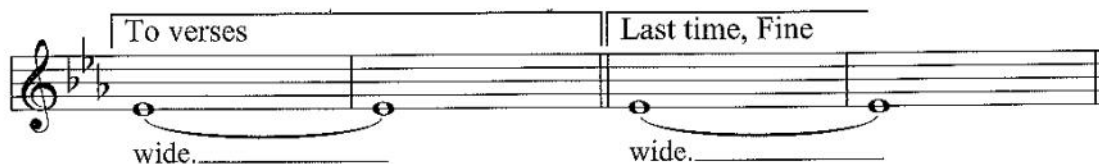
by Gordon Light, arr. by Michael Bloss



Draw the cir-cle_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our_



song, no one stands a - lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle_



To verses

Last time, Fine

wide._____

wide._____



2. Let our hearts touch far hor-i-zons, so en-com-pass

3. Let the dreams we_ dream be larg-er, than we've ev-er



great and small;
dreamed be - fore;

let our lov - ing
let the dream of



know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call._____
Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door._____

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Finance Update

Craig Jennings

First Congregational Church Profit & Loss vs. Budget, Condensed May 2025

 EB
06/05/2025
1:36 PM

Income	Summary code	May 2025 Actual	May 2025 Budget	Difference	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Pledges, Identified gifts, plate, prior year pldg, CF	400	\$ 64,074	\$ 58,462	\$ 5,612	\$ 289,669	\$ 280,990	\$ 8,679
Funds and Investments (reg. funds + invsmt. income)	410	\$ (188)	\$ 975	\$ (1,163)	\$ 73,284	\$ 76,540	\$ (3,256)
Building Use (GSMC, GF, Spec Events)	420	\$ 6,485	\$ 4,375	\$ 2,110	\$ 23,704	\$ 21,875	\$ 1,829
Special Offering	430	\$ 40	\$ -	\$ 40	\$ 573	\$ -	\$ 573
Total income		\$ 70,411	\$ 63,812	\$ 6,599	\$ 387,230	\$ 379,405	\$ 7,825
Expense							
All Staff and payroll expenses/taxes	500	\$ 34,206	\$ 41,511	\$ (7,305)	\$ 174,329	\$ 204,840	\$ (30,511)
Operations (Bldg, office, util, insur, all tech,...)	525	\$ 11,513	\$ 12,626	\$ (1,113)	\$ 62,845	\$ 67,952	\$ (5,107)
Arts in Worship	530	\$ 87	\$ 387	\$ (300)	\$ 1,221	\$ 1,938	\$ (717)
Faith Formation	540	\$ -	\$ 375	\$ (375)	\$ 224	\$ 1,875	\$ (1,651)
Diacon (Minis. Res., Mbr'shp, Communic.)	550	\$ 386	\$ 579	\$ (193)	\$ 1,873	\$ 2,889	\$ (1,016)
Denomin. (OCWM, Confer. Exp.)	580	\$ 2,022	\$ 1,750	\$ 272	\$ 12,251	\$ 13,120	\$ (869)
Mission/Justice (Local and Interfaith)	590	\$ -	\$ 83	\$ (83)	\$ 1,342	\$ 1,667	\$ (325)
Other expense	600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total expense		\$ 48,214	\$ 57,311	\$ (9,097)	\$ 254,085	\$ 294,281	\$ (40,196)
Total (Income v. Expense)		\$ 22,197	\$ 6,501	\$ 15,696	\$ 133,145	\$ 85,124	\$ 48,021

	Actual May 2025	Actual Jan-May
Value of donated space (Ground Floor, Tax Aid):		
Retail at \$16 / sq ft / year	\$4,800	\$38,040
Cost at \$3.10 / sq ft / year	\$930	\$7,370

Staffing Updates

Sharon Benton

Structure Updates

Jordan Sandoval

OFFERING & SPEAK OUTS

As the offering plates are passed, any who wish to offer something "for the good of the congregation" please come to the microphone, state your name and what it is you're sharing (no longer than 1-minute).

MODERATOR WRAP-UP & BENEDICTION

Diane Cooper-Schick

***HYMN 177** (black hymnal)

“God of Change & Glory”
verse 1

KATHERINE (Carmines)

PASSING THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

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**

Our Chaplain is also available at
chaplain@fccb.net.

Or you can 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:

9:30 am-4:30 pm, M-Th. 10:00 am-2:00 pm, F.

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE:

Scott Ward, he/him

CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:

Dallas Geil, he/him (music@fccb.net)

CHURCH SCHOOL/YOUTH COORDINATOR

Maya McEachern

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR

Moxxy Rogers, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him

MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her

VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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