Pride Sunday July 13, 2025





Vision Statement:

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 13, 2025

10:00 am

"You holy blinking star. You highway streak of light falling over and over for your hard life, your sweet and beautiful life."

~ Andrea Gibson

Pre-Service Brunch

Prelude "Be The Change" One Accord

Based on texts by Mahatma Ghandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Matthew 5:15.

Music by Laura Farnell.

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.

COMMISSIONING MARCHERS

Diane Cooper-Schick, Moderator

One Voice: We all have gifts and passions given to us by the Spirit. Today we

commission those marching in Bellingham's Pride Parade. I present to you these persons, marchers on behalf of our congregation, absent from us in worship, but carrying the love of God to all with whom they may

interact on the parade route.

All Voices: We stand among this incredible cloud of witnesses and today

proclaim:

Where hatred roars, sing of love.

Where fear stalks, stand with courage. Where bigotry rages, call for justice.

Where pain overwhelms, extend kind comfort.

Where systems oppress, work for change.

Forever and ever. Amen.

One Voice: Go with courage and grace, sowing God's message of love with all,

especially, today, the LGBTQ+ community of Whatcom County. Amen.

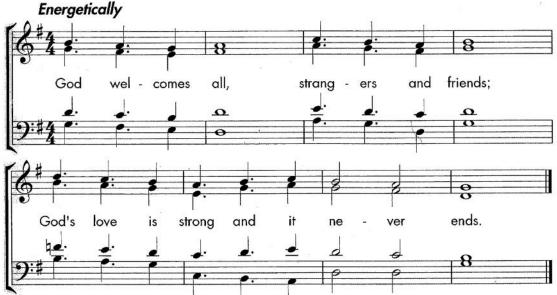
*Rise in body or spirit

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG

"God Welcomes All"

AMEN THEMBA



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The Story Pastor Page

*HYMN 394 (black hymnal)

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

McKee

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by M Jade Kaiser, enfleshed

One Voice:

Let's join our voices as one in the community prayer.

believe, meet us there. In Christ we pray. Amen.

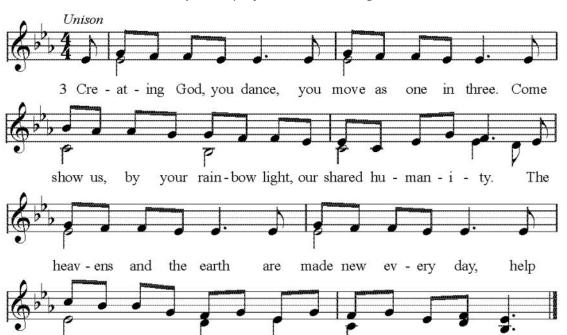
All Voices:

God of infinite manifestations, free us of shame that confines and judgment that destroys. Bring healing to the wounds of being told we are too much or too big or too proud or too young or too old or too queer. Ground us in the truth that sets us free: we are the work of a Divine hand – the holy lives in our flesh. Wherever we struggle to



"As Colors in the Sky"

(after the prayers, hum 1x through)



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by your grace, new truth, new life, new

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Page

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."

dis - cov - er

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

Mark 3:20-35

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

"In Good Company"

Pastor Page



*Additional verses: hope, peace, joy

Text: African American traditional (USA) Music: African American traditional

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

Announcements & Offering

Carol Garguile

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



Musical Offering Judy Widrig

*Hymn "All the Colors of the Rainbow" see opposite page

ABBOTT'S LEIGH

*Benediction & Passing the Peace

Pastor Page

Postlude Judy Widrig

All the Colors of the Rainbow

Carl P. Daw ABBOT'S LEIGH Cyril V. Taylor



- rain-bow dai - ly light, the co - lors of the live un seen in
- Ev ery lang uage gains more mu - sic when the words for peace ap - pear: 4. Teach us, God, our need oth - ers; through them help ful - ly live.

of



their splen - dors but find ex - pres-sion Pax. Sa - laam, Ei ri ni. Hei-wa, Wean us from our sel fish hab - its;

when leased to hu - man sight; re -Pa ti. Frie den, Mir. San ce. let list learn, for - give. us en,

us



speak a com - mon home: Though our tongues make sounds that va - ry all be your longed - for im - age hu - man heart and face, May in each we see



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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 (scott@fccb.net)

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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