



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

Sunday, February 16, 2025

1201 Jefferson Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49441
231-726-3254

www.fccmuskegon.org

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 16, 2025**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

MUNICH, Arr. by David Cherwien

GATHERING PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God, your love, made flesh in Jesus,
changes everything.**

**Help us to live in your presence.
Grant us wisdom to walk in your ways,
seeking the love by which you reign,
and the righteousness that comes from it.
This we ask through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
3 Heal your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient Church's sto - ry, bring its
sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us—free our
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

MESSAGE

HAPPILY BLESSED

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Come, We Who Love God's Name

Come we who love God's name, and
Let those re - fuse to sing who
God's grace on earth is found, the
The hill of Zi - on yields a
Then let our songs a - bound, and

let our joys be known; To - geth - er God's great
ne - ver knew our God; But we our thanks and
seed of glo - ry sown; Ce - les - tial fruits on
thou - sand sa - cred sweets Be - fore we reach the
ev - ery tear be dry; We're trav - eling through Em -

love pro - claim, and thus sur - round the throne.
praise will bring for love so deep and broad.
earth - ly ground from faith and hope have grown.
heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets.
man - uel's ground, to great - er worlds on high.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

. . . ending with the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, 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. Amen.**

OFFERTORY REFLECTION

Moment For Missions—Love INC

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Blessed Are You, by Craig Courtney

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled. Blessed
are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the makers of peace: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness:

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile and persecute you, and speak evil against you,
for my sake. Rejoice, be glad: for great is your reward in heaven:

for so they persecuted the prophets which were before you. Blessed are you.

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father (*Creator*), Son (*Christ*), and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

If You but Trust in God to Guide You

If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope - ful
On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer - ful
Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing; of - fer your

heart through all your ways, you will find strength, with God be -
hope, with heart con - tent, trust - ing that grace which knows no
ser - vice faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de -

side you, to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who
mea - sure will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our
serv - ing, there find the truth to set you free; God will not

trust God's change-less love build on the rock that will not move.
in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.
fail to guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful ness.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1641, Tune: NEUMARK, Georg Neumark, 1657

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

THAXTED, Arr. by David Cherwien

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Pastor
David Wikman	Guest Conductor
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Song Leaders
Jane Clingman-Scott	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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Westshore **GSA** Youth Group will be meeting on Monday, from 7 to 8 pm.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship - Those whose last names begin with the letters O through S please bring cookies or treats during the month of February. Gluten free and/or sugar free cookies are also appreciated as are homemade cookies or bars.

Every **Communion** Sunday we ask that you consider bringing in even one canned good or non-perishable food item and place it in the bushel basket in the Narthex for our food pantry.

FCC hosts the free **Saturday Breakfast** Community Meal at FCC Feb. 22. Join us from 9:00 – 10:30 am for a nutritious, hot meal in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Donna Lachniet or just show up by 8:30 am to volunteer. Coinciding with the Breakfast Schedule, "Cowboy" Tom Hardy offers a chapel service for all who wish to attend at 10:45 a.m.

Progressive Christianity Foundations - Faith Journey Discussion Series
Progressive Christianity – What is your spiritual path? Sunday, February 23, 2025 – 11:45 am.

Let's Make A Mess **Paint Class** is Wednesday, February 19th at 1:00 pm.
Sign Up sheet and Materials List are at the Welcome Center.

Celebration of Life for **Tom Williams** will take place Sat. Feb. 22 at 2 pm in Fellowship Hall.

FCC Hosts **Mobile Food Pantry** each first Saturday of the month in our parking lot. Volunteers are welcome to show up at 9 a.m. wearing comfortable shoes and outdoor clothes.

Single Women's Luncheon March 4 1:00 PM at Mr. B's Pancake House, 1910 E. Apple Ave.
Sign up at Welcome Center or call Judy, 734-498-3916.

Sunday, March 16th, Congregational Life will host a "Lucky, Leaping, Leprechaun" Talent Show during Coffee Hour. **Applications to perform must be received on or before March 9th.** Application Forms are available at the Welcome Center.

Ash Wednesday Service will be held March 5, 2025 at 6:30 pm. Please join us.

The Search and Call Committee will soon be asking the congregation for input on what everyone thinks our church does well today and what we want to do in the future. We'll be making an invitation to provide this input in-person and on-line during and after services on Sunday, February 23, and Sunday, March 2. Stay tuned!