



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, May 11, 2025

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

www.fccmuskegon.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Mother's Day & Music Appreciation Sunday
MAY 11, 2025

*Owe no one anything, except to love one another;
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.*
Romans 13:8

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre, by Ralph Vaughan Williams

GATHERING PRAYER

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Come let us worship the One who is and was and is to be.

Alleluia!

Let us pray.

**O God, source of all life,
help us to celebrate with joy your many gifts,
and to express in our own lives our appreciation
for the love that gives them;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

I Sing the Mighty Power of God



I sing the might - y power of God that
I sing the good - ness of our God that
On earth there's not a plant or flower but



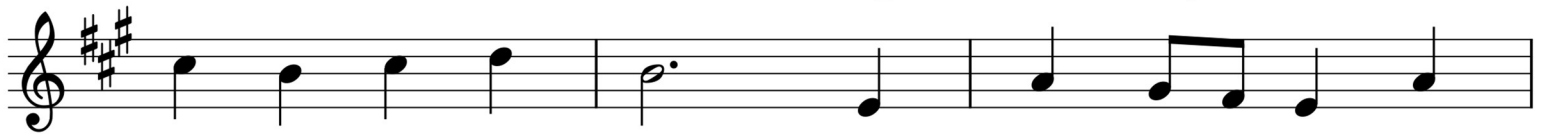
made the moun-tains rise, That spread the flow - ing
filled the earth with food; God formed the crea-tures
makes your glo - ry known. The clouds a - rise and



seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
with a word, and then pro-nounced them good.
spread their showers by or - der from your throne.



I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the
Oh how your won - ders are dis - played, where -
All life is but a gift from you and



sun to rule the day; The moonshines full at
e'er I turn my eye: If I sur - vey the
ev - er in your care; Wher - ev - er peo - ple



God's com - mand, and all the stars o - bey.
ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
gath - er, you, O God are pres - ent there.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Names and Number of Years Participating

The Motet Choir of First Congregational Church

**Staff Singers*

Susan Mixer	52	Cathy Sander	10
Roy Winegar	43	Jim Hulen	10
Barb Kartes	40	Hanna Schmiedeknecht *	10
Scott Lachniet	40	Merijo Dulyea	8
Shirley Albers	36	Sue Brookstra	8
Deb Collett	31	Bill Brookstra	8
Bob Chessman	25	Betsy Peterson	7
Elisabeth Major	23	Scott Peterson	7
Debbie VanderWier	22	Barb Duffey	7
Mike Akhurst	20	Lorie Hawkins	7
Cindy Bates-Twining	17	Sam Koschmann	3
Marie Van Buren	17	Sharon LaNoue	3
Jim Van Buren	17	Joel Dulyea	3
Greg Scott	16	Steve Kartes	3
Michelle Kemp	15	Gayle Bristah	2
Marilyn Quail	14	Steve Chapman	2
Donna Hood	14	Kathleen Freeman	2
Bruce Hood	14	Bob Filka	2
Jessica Krause	13	Karen Kahrs Filka	2
Paul Krause	13	Paul Kragt	2
Ashley Jankoski	12	Sue Lack	2
Deanne Hannibal	12	Kendyl White*	2
Joseph Dixon*	11	David Abdelkader*	1

The Canterbury Ringers

Barb Kartes	38
Diane Goodman	26
Tom Goodman	26
Elisabeth Major	26
Sue Rummery	22
Michelle Kemp	19
Melissa Wikman	15
Donna Hood	13
Joseph Dixon	11
Ashley Jankoski	11
Laura Wiles	10
Kristy Mattson	8
Hanna Schmiedeknecht	7



SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

CHORAL ANTHEM

We Are Not Alone, by Pepper Choplin

Soloist: David Abdelkader

We are not alone, we are never alone, God is with us.

We are never alone, for God is with us.

Now, through all our days, always.

Forever and ever, we are never alone.

And God will make us strong, for God is with us.

We, we will press on, for God is with us. Now

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MESSAGE

ACTS OF LOVE

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Those who wish may stand

Called as Partners in Christ's Service



Called as part - ners in Christ's ser - vice,
Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ in - spir - ing,
Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion,
So God grant us for to - mor - row



called to min - is - tries of grace, We re - spond with
Christ's clear call to work and worth, Let us fol - low,
in a small or glo - bal sense, Help us bear each
ways to or - der hu - man life That sur - round each



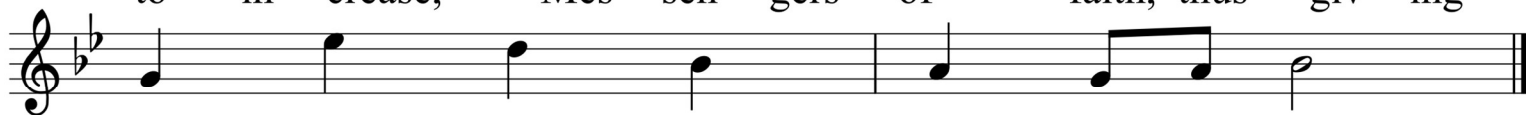
deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
nev - er fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
oth - er's bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or fence.
per - son's sor - row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar - ing, side by side and
Men and wom - en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo - ple,
Words of com - fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal - lenge,
Make us part - ners in our liv - ing, our com - pas - sion



friend with friend, E - qual part - ners in our car - ing
young and old, Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er
said with care, Bring new power and strength for ac - tion,
to in - crease, Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing



to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
make us col - leagues, free and fair.
hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(After each petition:) Leader: Lord in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayer.

. . . 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 INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Wild Mountain Thyme, by Sandra Eithun

Dan Giacobassi, Flutist
The Canterbury Ringers

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (Creator), Son (Christ), and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

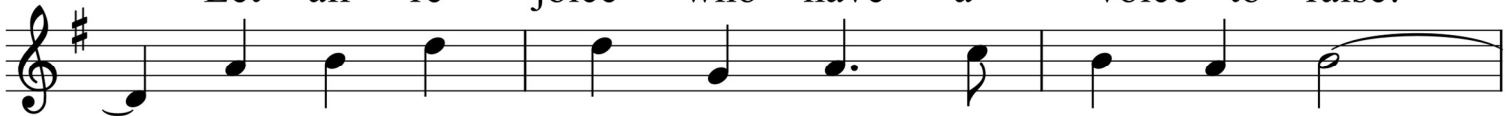
When in Our Music God Is Glorified



When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,
How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found
Choir only So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song,
And did not Je - sus sing a Psalm that night
Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!



and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,
a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,
in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the Light?
Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!



It is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
As wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
Borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue:
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:



Al - le - lu - ia!

BLESSING AND SENDING

Go now in peace. Nev-er be a - fraid. God will go with you each
hour of ev-'ry day. Go now in faith, stead - fast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and
show you be - lieve. Reach out to o - thers so all the world can see.
God will be there watch - ing from a - bove.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
A - men, a - men, a - men.

Text: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music by Don Besig, © 1988 Harold Flammer Music, A Division of Shawnee Press, Inc

POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune, by David German

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Pastor
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Song Leaders
The Canterbury Ringers	Handbell Ensemble
Dan Giacobassi	Guest Flutist
David Wikman	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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A huge thank you to all our members of our music ministry for your countless hours of service to the church. We are blessed!

Thank you to Rev. Dan Barnum-Steggerda for helping us celebrate amazing moms with his handmade wooden tulips.

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 E through J please bring cookies or treats during the month of May.

Congratulations to our graduates. For those graduating from high school, college, military, etc. please contact the church office with this wonderful news. We would love to publish their information. Deadline for the June Post is Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

No Modern Day Line Dance Wed. May 14th.

FCC hosts the free Saturday Breakfast Community Meal at FCC May 31. 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 or to share a meal with friends and neighbors. Coinciding with the Breakfast Schedule, "Cowboy" Tom Hardy offers a Chapel Service for all who wish to attend at 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Food Basket volunteers- we have set a date to volunteer at their building on Monday, May 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. They are located at 1537 S. Getty St. (next to Ferguson's). Please see Merijo if interested or call her at 231-292-2448. Can't help that day? Please feel free to decorate some Kid's bags and leave them at the welcome center. They will use them that day.

FCC IS OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love."

Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21