

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

fccmuskegon.org

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER

THIRD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST + PRIDE SUNDAY June 14, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Prelude on SLANE, by Paul Fey

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:

**The love God has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us;
we dwell in him and he in us.**

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.**

**Sing to him, sing praises to him,
and speak of all his marvelous works.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was and is and is to come!**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

New Patterns of Loving

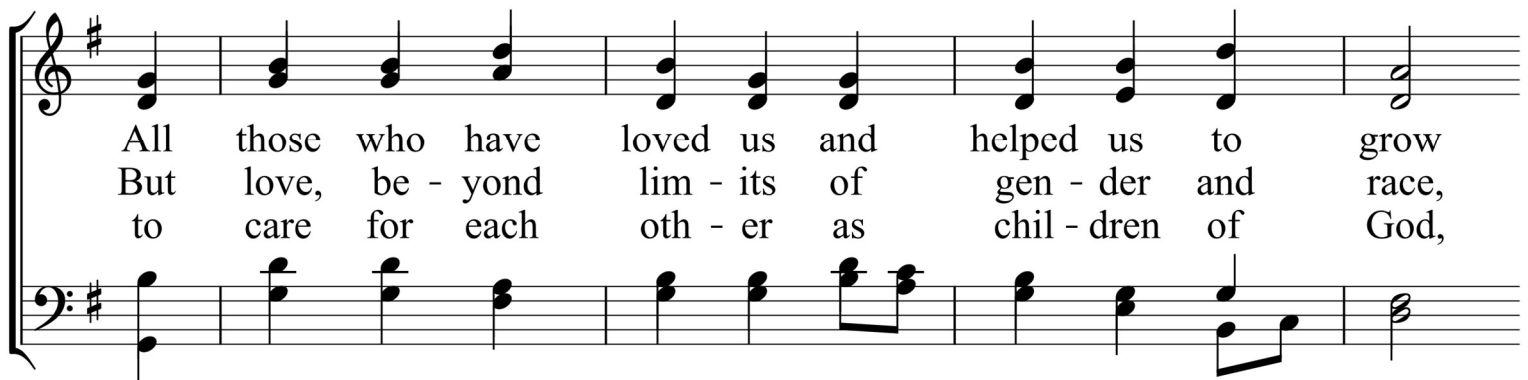
Those who wish may stand



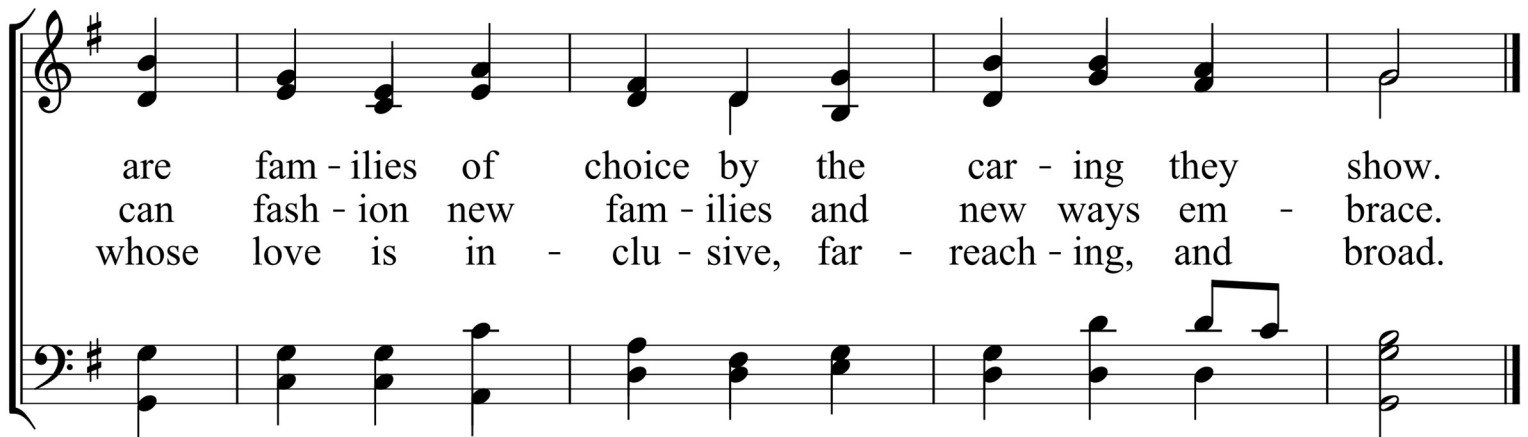
New pat - terns of lov - ing make room for new ways,
Our an - ces - try marks us with vis - i - ble signs;
God bless all the mo - thers and fa - thers to - day;



cre - at - ing new fam - ilies to care for and raise.
we bear in our bod - ies ge - net - ic de - signs.
help us to raise chil - dren to walk in God's way,



All those who have loved us and helped us to grow
But love, be - yond lim - its of gen - der and race,
to care for each oth - er as chil - dren of God,



are fam - ilies of choice by the car - ing they show.
can fash - ion new fam - ilies and new ways em - brace.
whose love is in - clu - sive, far - reach - ing, and broad.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBER

Bill Hassinger

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

But we have this treasure in clay jars,
so that it may be made clear
that this extraordinary power belongs to God
and does not come from us.
We are afflicted in every way but not crushed,
perplexed but not driven to despair,
persecuted but not forsaken,
struck down but not destroyed,
always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.
For we who are living
are always being handed over to death for Jesus's sake,
so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh.
So death is at work in us but life in you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM

"All His Mercies Shall Endure" from *Occasional Oratorio*,
by G.F. Handel; Arranged by Walter Ehret

All his mercies shall endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

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MESSAGE

"Excuses, Excuses"

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

I Met A Stranger on the Road

I met a stran - ger on the road who
I told the sto - ry of the Christ whose
For when we draw our bound - ary lines di -
read a book a - lone, whose skin was dark and
life de - nounced each wall, whose love ex - pands our
vid - ing out from in, then Christ stands on the
lan - guage strange, whose sta - tus was un - known.
nar - rowed sights: the Lamb raised up for all.
o - ther side, ex - clu - sion is our sin.
And yet he read my sa - cred text, this
And when I asked if he be - lieved, I
Praise God for stran - gers on the road; the
pil - grim from a - broad, and asked, "Where can I
saw my view was flawed: we both en - coun - tered
diff - erent and the odd; the pil - grim guides who
find a guide to lead me to this God?"
grace that day, we both were led to God.
take our hand and lead us back to God.

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 INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

The Image of God, by Craig Courtney & Susan Boersma

In the beginning God shaped and formed me. I am skillfully and wonderfully made.
I am the image of my Creator. In every part of me God's likeness is displayed.
Life flows from life and love from loving; gifts of the Father by nature and by grace.
A heart made glad, a soul unshaken; unbounded joy, in every breath a song of praise.

For his own purpose, God shaped and formed me. I have a place within his plan.
I am the image of my Creator. My past and future are secure within his hands.
Life flows from life and love from loving; gifts of the Father by nature and by grace.
A heart made glad, a soul unshaken; unbounded joy, in every breath a song of praise.

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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

Build a Longer Table

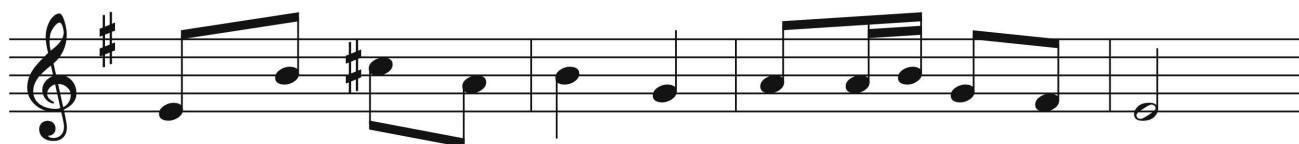
Those who wish may stand

David Bjorlin, b.1984

NOËL NOUVELET
French carol



1. Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2. Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3. Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4. When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pence.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, stran - ger turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune, by John Stanley

Today's Service

Rev. Bruce D. Mulder
Dr. Michael Match
Phil Konczyk
Motet Choir
Jane Clingman-Scott
Blake Filius

Interim Pastor
Music Director
Guest Organist
Leaders of Song
Liturgist/Prayer
Audio and Video

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Flowers are sponsored by Mike and Cathy Saunders in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

We welcome William "Bill" Hassinger to our church family. Bill is a native of Muskegon but spent his retirement years in Manistee. His wife passed away five years ago. He has five grandchildren and one great grandson. Bill has reunited with his high school sweetheart, Joanne Blakkan, and now lives in North Muskegon. He is proud to have served 32 years with the Michigan State Police, the last 16 as Chief Deputy Director.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names T-Z are asked to donate during June. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies. Thank you!

Child Care is available on the second floor for infants & toddlers.

FCC Annual Meeting will be held immediately following our church service today. Members, please remain in the sanctuary for this very important meeting.

We invite you to join us Wednesday mornings for outside and inside projects around the church. We meet from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. followed with coffee and donuts.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings from 9-10 AM in Fellowship Hall for a Zumba Class emphasizing the 3's (Cardio, conditioning and choreography. \$3 per class)
There is also a Cardio- Drumming exercise class on Thursday mornings from 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join either sitting or standing. \$3 per class.

Miniature Golf at Putter's Creek on the causeway is back this year! Join in on the fun on Thursday, June 25 at 5 pm. Prices are on the sign up sheet at the Welcome Center. Please sign up so we know how many to expect! Sponsored by Congregational Life Dept.

Questions may be directed to members of that department, contact the church office (231) 726.3254, or check under the calendar event on the website for details at fccmuskegon.org.

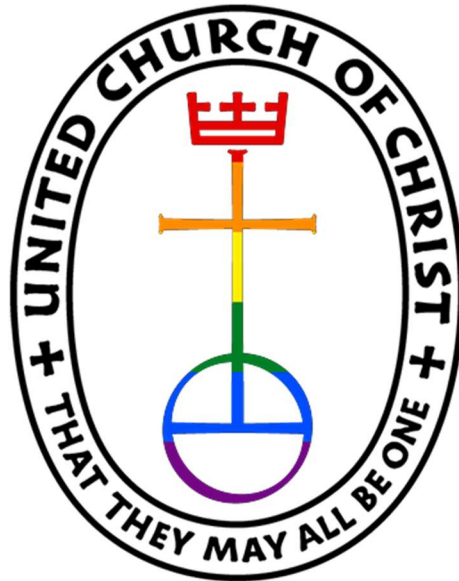
Save the date: Wednesday, July 15 for a Clipper's Baseball Game!

Saturday Breakfast will be June 27 (last Saturday of each month) from 9-10:30 a.m. This is a free community breakfast-buffet style. Volunteers are encouraged to help.
Please contact the office for information.

Tom "Cowboy" Hardy offers a Chapel Service following the breakfast. All are welcome.

The Saturday Breakfast Garden invites you to help out Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Tools are provided. Bring the family! We are across the street from the church.

Life Long Learning meets after church beginning June 21 in the library or, if that is occupied, in the Fellowship Hall. We will communicate information about our occasional special gatherings by special emails. (If you are not on the Life-long Learning distribution list but want to be, go to fcc-life-long-learning@googlegroups.com to add your info.)



FCC IS AN 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