

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

fccmuskegon.org

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST June 21, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Wanting Memories, by Ysaye M. Barnwell

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:

**Spirit of the living God,
visit us again on this season of Pentecost.**

Come, Holy Spirit.

**Like a rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers,
come, Holy Spirit.**

**Like tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame,
come, Holy Spirit.**

**With speech that unites the Babel of our tongues,
come, Holy Spirit.**

**With love that overlaps the boundaries of race and nation,
come, Holy Spirit.**

**With power from above to make our weakness strong,
come, Holy Spirit.**

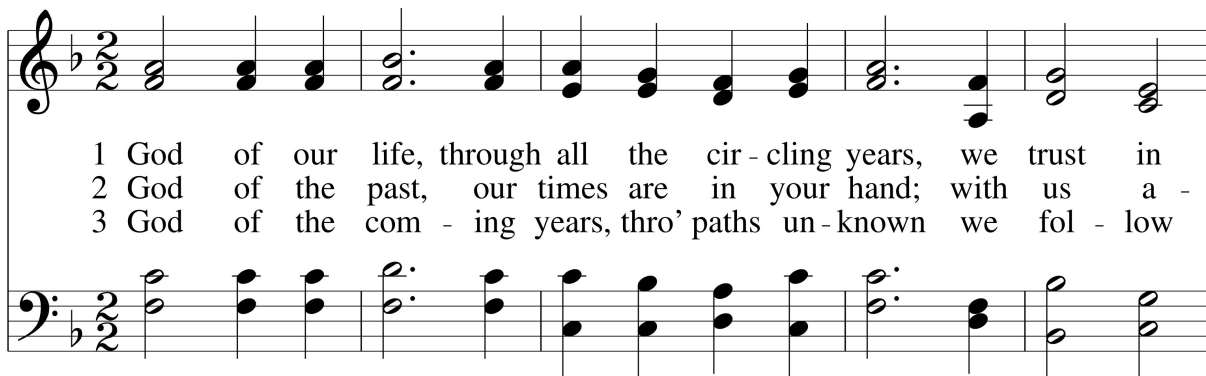
Amen.

Those who wish may stand

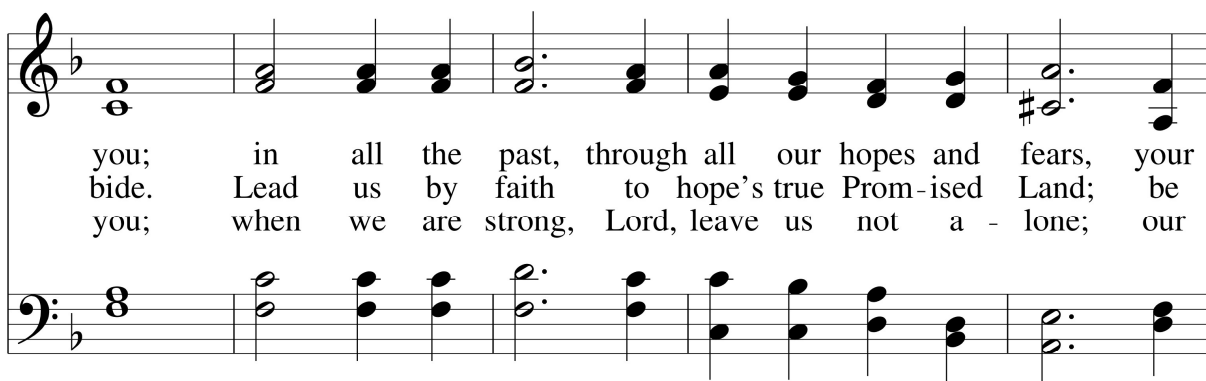
OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

God of Our Life



1 God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, we trust in
2 God of the past, our times are in your hand; with us a -
3 God of the com - ing years, thro' paths un - known we fol - low



you; in all the past, through all our hopes and fears, your
bide. Lead us by faith to hope's true Prom - ised Land; be
you; when we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; our



hand we view. With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the
now our guide. With you to bless, the dark - ness shines as
faith re - new. Be now for us in life our dai - ly



veil, we own your mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
light, and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
bread, our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

WORDS: Hugh T. Kerr (1872-1950), alt.
MUSIC: Charles H. Purday (1799-1885); arr. John Weaver (1937-)

SANDON
10.4.10.4.10.10.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 22: 1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

"The Binding"

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

Here I Am, Lord

Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them.
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.



My hand will save. I, who made the
They turn a - way. I will break their
My hand will save. Fin-est bread I



stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

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

We Are, by Ysaye M. Barnwell
"Just Us" Women's a Cappella:
Cathy Forrest, Suzi Velarde, Eileen Grostic,
Bev Schroeder, Cindy Van Ittersum, Sue McIntire,
Elisabeth Major, Karen Frederickson

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

We Walk by Faith

1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4. That, when our life of faith is done, In

gra - cious words we hear From him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; But in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound To call on you when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve him near.
 we re - joice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near, And seek where you are found:
 as you are, With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Tune: SHANTI, CM; Marty Haugen, b.1950; acc. by Randall Sensmeier, b.1948, © 1984, 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Count on Me, by Bruno Mars

Today's Service

Rev. Bruce D. Mulder

Interim Pastor

Dr. Michael Match

Music Director

Just Us

Women's A Cappella

Elisabeth Major

Liturgist/Prayer

Blake Filius

Audio and Video

All music reprinted by permission under ONELICENSE #A-727828

Flowers are sponsored by Rick and Barb Brott in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

A white carnation is in memory of Joyce Johnson, FCC member. Joyce passed on May 29, 2026. Our sympathy and prayers are with her family and friends. A private gathering will be held.

Thank you "Just Us" Women's a Cappella for sharing their music with us this morning.

Please join us for root beer floats, in honor of Father's Day, in Fellowship Hall following our worship service. Sponsored by Congregational Life.

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.

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 AM followed with coffee and donuts.

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. Save the date: Wednesday, July 15, 6:30 PM for a Clipper's Baseball Game! Tickets are available to purchase.

Informal Meet & Greet for Rev. Becky's visit will be Saturday July 11 2-4 PM at Rummery's (1405 Moulton Ave., North Muskegon. (Across from the N.M. tennis courts). Light Refreshments. Also hosted by Melissa Wikman and Trevor Smith.

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

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 AM to noon. Tools are provided. Bring the family! We are across the street from the church.

Life Long Learning meets after church beginning this morning in the library or, if that is occupied, in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Genders And Sexualities Alliance (GSA) meet Mondays at 7 PM here.

The Garage Sale to Benefit Boys & girls club is cancelled. The church will not be collecting items.

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 www.fccmuskegon.org.

Rounding up all preschool through middle school students for our Wild West Adventure Vacation Bible School July 20 through 24 from 6:30-8:30 PM here at FCC.

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