

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

fccmuskegon.org

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—June 28, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Prelude on SAMANTHRA, Arr. by Robert Powell

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 God, we have gathered together in this place to pray.
Give us faith, that when you come like the wind, though we do not
see you, yet we may hear what you are saying to us and discern
your movement. Give us courage, that we may not fear the tongues
of flame: let all that is unworthy, impure, and sinful
be burned from our lives. May we know that it is love that burns so
brightly and love that strips away our sin.
Give us an open mind, Lord, that the truth you bring may make its
home with us: truth to set us free, truth to guide us and inform us,
and truth to lead us in the way of your will.
Give us an open heart, Lord, that we may seek all people for your
realm, and set no limits to the proclaiming of your Word.
Holy Spirit, with the whole church we wait for you
in every place and in every generation.
Come, wind. Come, fire. Come, truth. Come, love.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life,
O Sav - ior from the moun - tain - side,
Till all shall learn com - pas - sion's might,

Where sound the cries of clan and race,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
And fol - low where your feet have trod,

A - bove the noise of self - ish strife, O
A - mong these rest - less throngs a - bid, O
Till glo - rious from your realm of light Shall

Christ, we hear your voice of grace.
tread the ci - ty's streets a - gain.
come the ci - ty of our God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 6:12-23

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

“The Only Good Baptism is a Drowning”

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

Trust and Obey



1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
2 Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our
3 But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love un - til
4 Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll

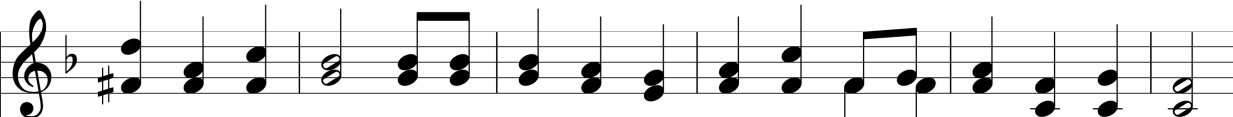


glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he a - bides with us
toil he will rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a
all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the joy he be -
walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will

Refrain



still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
stows are for them who will trust and o - bey.
go—nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Family Promise

OFFERTORY MUSIC

I. *Agagio sostenuto*, from Piano Sonata No. 14 in C# minor ("Moonlight")
Op. 27, No. 2,
by Ludwig van Beethoven

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

O Jesus, I Have Promised



O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to
O let me hear you speak - ing in
O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to
serve you to the end; re - main for - ev - er
ac - cents clear and still, a - bove the storms of
all who fol - low you that where you are in
near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend;
pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!
glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;
I shall not fear life's strug - gles
O speak to re - as - sure me,
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised
if you are by my side,
to has - ten or con - trol!
to serve you to the end;
nor wan - der from the path - way
O speak, and make me lis - ten,
O give me grace to fol - low
if you will be my guide.
O guar - dian of my soul!
my Sav - ior and my Friend!

Text: John E. Bode, 1868; alt., Tune AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Postlude in Classical Style, by Gordon Young

Today's Service

Rev. Bruce D. Mulder	Interim Pastor
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
Hanna Schmiedeknecht	Cantor
Steve Chapman	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names A-C are asked to donate during the month of July. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies. Thank you!

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

Life Long Learning will not be meeting today.

GSA invites you to a free will concert as they proudly present Singer/Songwriter Lori Jacobs In Concert, here at FCC Monday, June 29, 2026 at 7:30 PM.

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 Class emphasizing the 3 C'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.

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.

Congregational Life is sponsoring a Clipper's Baseball Game! Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30 PM. Tickets are available. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. Cost \$10 each.

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.

Wild West Adventure Vacation Bible School will be July 20-24. Please help us spread the word! This is open to preschool through middle school. 6:30-8:30 PM.

Come to our Meet and Greet for Rev. Becky Emerson at the Rummery's on Saturday, July 11 from 2-4 PM. Address is 1405 Moulton Ave., N. Muskegon. Rev. Becky will preach on July 12.

Thank you to all who helped at the Saturday Breakfast Saturday!

FCCC 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