



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

fccmuskegon.org

Rev. Dr. Becky L. Emerson, Guest Minister

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of God that transcends our understanding be with you,
as you pass the peace among each other.

PRELUDE

Peaceful Meditation, 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:

**Our God, You are transcendent, and yet so personal.
You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations,
all people, everywhere, and in every season.
You have gathered us, Good Shepherd, as part of your flock.
You have rolled away the stone from the mouth of the Well.
We come, joining with all whom you have gathered,
here, in our community, in our State, in our nation,
and the nations of the earth.
We come, we come to be in Your presence.
We come to drink from your well.
May you teach us to lie down in green pastures,
May you lead us beside still waters and refresh us.
In Your Holy Name Jesus, Amen!**

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a basso continuo line with chords. The lyrics are arranged in four parts, with the first part being the most prominent. The music is a simple, hymn-like setting of the opening of Psalm 100.

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with -
3 O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
4 For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with joy, his
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud and bless his
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth tell, come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

WORDS: William Kethe (ca. 1530-1594); para. Psalm 100
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561); *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th
L.M.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 9: 35-38

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

2 Corinthians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. We do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia, for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, by J.S. Bach

Jesu, joy of man's desiring, Holy wisdom, love most bright;

Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, With the fire of life impassioned,

Striving still to truth unknown, Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

MESSAGE

Carriers of Compassion

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves. The first system covers the first four lines of the hymn. The second system covers the next four lines. The third system covers the final four lines, ending with a double bar line. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support.

Take my Life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed
Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse
Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and
Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing

faith - ful - ly. Take my mo - ments and my days,
of your love. Take my in - tel - lect and use
mine be one. Take my heart, and by your grace
ov - er - flow. Take me now, and help me be

let them flow in cease - less praise.
all its pow - ers as you choose.
make of it your dwell - ing place.
part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1874, alt; Tune: VIENNA, Justin H. Knecht, 1797

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

Teach Me, O Lord, by Philip Stopford

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea I shall keep it with my whole heart.

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein is my desire.

Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

O turn away mine eyes lest I behold vanity; and quicken me in thy way.

O stablish thy word in thy servant, that I may fear thee.

Amen.

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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

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To make the wound-ed whole;

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad To heal the sin-sick soul.

Verses

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And
2. Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, For
3. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you

think my work's in vain, But then the Ho - ly
 Je - sus is your friend; And if you lack for
 can - not pray like Paul, You can tell the love of

Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain. There is a
 knowl-edge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend. There is a
 Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!" There is a

D.S.

Text: Negro Spiritual
 Tune: BALM IN GILEAD, 7 6 7 6 with refrain; Negro Spiritual; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Tuba Tune in D Major, Op. 15, by C.S. Lang

Today's Service

Rev. Dr. Becky L. Emerson	Candidate
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
David Abdelkader	Guest Conductor
The Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
David Wikman	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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We welcome The Rev. Dr. Becky L. Emerson as our guest preacher this morning.

A white carnation is in memory of Phyllis Laurin who passed away June 28, 2026.

Phyllis had been a longtime, faithful member of FCC.

Our sympathy and prayers are with her family and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held July 29, 2026 at FCC at 11:00 AM with visitation at 10.

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

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

Members, please stay in the sanctuary following the service to complete the ballot - circle either Yes or No in the 2 areas and return to the usher.

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 fellowship.

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings from 9-10 AM in Fellowship Hall for a 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.

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 at 6:30 PM for a Clipper's Baseball Game at Marsh Field! Please pay for your ticket at the Welcome Center or see Sue Vander Haar. \$10 per person.

Saturday Breakfast will be July 25 (last Saturday of each month) from 9-10:30 a.m. 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 on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Tools are provided. Bring the family! We are across the street from the church.

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