

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

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fccmuskegon.org

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — August 2, 2026 Communion Sunday

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Because He Lives, by Sally DeFord
Joel and Merijo Dulyea

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:

This is the day that you have made, Lord.

Help us to rejoice in it and be glad!

**Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as your people:
to come to you in these moments, to confess our sins,
to receive forgiveness and give it, to pray and sing and listen,
to renew our fainting spirits, to rest in all your promises.**

Open our eyes to see you, Lord.

Open our ears to hear your Word.

**Visit us through your Holy Spirit,
and help us to celebrate our faith.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

Those who wish may stand

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 3/2 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

How firm a foun - da - tion ye saints of the Lord, is
In ev - ery con - di - tion, in sick - ness, in health, in
Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed, for
The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose, I
laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word; What
pov - er - ty's vale or a - bound - ing in wealth, at
I am thy God, and will still give you aid; I'll
will not, I will not de - sert to its foes; that
more can he say than to you he hath said, who thy
home or a - broad, on the land or the sea, as
strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand up -
soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake, I'll
un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
days may de - mand so thy suc - cor shall be.
held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
nev - er, no nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8 and Matthew 15:10-28

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Matthew 15: 10-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

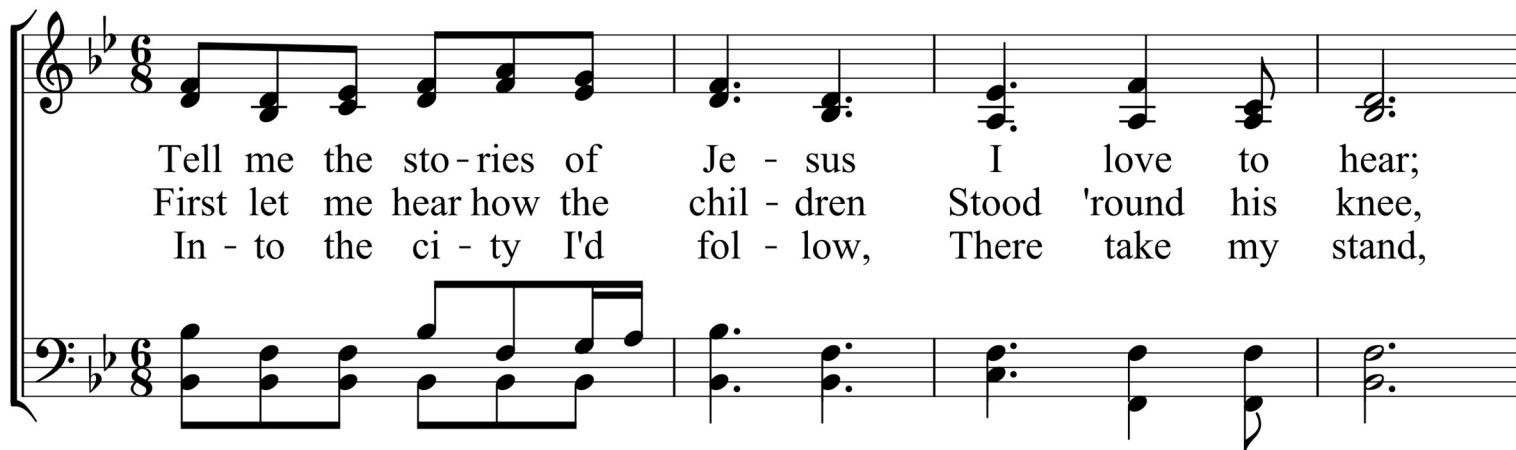
"Cardiology 101: Hypocrisy. Hearts. Humility."

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus



Tell me the sto - ries of Je - sus I love to hear;
First let me hear how the chil - dren Stood 'round his knee,
In - to the ci - ty I'd fol - low, There take my stand,



Things I would ask him to tell me If he were here:
And I shall fan - cy his bless - ing Rest - ing on me;
Wav - ing a branch of the palm tree High in my hand;



Scenes by the way - side, Tales of the sea,
Words full of kind - ness, Deeds full of grace,
One of his her - als, Yes, I would sing



Sto - ries of Je - sus, Tell them to me.
All in the love - light Of Je - sus' face.
Loud - est ho - san - nas, "Je - sus is King!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

You Are My All in All/Fairest Lord Jesus,
by Dennis Jerniga, Arranged by Larry Shackley
Joel and Merijo Dulyea

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

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Meaning of the Sacrament

Communion Prayer

...It is truly fitting and right...

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Ru-ler Al - migh - ty;
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Music © 1991 Martha McMane

...And now as Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone;
and the day is past and gone,

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Alleluia, by Larry Gatlin

Joel and Merijo Dulyea, Joseph Dixon

Today's Service

Rev. Bruce D. Mulder	Interim Pastor
John Mattson	Organist
Joel & Merijo Dulyea	Vocalists
Joseph Dixon	Vocalist
Steve Chapman	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake Filius	Audio and Video
Tom Hardy, Steve Chapman; Debbie VanderWier	

Communion Servers

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Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names beginning with E-J are asked to donate during the Sundays in August. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies. Thank you!

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

Life-long Learning: After church today we will start an ongoing conversation about "Hospitality" as it relates to FCC. What steps can we take to be *meaningfully* welcoming to Rev. Becky upon her arrival? How are we perceived by visitors, and what can we do to make their repeat visits more likely? What would it look like for us to be more hospitable and welcoming among ourselves, and what would be the effect? Cindy Barnum-Steggerda will be there to facilitate the discussion, but this will be a conversation, not a presentation. We hope you will join us in the library after the service!

Please join us Wednesday mornings for outside and inside projects around the church. We meet from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM 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'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.

Join us at the Saturday Breakfast Garden every Saturday – weather permitting from 10:00 AM till noon and/ or Tuesdays from 1-3 PM. A bike clinic will be held on August 15 from 10-noon.

Thank you to the 6 adults and 16 youth who participated and led Vacation Bible School.

August Mission of the Month: Hope Project. Opportunities in Community: Prayer Walk Against Violence 8/23 4 PM-Hackley Pk.: LOVE INC Pay What You Can Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner at Lakeside Café Monday, Aug.3, 4-7 PM

Congregational Life is sponsoring Potluck on Sept. 13 with Trivia following. Please sign up at Welcome Center. Looking Ahead: A new and clean used coat drive **will begin in September.**

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*