

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET  
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

[fccmuskegon.org](http://fccmuskegon.org)

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER

## ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 9, 2026

**WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS  
SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

### **PRELUDE**

*Lift High the Cross*, Arr. by Joel Raney  
Donna Hood, *Piano*, John Mattson, *Organ*

### **GATHERING PRAYER**

The grace of the 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:

**Holy God, we pray your blessing  
on those who lead us in worship this day,  
those who speak and sing and move among us,  
those who direct others in singing and playing,  
those who have prepared this space with beauty.**

**We ask that each of them may lead  
with a sense of peace and confidence  
that comes from your Spirit,  
so that your truth may be proclaimed faithfully  
and we may live up to our calling  
as the body of Christ.**

**Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## OPENING HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *In Christ There is No East or West*

In Christ there is no East or West, in  
In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their  
In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and  
In Christ now meet both East and West, In

Christ no South or North; But one com - mu - ni -  
high com - mun - ion find; God's ser - vice is the  
nei - ther slave nor free; For men and wo - men  
Christ meet South and North; One joy - ous, true com -

ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
live in God, and all are kin to me.  
mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1908, alt; St. 3, Laurence Hull Stokey, 1987, Tune: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1828

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Psalm 124

**I**f it had not been the Lord who was on our side —let Israel now say—if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away; the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters. Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the hunters; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

### Matthew 16:13-20

**N**ow when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### MESSAGE

"Confession and Proclamation"

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## HYMN OF REFLECTION

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### Jesus Shall Reign

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made,  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue  
4 Let all the peo - ple rise and bring

does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;  
and end - less prais - es crown his head;  
dwell on his love with crown his head;  
their spe - cial hon - ors to our King;

his king - dom spread from shore to shore,  
his name like sweet per - fume shall rise  
and in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim  
an - gels de - scend with songs a - gain

till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
and earth re - peat the loud A - men.

## **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**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*, Arr. by David Berry  
Donna Hood, *Piano*

### **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\*

### *Standing on the Promises*



1. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail.  
2. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ, the Lord,



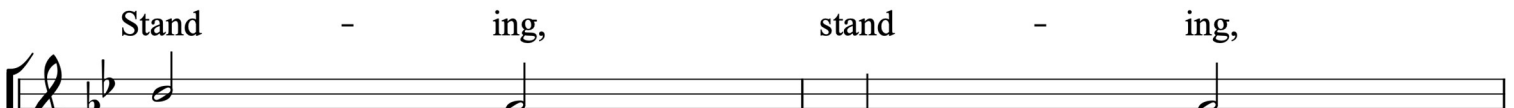
When the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,  
Bound to Christ e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,



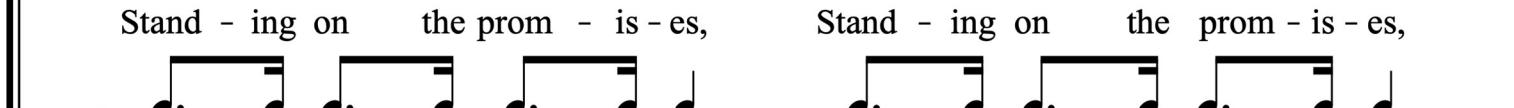
By the liv - ing word of God I shall pre - vail,  
O - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,



Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.



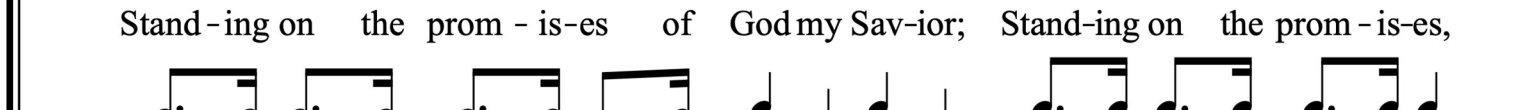
Stand - ing, stand - ing,



Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, Stand - ing on the prom - is - es,



stand - ing,



Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior; Stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing

Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, I'm Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

Text: R. Kelso Carter, 1849-1928, Tune: PROMISES, R. Kelso Carter

## BLESSING AND SENDING

## POSTLUDE

*To God Be the Glory*, Arr. by Joel Raney  
 Donna Hood, *Piano*, John Mattson, *Organ*

# Today's Service

Rev. Bruce D. Mulder

Interim Pastor

John Mattson

Organist

Joseph Dixon

Cantor

Donna Hood

Pianist

Carol Beatty

Liturgist/Prayer

Blake Filius

Audio and Video

*All music reprinted by permission under ONELICENSE #A-727828*

Altar flowers are sponsored by Jeff and Julie Leder in honor of their anniversary.

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.

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.

Saturday Breakfast will be August 29 (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, continuing discussion on how best to welcome Rev. Becky. We will meet in the library or, if that is occupied, in the Parlor. All are welcome.

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

Muskegon Cooperating Churches Annual Prayer Walk Against Gun Violence will be held on August 23 from 4-6 PM at Hackley Park.

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](http://www.fccmuskegon.org).

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's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heartfelt Hand Made Craft Fair will be held Saturday, October 24 from 10 AM – 3 PM. We are also looking for vendors. Please help us spread the word! Interested vendors can contact the church office: 231-726-3254.

## **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*