

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

fccmuskegon.org

Rev. Dr. Becky Emerson, Senior Minister

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 30, 2026

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

PRELUDE

"Prelude," from *Suite Antique*, by John Rutter

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, we come this morning, at the end of one week,
and the beginning of another, to celebrate who you are,
your manifest care to us and through us, your gift of life,
your comfort and consolation in sorrow,
and your presence that graces us as a community.**

**We gather here today, in this assembly,
joining with those who are also gathered in this state,
this nation and in the global family.**

**In this sacred space, may worship center us,
and may your word nourish us.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

Those who wish may stand

1. The church 's one foun - da - tion is
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and
4. Yet we on earth have un - ion with

Je - sus Christ our Lord; we are Christ's new cre -
one o'er all the earth, one char - ter of sal -
tu - mult of our war, we wait the con - sum -
God, the Three - in - One, and mys - tic sweet com -

a - tion, by wa - ter and the word;
va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in
One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God,

love to set us free; with pre - cious blood Christ
ho - ly food we share, to one hope we are
long - ing eyes are blessed, and the great church vic -
give us grace that we, like them, the meek and

bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
to - rious shall be the church at rest.
low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 12:12-24

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member.

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God’s mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

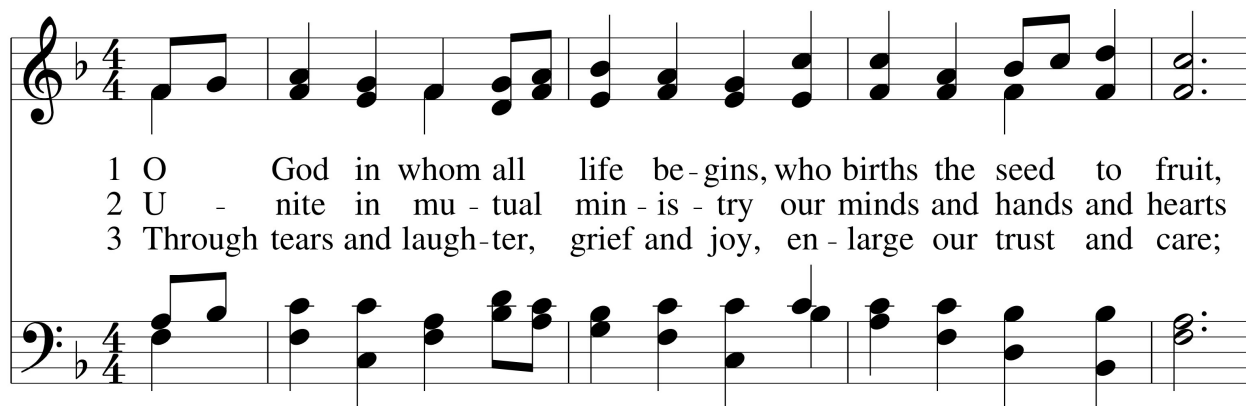
A model of a connected Community

Those who wish may stand

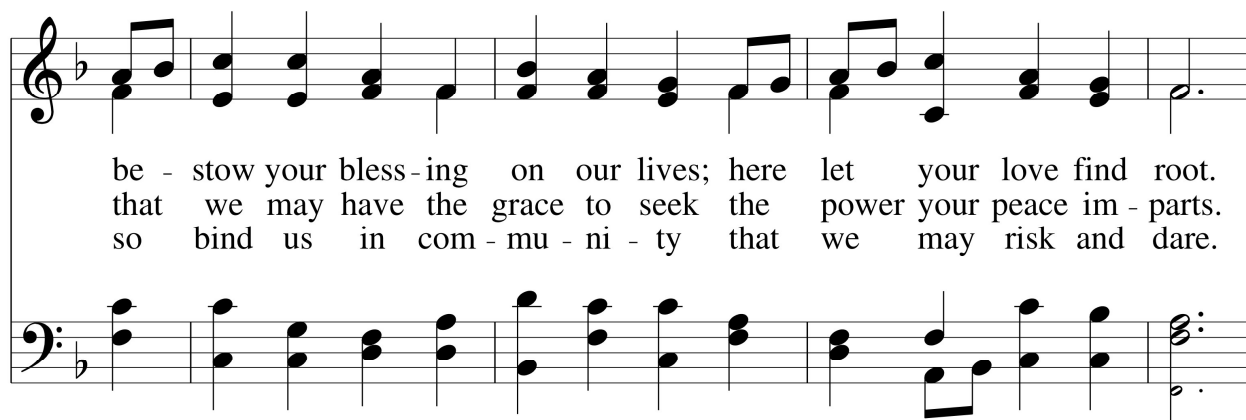
HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

O God in Whom All Life Begins



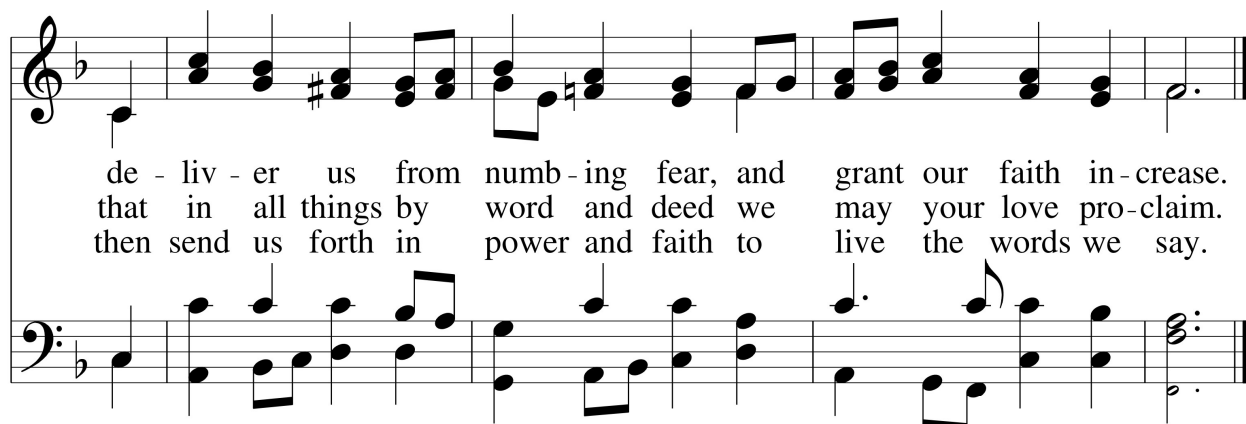
1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,
2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts
3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless-ing on our lives; here let your love find root.
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.
so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.



Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa-tience, joy, and peace;
So let our var - ied gifts com-bine to glo - ri - fy your Name
Be with us when we gath - er here to wor-ship, sing, and pray,



de - liv - er us from numb-ing fear, and grant our faith in-crease.
that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro-claim.
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

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

"Aria," from *Suite Antique*, by John Rutter

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

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

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

"Waltz," from *Suite Antique*, by John Rutter

Today's Service

Rev. Becky Emerson

Senior Minister

Dr. Michael Match

Music Director/Cantor

John Mattson

Organist

Dan Giacobassi

Guest Flutist

Jane Clingman Scott

Liturgist/Prayer

Blake Filius

Audio and Video

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

After our service, please join us for cake and ice cream to celebrate Becky's first Sunday at FCC, sponsored by Congregational Life Department.

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

Building and Grounds members 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.

FCC Church Picture Directory will be available September 6th at the Welcome Center.

A small donation of \$10.00 is suggested if you can.

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.

The next Bike Clinic is Saturday, September 12 from 10-noon.

Mobile Food Pantry will be on **September 12** instead of September 5 due to Labor Day weekend. Volunteers are needed.

Women's Single Group will meet for lunch at 1 PM on September 1 at the Village Baker in Spring Lake. Please Sign up at the Welcome Center or call Judy D.

Meijer Simply Give supports First Congregational Church's Tuesday Food Pantry & Saturday Breakfast.at: **Meijer – 1800 Holton Rd., N. Muskegon and**

Meijer – 5300 Harvey Street, Fruitport When you purchase a **\$10 Simply Give card** at checkout on Saturday, September 12, Meijer will double match your gift—turning your **\$10 into \$30** to help feed Muskegon County neighbors in need!

On "Welcome Back Sunday" September 13, Congregational Life is sponsoring a Potluck with Trivia following. Tom and Diane Goodman will host the Trivia event. Please sign up at Welcome Center. We are also collecting new and clean used coats for adults and children in September, ending in November. Place them in the basket at the Welcome Center.

Life Long Learning will begin our 2026-27 season on September 20, 2026.

FCC's 3rd 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 may contact the church office: 231-726-3254.

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.

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