



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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REV. DR. BECKY EMERSON + SENIOR MINISTER

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 11, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

"Introduction & Variation No.1" from *Variations on KIRKEN*,
by Dorothy Sheets

*(This piece was written by Mrs. Sheets in 1990 to be performed at the Rededication Recital
for the Organ at Samuel Lutheran Church that same year.)*

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:

**Our God, You have invited us to gather,
not to forsake the assembling of ourselves.**

**You continue to gather us with arms open wide,
with unconditional love and acceptance.**

We have gathered here with grateful hearts.

**We have come from different places, places of stress,
places of sorrow, and places of joys and celebrations.**

God you are our comfort, our refuge, and our present help.

In your presence, there is peace, encouragement, and hope.

**We come with the sacrifice of praise, worshiping You with hymns,
with voices lifted, and with the beautiful gift of music.**

In these sacred moments, may You refresh us and comfort us.

Amen!

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

You Are the Way

You are the way; through you a - lone can
You are the truth; your Word a - lone true
You are the life; the emp - ty tomb pro -
You are the way, the truth, the life; grant

we the Fath - er find; in you, O Christ, has
wis - dom can im - part; you on - ly can in -
claims your con - quering arm, and those who put their
us that way to know, that truth to keep, that

God re - vealed his heart and will and mind.
form the mind and pur - i - fy the heart.
trust in you nor death nor hell shall harm.
life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1824, Tune: DUNDEE, *The 150 Psalms of David*, Edinburgh, 1615

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

John 11:17-35; 16:20

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep.

John 16:20

Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice;
you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM

Do You Believe This, by James Biery

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die will live,
And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die will live.
Do you believe this?"

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MESSAGE

Those who mourn.

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I

life a - new, That I may love what
heart is pure, Un - til with Thee I
whol - ly Thine, Till all this earth - ly
nev - er die, But live with Thee the

Thou dost love And do what Thou wouldst do.
will one will, To do and to en - dure.
part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.
per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Edwin Hatch, 1835–1889

Tune: TRENTHAM, SM; Robert Jackson, 1840–1914

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

Lead Me On, by Brian A. Schmidt

Lead me on, lead me on, lead me on.
Lord, lead me on and guide my path along the way.
Oh, lead me on to brighter days where peace is born
from a hope that lies in me.
Guide me safely through the night,
that I may see the sun tomorrow when the new day has begun.
Oh, lead me on in times of pain, lead me on.
And may my heart be always warmed with thoughts of you.

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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

Deem Not That They are Blest Alone

Deem not that they are blest a - lone
The light of smiles shall fill a - gain
There is a day of sun - ny rest
For God has marked each sor - row - ing day,

Whose days a peace - ful ten - or keep;
The lids that ov - er - flow with tears;
For ev - ery dark and trou - bled night;
And num - bered ev - ery se - cret tear;

The a - noint - ed Son of God makes known,
And wear - y hours of woe and pain
Though grief may bide an ev - 'ning guest,
And hea - ven's long age of bliss shall pay

A bless - ing for the eyes that weep.
Are pro - mis - es of hap - pier years.
Yet joy shall come with ear - ly light.
For all His child - ren suf - fer here.

Text: William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878), Tune: DUKE STREET, Attrib. to John Hatton, c. 1793

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

"Variation No.3" from *Variations on KIRKEN*, by Dorothy Sheets

Today's Service

Rev. Dr. Becky Emerson	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Director of Music
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
Carol Beatty	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake D. Filius	Audio and Video

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Flowers are sponsored by Eddie and Trina Jankowski in memory of Trina's aunt, Marilyn Wall.

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

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names beginning with O-S are asked to donate in October. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies.

Life-long Learning will meet downstairs after the service.

Saturday Breakfast will be October 31, 2026 from 9-10:30 AM. Volunteers are appreciated.

Thanksgiving Feast catered by Dave's Kountry Kitchen is November 22. Donation of \$28 per person, \$55 for family of 3 or more. Please sign up and pay on or before Nov. 8 @ Welcome Center.

The Saturday Breakfast Garden invites you to help-out Saturdays from 10 AM to noon; and/or Tuesdays 1-3 PM through the end of Oct.

Member Care meeting Monday, Oct. 12, 2 PM

Missions & Service meets Monday, Oct.12, 3:30 PM

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

New or gently used coats children - adult sizes are being collected (basket in the Lobby).

FCC's 3rd Annual Heartfelt Hand Made Craft Fair Saturday, October 24 from 10 AM – 3 PM. We have a few vendor spots still available.

Candy is being collected for our Trunk and Treat. Please place them in the green basket at Welcome Center. Also looking for decorated vehicles for that night and to help pass out candy.

The Crop Walk table will be manned for anyone who would still like to donate. Many thanks.

Let's Make a Mess Paint Class-Wed. Oct 14-1 PM. Signup sheet & material lists at Welcome Center.

Directories are at Welcome Center for members and longtime attendees. Sugg. Donation \$10.

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