

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

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fccmuskegon.org

REV. DR. BECKY EMERSON + SENIOR MINISTER

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 22, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Prepare the Royal Highway, by Lee Afdahl
The Canterbury Ringers

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, we hear your invitation to gather,
We come into this sanctuary, our sacred space.
Thankful for Your love and affirmation for all people.
Here, among us, our community, and our global family.
Oh God, our help in ages past, our hope in years to come.
Today, our gratitude comes with worship and adoration!
We are thankful that You continue to speak,
With Your patient love and unending grace.
Showing us your heart and your ways!
We know our limitations, only too well!
Your grace and mercy carry us.
We are grateful for who You are
And who we are becoming, in You.
Amen!

Those who wish may stand

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Come, You Thankful People



Text: Henry Alford, 1844, alt., Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR, George Elvey, 1859. Arr by Michael Costello, © 2011 MorningStar Music Publishers, inc.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Philippians 4: 6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:18-27

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM

One Faith, One Hope, One Lord, by Craig Courtney

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which he died,
One voice, one song we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be evermore.
There is one body, one spirit, as you were called to one hope.
One Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all, who is in you all.
Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts,
we are given to each other for the unity of faith,
that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ.

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MESSAGE

Centering Gratitude

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HYMN OF REFLECTION

God of Day and God of Darkness



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, © 1985, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc., Tune: JOEL, Sally Ann Morris, © 1993.

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

Prelude on ASH GROVE, Arr. by Douglas E. Wagner
The Canterbury Ringers

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

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Those who wish may stand

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CLOSING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God



WORDS: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
MUSIC: Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

"March" from Cantata BWV 207: *Auf, schmetternde Töne*, by J.S. Bach
Arranged by S. Drummond Wolff

Today's Service

Rev. Dr. Becky Emerson	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Director of Music
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
Canterbury Ringers	Handbell Ensemble
Joe Singerling	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake D. Filius	Audio and Video

Steve Haines, *Trumpet* — Philip DeYoung, *French Horn*
Matt Lintula, *Trumpet* — Scott Lachniet, *Trombone*
Mark Lopez, *Timpani*

Flowers are sponsored from the Portenga Family in loving memory of Ann Portenga.

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

Thank you to our musicians. You have enriched our Thanksgiving Holiday.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names beginning with T-Z are asked to donate in November. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies.

Saturday Breakfast will be November 28, 2026 from 9-10:30 AM. Volunteers are appreciated.

Thanksgiving Feast catered by Dave's Kountry Kitchen is today. Donation of $28 per person, $55 for family of 3 or more. Thank you Roy and Britta for providing the entertainment!

Directories are at the Welcome Center for members & longtime attendees. Suggested Donation $10.

All are invited join us Nov. 29th as we decorate for Advent/Christmas season. We will begin right after the service and a quick cup of coffee.

FCC's Candlelight Concert will be Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 4 PM. Come and be delighted by the sounds of our Motet Choir and Orchestra with the Canterbury Ringers!

Womens Single Group meets Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 1 PM at the Lake Bluff Grill located in Muskegon Country Club. (2801 Lakeshore Dr. Muskegon) Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Judy D.

Missions and Service 2026 Giving Tree will be for The Hope Project. To help the young women, victims of human trafficking, they need 30-40 pairs of warm, fuzzy socks, dish soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrush, hand cream, TIDE pods and dryer sheets. Anything you are able to contribute will be most welcome and a true blessing to the clients of The Hope Project. Please bring the socks by Dec. 11 so they can be given at their Christmas Party.

Meijer Simply Give donations will be tripled on Saturday, December 12 at the Holton Rd. Meijer in North Muskegon. More details at the Welcome Center.

When the Rabbis Came To Town will be December 9 at FCC. At 6:30 PM. This is an encore of the last play. As before, FCC members may get in free. A $10 donation is suggested. Information is at the Welcome Center or on our website.

FCC hosts the Muskegon Chamber Choir Concert on Sunday, December 13 at 3 PM.

Missions & Service Donations for mission of the month (One Great Hour of Sharing) can be made to FCC with OGHS in the memo line of a check; online at FCC's website, or directly to the UCC November Mission of the Month.

Life-long Learning — No session this Sunday. Next Sunday (11/29) is the first of three discussions about the book *Theo of Golden* ($13 on Amazon). For more information about the book, the schedule, and the reading assignments you can scan this QR code or see the posting at the Welcome Desk.

Westshore GSA Youth Group for Middle School and High School meet Mondays at 7 pm.

Thank you to all who donated coats. We collected 146 adult coats and 7 children coats. Children coats would still be appreciated this next week up until Wednesday. We will distribute at Saturday Breakfast on November 28th.Thanks again!

Members of Congregational Life Department

Church staff wishes all a very Happy Thanksgiving. Our offices will be closed on November 26 for Thanksgiving Day.

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