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-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 8, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Aria (Homage to Flor Peeters & Paul Manz), by Michael Burkhardt

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 gathered this morning, to worship You.
Joining with many across Muskegon, and this State,
With many in our country and our global community.
We come from seasons of challenges and celebrations,
And amid doing life, we are reminded,
That Your steadfast love never ceases,
That Your mercies never come to an end.
Every morning, they are renewed!
Great is your faithfulness Oh God.
Great is your faithfulness!
Amen!

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness

Those who wish may stand



Text: Thomas Chisholm, 1923, alt, Tune: FAITHFULNESS, William Runyan, 1923; © 1923, Renewal 1951 by Hope Publishing Company

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 5:7-8

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Luke 10:25-37

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.[a] "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 27 He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." 29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM

Steal Away, Arr. by Patrick Dupré Quigley

Kendyl White, *Soloist*

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus!
Steal away, steal away home; I ain't got long to stay here.
My Lord, he calls me; he calls me by the thunder.
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here.
Green trees are bending; and sinners stand a-trembling.
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here.

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MESSAGE

The Pure in Heart and the Merciful.

Those who wish may stand

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

For the Fruit of All Creation



WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), alt.
MUSIC: Welsh melody; harm. Luther O. Emerson (1820-1915)

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8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.

Words © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

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

"Lord bow thine ear" from *Elijah*, by Felix Mendelssohn
Ashley Jankoski and Kendyl White, Soloists

Chorus: Lord, bow thine ear to our prayer.

Duet: Zion spreadeth her hands for aid;
And there is neither help nor comfort

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

Blest Are the Poor in Heart

Those who wish may stand



Text: John Keble, alt. (1819), Tune: FESTAL SONG, William Walter, 1872

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Toccata in Seven, by John Rutter

Today's Service

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

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Flowers are sponsored by Peggy Scouten in memory of Dave Scouten.

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

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

Today's Life-Long Learning session will meet in the library to continue Rev. Becky's series about navigating transitions. We plan to end at 12:45, but sneak out earlier if you must.

Saturday Breakfast will be November 28, 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 at the Welcome Center.

New or gently used coats children - adult sizes are being collected (basket in the Lobby) through this month. They will be given out to our Saturday Breakfast guests, the end of Nov.

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

Candlelight Concert will be Sunday, December 6 at 4 PM. Please join us as we celebrate the season.

Meijer Simply Give Donations are tripled on Saturday, December 12 at the Holton Rd. Meijer in North Muskegon.

Messy Paint Class, Wednesday Nov. 18 at 1PM New-comers welcome! Sign up sheet and materials list are at the Welcome Center.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the U.C.C. that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, emergency relief, etc. Donations can be made to FCC with OGHS in the memo line, online at FCC's website, or directly to the UCC November Mission of the Month

Meetings: Congregational Life Meeting will be held in the Parlor this morning after the service.
Sun. Nov. 8 Christian Education 7 PM by Zoom
Mon. Nov. 9 Member Care 2PM;
Mon. Nov. 9 Missions & Service 3:30PM
Mon. Nov. 9 West Shore GSA Youth Group for Middle School & High School 7 PM
Wed. Nov.11 Building & Grounds Meeting at 11 AM in library.
Thur. Nov. 12 Finance & Endowments at 5 PM by Zoom
Mon. Nov. 16 Governing Board at 6:30 PM in library
Tue. Dec. 1 Worship & Music meet at 6:30 PM in the Parlor

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