



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

231-726-3254

fccmuskegon.org

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 26, 2026**

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Widmung, by Robert Schumann
David Abdelkader, Tenor

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:

**Almighty and Holy Spirit, our Comforter,
pure, living, true-illumine, govern, sanctify us,
and confirm our hearts and minds
in the faith and in all genuine consolation;
preserve and rule over us so that,
dwelling in the house of the Lord
all the days of our lives, we may behold
the Lord and praise him with joyful spirit,
in union with all the heavenly church.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Seek Ye First



Seek ye first the king - dom of God
Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you,
You do not live by bread a - lone,
Where two or three are gath - ered in my name,



and his right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be
seek and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be
but by ev - ery word that comes forth from the
there am I in their midst; and what - so - ev - er you



add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you: Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
mouth of God: Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
ask I will do; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

"Mustard & Yeast and Fields! Oh My!"

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Those who wish may stand

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

1 Je - sus, price-less treas - ure, source of pur - est pleas - ure,
2 In thine arms I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,

tru - est friend to me: Ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - ery heart be
Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther, though the storms may

faint - ed, thirst-ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot-less Lamb;
quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Sin and hell in con - flict fell
gath - er, still have peace with - in. Yea, what-e'er I here must bear,

I will suf-fer nought to hide thee, nought I ask be - side thee.
with their bit-ter storms as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
still in thee lies pur - est pleas - ure, Je - sus, price-less treas - ure!

8

WORDS: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
MUSIC: Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

JESU, MEINE FREUDE
6.6.5.6.6.5.7.8.6.

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.**

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Diana Wright, The Hope Project

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

On Eagle's Wings, by Michael Joncas
David Abdelkader, Tenor

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

We've a Story to Tell the Nations

1. We've a sto - ry to tell to the na - tions, that shall
2. We've a song to be sung to the na - tions, that shall

turn their hearts to the right, a sto - ry of truth and mer - cy,
lift their hearts to the Lord, a song that shall con - quer e - vil

a sto - ry of peace and light, a sto - ry of peace and light.
and shat - ter the spear and sword, and shat - ter the spear and sword.

For the dark - ness shall turn to dawn - ing, and the

dawn - ing to noon - day bright; and Christ's great king - dom shall

come on earth, the king - dom of love and light.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of 16 measures. The first two measures are for the first and second verses. The third measure is a common phrase. The fourth measure is a common phrase. The fifth measure is a common phrase. The sixth measure is a common phrase. The seventh measure is a common phrase. The eighth measure is a common phrase. The ninth measure is a common phrase. The tenth measure is a common phrase. The eleventh measure is a common phrase. The twelfth measure is a common phrase. The thirteenth measure is a common phrase. The fourteenth measure is a common phrase. The fifteenth measure is a common phrase. The sixteenth measure is a common phrase.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart, by Robert Hobby

Today's Service

Rev. Bruce D. Mulder	Interim Pastor
John Mattson	Organist
Hanna Schmiedeknecht	Cantor
David Abdelkader	Soloist
Tom Hardy	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

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We welcome Diana Wright from Hope Project.
Diana will speak briefly on our August Mission of the Month.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names E-J are asked to donate during August. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies. Thank you!

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

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.

There is no prepared Life-long Learning program for today, but anyone who wants to participate in an informal discussion with your peers about anything church-related is welcome to meet in the church library after the service.

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

Phyllis Laurin's Celebration of Life Service will be held on Wednesday, July 29 at 11:00 AM with visitation at 10, here at FCC.

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.

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

Women's Single Group will meet September 1. Enjoy the month of August off.

Thank you to all who participated and instructed Vacation Bible School. It was lots of fun.

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