

Progressive Evangelism

May 26, 2024

What's Going
On?

Shhh ... I Don't
Want to Tell
People I'm
Christian

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

May 26, 2024

10:00 am

*If this is Christianity and these are Christians, I must not be one.
~ Robin Meyers, upon waking from a nightmare*

*We have a sacred story that has been stolen from us, and in our time the thief is what passes for orthodoxy itself (right belief instead of right worship). Arguing over the metaphysics of Christ only divides us. But agreeing to follow the essential teachings of Jesus could unite us.
We could become imitators, not believers.
~ Robin Meyers*

*At the heart of evangelism is God's activity of wholeness, restoration, and liberation.
~ Libby Howe*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

WELCOME

Sharon Benton

*We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows in the front where they can see the instruments and participate fully, or the coloring, book, and play area is available in the corner near the windows or in the Narthex.
Their movements back and forth are a joy for us.*

RINGING THE BELL

*Rise in body or spirit

WELCOME SONG

“Windy God”
by Rachael Weasley

Windy God, take the fi-re of mytongue and let it sing for you! Windy
God, take the fi-re of mytongue and let it sing for you! Win-dy
God, take the fi-re of mytongue, Windy God, take the fi-re of mytongue and Windy
God, take the fi-re of mytongue and let it sing for you!

The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Windy God, take the fi-re of mytongue and let it sing for you! Windy God, take the fi-re of mytongue and let it sing for you! Win-dy God, take the fi-re of mytongue, Windy God, take the fi-re of mytongue and Windy God, take the fi-re of mytongue and let it sing for you!'.

Used under OneLicense.net #A-718199

THE STORY

*What keeps you from sharing the message of Jesus with others?
Do you share about your faith in some ways you hadn't realized?*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

*Children may go with Josh to church school in the social hall
or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.*



1. Christ, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the
 2. Christ, you call us to your serv - ice: "In my
 4. Christ, you show us love's true meas - ure: "Ab - ba ,



sick and preach the word." Lest the Church ne -
 name bap - tize and teach." That the world may
 what they do, for - give." Yet we hoard as



glect its mis - sion, And the Gos - pel go un - heard,
 trust your prom - ise, Life a - bun - dant meant for each,
 pri - vate treas - ure All that you so free - ly give.



Help us wit - ness to your pur - pose With re -
 Give us all new fer - vor, draw us Clos - er
 May your care and mer - cy lead us To a



newed in - teg - ri - ty;
 in com - mun - i - ty; With the Spir - it's gifts em -
 just so - ci - e - ty;



power us For the work of min - is - try.

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PRAYER

Stacy Malone Miller

One Voice: Loving One, you sent your Holy Spirit to inspire evangelists.

All Voices: **But sharing Christ's Good News is weird.
It can make us feel awkward or vulnerable or... too *Christian*.**

One Voice: You sent your Holy Spirit to encourage us.

All Voices: **To build community when the powerful try to isolate;
to bring hope when everything seems chaotic;
to love when the world expects hate.**

One Voice: You sent your Holy Spirit to your Church.

All Voices: **Help us remember what we've found in Christ's teachings,
and help us find ways to share your Spirit with others —
we never know who needs Good News. Amen.**

SUNG PRAYER

"With Sighs Too Deep for Words"
by Anne Krentz Organ. Used with permission.



This is the sound of our Prayers And the Spirit in - ter - cedes for us

All:



with sighs, with sighs too deep for words. With sighs, with sighs too deep for words.

The Prayer of Jesus

We invite you to use the language for God that is most comfortable for you:

“Our Creator,” “Our Father” or “Our Mother.”

Our Creator

**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 and ever. Amen.

*If you have a prayer request you'd like to share confidentially with our pastors,
have added to the confidential prayer list, or spoken aloud in worship,
go to www.fccb.net/contact-us/ to send a message or call the church to talk with a pastor.*

WE ARE GROWING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN FAITH.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 17-18 (selected verses)

Stacy Malone Miller

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Stacy Malone Miller

One: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us:

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Shhh... I Don't Want to Tell People I'm Christian”
or, “Progressive Evangelism”

Sharon Benton

ANTHEM

“Down to the River to Pray”
Arr.by Sheldon Curry

Chancel Choir
Craig Jennings, guitar

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

Sharon Benton

You may make an offering either in the plates at the door or online.

*Your generosity allows the work of this place nurture beloved community,
grow authentic Christian faith, and live Christ-inspired action. Thank you!*

There are several ways to give: 1) Give at our website, <https://fccb.net/giving/>.

2) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225.

3) Use the Breeze app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give!

4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to (360) 205-1297, and set up your account.

5) Scan the QR code on the back cover of the bulletin.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Judy Widrig

***HYMN 527** (black hymnal)

“We Offer Christ”

CHARTERHOUSE

***BENEDICTION**

Page

POSTLUDE & SHARING

Judy Widrig

After the postlude we encourage you to share with someone your response to today's questions:

What keeps you from sharing the message of Jesus with others?

Do you share about your faith in some ways you hadn't realized?

Open and Affirming (ONA): As an Open and Affirming congregation believing in a loving God, all people are welcome in this church without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic or social status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We Try To Use Language which will help people feel included in our worship. Since not everyone is comfortable with the same language, we invite you to amend the words of the service as we sing and pray if they do not adequately express your faith. We invite you to assist us in creating new expressions of our common faith and life together.

Technical Support: If you need help streaming our worship services or connecting in other ways, please let us know.

APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF

Pastoral staff are available by appointment virtually or in person.

Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line,
360-733-4255.

Sharon **sharon@fccb.net**

Davi: **on parental leave**

You can also email our Office Manager
Cydne at **office@fccb.net**
and she'll pass your message on.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

Church Office: 360-734-3720

24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255

office@fccb.net • www.fccb.net

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Office Hours: 10:00 am-4:30 pm

LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

PASTOR: Davi Weasley, they/them

(on parental leave)

INTERIM PASTOR: Page

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Georgia Drost, she/they

MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

PAST MODERATOR: Mark Schofield

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

OneLicense #A-718199

CCS #12615

