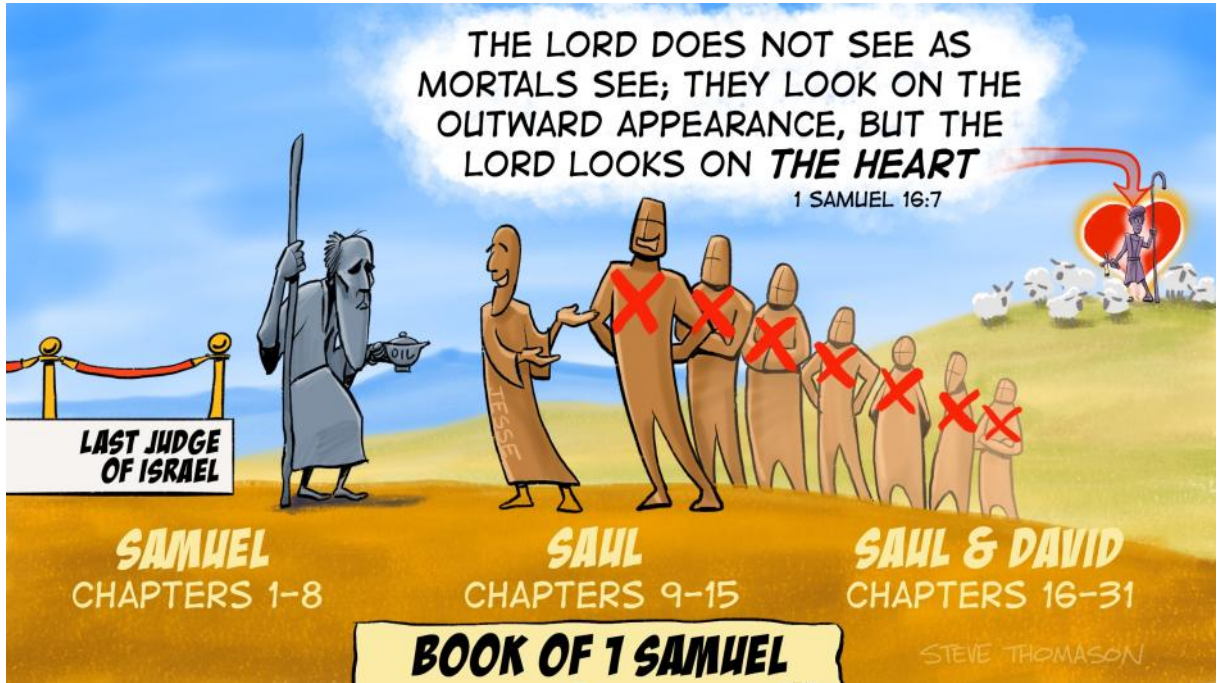


What Does a Leader Look Like?

October 26, 2025



Vision Statement:

We Are a Nurturing, Beloved Community.
We Are Growing Authentic Christian Faith.
We Are Living Christ-Inspired Action.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 26, 2025 10:00 am

PRELUDE

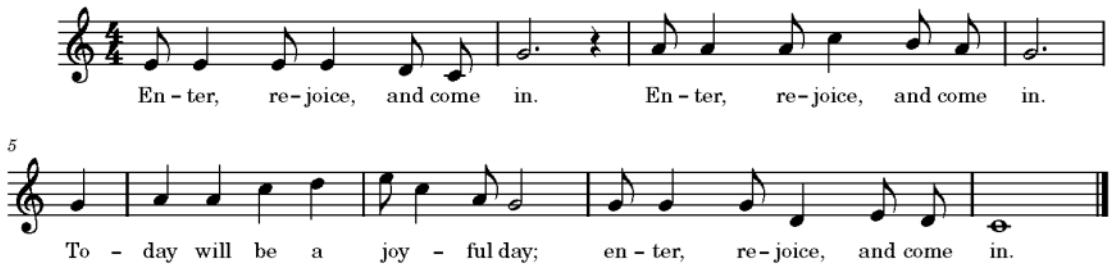
Judy Widrig

RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG #73 (black hymnal) “Enter, Rejoice, Come In”
sing twice

ENTER, REJOICE



by Louise Ruspini © 1992 Louise Ruspini; Harmonization © 1993 The Pilgrim Press.
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WELCOME

Sharon Benton

We love children in worship—their noises and wiggles are welcome, too. There are pillows and a coloring, book, and play area in the front and in the corner near the windows. Younger kids may enjoy the Narthex play area. Their movements back and forth are a joy for us as they participate fully.

THE STORY

Sharon Benton

**Rise in body or spirit*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

After Time with Children, children may go with Maya to church school in the social hall or remain in the sanctuary as they choose.

*HYMN

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

OPEN MY EYES



- 1 O - pen my eyes that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
- 2 O - pen my ears that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear,
- 3 O - pen my mouth and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-'ry-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - 'ry - thing false will
O - pen my heart and let me pre-pare love with thy chil - dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O - pen my eyes, il - lu-mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my ears, il - lu-mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
will to see. O - pen my mouth, il - lu-mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by LeAnne Zook

Terri Kaltenbach

One Voice: What will you offer the body of Christ today?

All Voices: Bring all that you have.

Bring all that you are.

One Voice: The gifts of silence and the gifts of words are welcome.

All Voices: The gifts of leading and the gifts of following are welcome.

One Voice: The gifts of the head and the gifts of the heart are welcome.

**All Voices: Holy One, may all that we are as individuals
come together to strengthen the living body of your church,
Christ Incarnate. Amen.**

SUNG INVITATION TO PRAYER 283

“Spirit of the Living God”

IVERSON

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me; Spir - it of the

liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me_

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

by Danier Iverson © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music (A Div. of the Sparrow Corp.)
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Chaplain Charlene Epp

Anyone may share a brief joy or concern

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

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-13

Terri Kaltenbach

Common English Bible

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Terri Kaltenbach

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

"What Does a Leader Look Like?"

Sharon Benton

GIFT OF MUSIC

"A Mighty Fortress"
by Martin Luther. Arr. by Kyle Pederson.

One Accord

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

*Today is also our Neighbors in Need special offering.
Please note that online or on an envelope if you are giving to that worthy endeavor.*

You may make an offering either in the plates 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

"Built on a Rock"
Text by Carl Doving, Jay Althouse. Music by Jay Althouse.

One Accord



***HYMN 355** (black hymnal)

“God the Spirit, Guide & Guardian”

HYFRYDOL

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

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

Our pastor is available by appointment virtually or in person. Contact her by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255.

Sharon **sharon@fccb.net**

Our Chaplain is also available at
chaplain@fccb.net.

Or you can 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:

9:30 am-4:30 pm, M-Th. 10:00 am-2:00 pm, F.

PASTOR: Sharon Benton, she/her

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE:

Scott Ward, he/him (scott@fccb.net)

CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp, she/her

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

INTERIM MUSIC COORDINATOR:

Dallas Geil, he/him (music@fccb.net)

CHURCH SCHOOL/YOUTH COORDINATOR

Maya McEachern

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR

Moxxy Rogers, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE:

Kurt Aagard, he/him

BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him

MODERATOR: Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her

VICE MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval

CLERK: Leigh Hjelmseth

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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