

Commandment Companion

May 17, 2026



Vision Statement:

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2026

10:00 am

The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.

~ Henri Nouwen in Out of Solitude

We want the Giver, and not just the gift—we want a conscious sense of our connection to this God who calls us. Our spirits call out for God’s Spirit, so that we might breathe this sense of connection into our deepest selves. We don’t want ‘God incognito,’ we want to experience the reality of God insofar as we finite creatures are able. We want to taste the immensity of God as love, experiencing God’s love for ourselves as well as for all others.

~Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki in The Call of the Spirit: Process Spirituality in a Relational World

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG

“Love & Justice”

Love and jus - tice, peace and pow'r show us how to live each hour, raise us
neigh - bors; tell your friends, here's a place hope nev - er ends. Love and

6 up and set us free, show us how to live and be... Tell your hour! God is
jus - tice, peace and pow'r! God is with us in this

11 with us in this hour! God is with us in this hour!_____

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics. The second staff begins at measure 6 and includes two first endings (marked 1. and 2.) leading to the second line of lyrics. The third staff begins at measure 11 and leads to the final line of lyrics. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

2008 June Christine Goudey and John Glenn Paton

*Rise in body or spirit

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 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

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

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 268** (black hymnal) “Creator Spirit, Come, We Pray”

DICKINSON COLLEGE

COMMUNITY PRAYER

By Thom M. Shuman, alt.

Connie Buckley

One Voice: Let’s join together in the Community Prayer.

All Voices: **Eternal Companion,**

**when the wind seems to be knocked out of us by the blows of life,
we dare to breathe**

joy upon those caught in the net of hopelessness;

peace into all the broken places around us;

wonder for all those who have lost sight of you.

In you, we dare to live and breathe and be,

because you are with us—not only here and now, but always. Amen.

SUNG PRAYER

"Alleluia"

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

by Jerry Sinclair. Used under OneLicense #A-718199.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharon Benton

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

John 14:15-21
Common English Bible

Connie Buckley

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

"Alleluia"

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



Tune by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1901) Public domain.

SERMON

"Commandment Companion"

Sharon Benton

GIFT OF MUSIC

"Hold on to the Plow"
by David Fayram

David & Nancy Fayram

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

DEBRA KAY PEHRSON SCHOLARSHIP

Ava Lehn

Called to Care Team

*The Debra K. Pehrson Health & Wellness Scholarship is a yearly gift of \$2500
given to a member of the congregation pursuing healthcare studies.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INVITATION TO OFFERING

Your generosity allows us to serve God in this place and beyond.

There are several ways to give: 1) Go to: fcb.net/giving. 2) Make a check out to FCCB.

3) Use the Breeze app, if you're connected. 4) Text a dollar amount to (360) 205-1297.

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

6) Place cash or check in the offering plate.

Thank you!



MUSICAL OFFERING

Judy Widrig

***HYMN**

"We Are One in the Spirit" **THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS**
see opposite page

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

We Are One in the Spirit

300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in our God
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in our God
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:

Refrain



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

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

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

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Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Office Hours:

M, Th, F 9:00 am-5:00 pm;

T, 2:00-5:00 pm; W 9:00 am-1:00 pm

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
MUSIC COORDINATOR:

Dallas Geil, he/him (music@fccb.net)
**CHURCH SCHOOL/YOUTH
COORDINATOR:**

Maya McEachern, she/they
WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Moxxy Rogers, she/her
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BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him
MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval, she/they

VICE MODERATOR: Kate Destler
PAST MODERATOR:

Diane Cooper-Schick, she/her
CLERK: Leigh Hjelmseth

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