

The Spirit Breathes Among Us

Confirmation Sunday

May 24, 2026



Vision Statement:

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 24, 2026

10:00 am

*The gospel means that every small story is part of a sweeping story,
every ordinary life part of an extraordinary movement.
God is busy making all things new, and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
has opened that work to everyone who wants in on it.
The church is not a group of people who believe all the same things;
the church is a group of people caught up in the same story,
with Jesus at the center.
~ Rachel Held Evans*

PRELUDE

Judy Widrig

RINGING THE BELL

WE ARE A NURTURING, BELOVED COMMUNITY

WELCOME SONG

*“Let It Breathe on Me”
by Magnolia Lewis-Butts*

Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the
breath of the Spir - it breathe on me. Let it
breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the
breath of God now breathe on me.

**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 SCRIPTURE IN STORY

Acts 2

Lisanicole Sarkisian

The Book of Belonging**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

Lisanicole Sarkisian

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

All Voices: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Joyce Parry-Moore

*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 272** (black hymnal)

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

MUNICH

CONFIRMATION RECAP

Veronica Brulotte

COMMUNITY PRAYER

by Jonna Gillham

Jonna Gillham, 2024 Confirmand

One Voice: In these trying times, O God, when it feels like all the systems of our country are working against us,

All Voices: Open our eyes to the natural wonders of your creation.

One Voice: In the midst of the busy lives we lead,

All Voices: Slow us down and remind us of what really matters.

One Voice: In a world in which we are constantly influenced by others,

All Voices: Remind us to listen to our own hearts.

One Voice: And when we are lacking clarity,

All Voices: May we ask questions, have many good conversations, and know that we are not alone. Amen.

SUNG PRAYER

"Spirit of Life"

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a B-flat key signature. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of Life, come un - to me. Sing in my heart all the". The second staff continues: "stir - rings of com - pas - sion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;". The third staff continues: "move in my hand, giv - ing life the shape of jus - tice. Roots hold me close;". The fourth staff concludes: "wings set me free; Spir - it of Life, come to me, come to me." The score ends with a double bar line.

Spir - it of Life, come un - to me. Sing in my heart all the
stir - rings of com - pas - sion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in my hand, giv - ing life the shape of jus - tice. Roots hold me close;
wings set me free; Spir - it of Life, come to me, come to me.

by Carolyn McDade © 1981 Surtsey Publishing, renewed © 1993 Carolyn McDade.
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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.

CORE VALUES

Jasper Bemment & Keenan Sheehy

GIFT OF MUSIC

**“Gavotte”
by J. P. Rameau**

Avery Neem

I BELIEVE ... RIGHT NOW

Charlotte Simon

HYMN 286 (black hymnal)

**“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”
Refrain — verse 1 — refrain**

SPIRIT

I BELIEVE ... RIGHT NOW

Evelyn Simon

HYMN 286 (black hymnal)

“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”
refrain – verse 4 – refrain

SPIRIT

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Keenan Sheehy, Charlotte Simon, Evelyn Simon,
Veronica Brulotte (at United Church of Ferndale)

Confirmand Covenant

We promise to worship God, preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and encourage the realization of God's will in the lives of people from birth to death, individually and collectively, as seen in the life, teaching, death and living presence of Jesus Christ. In keeping with Christ's teaching, we are...

“Welcoming all,

Growing in Faith,

Living God's Love, Justice, Compassion...”

Congregational Response (unison)

We, the members of First Congregational Church of Bellingham, United Church of Christ, warmly welcome you: not to a congregation of the sinless, but to a living community of faith that seeks to find new ways of being in relationship with God and enacting God's intention for the wholeness of humankind. We give thanks for your life stories, your faith journeys, your diversity of gifts. We pray that God will help us provide a nurturing environment for you and enable us to take time for one another as we establish a shared faith and common history.

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: fccb.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 on the back cover of this bulletin.

6) Place cash or check in the offering plate.

Thank you!

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Steal Away”
arr. by Bill Ingram

Handbell Choir

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Sterling Bemment, Kinsey Brewer

***HYMN 350 (black hymnal)**

“Now in the Days of Youth”

DIADEMATA

***BENEDICTION & PASSING THE PEACE**

Sharon Benton

POSTLUDE

Judy Widrig

Thank you to the Confirmation+ class who helped shape such wonderful conversations!

Youth: Jasper Bemment, Veronica Brulotte, Jonna Gillham, Avery Neem,

Keenan Sheehy, Charlotte Simon, Evelyn Simon

Adults: Melissa Brulotte, Julie Eastlund, Thatch Hobbs, Jim Hollander

Facilitators: Pat Gillham, Rev. Joel Aosved, Rev. Sharon Benton

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

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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
OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her
BOOKKEEPER: Eric Bowen, he/him
MODERATOR: Jordan Sandoval, she/they

VICE MODERATOR: Kate Destler
PAST MODERATOR:

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

TREASURER: Darlene Mathias
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