

All is Pointless, or the Pessimistic Preacher

June 21, 2026



Vision Statement:

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
June 21, 2026 10:00 am

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.

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 311 (black hymnal)

“Renew Your Church”

ALL IS WELL

COMMUNITY PRAYER

One Voice: Sometimes, Holy One, everything feels pointless.

All Voices: All is chasing after wind.

One Voice: A war ends and another begins;

you heal from ankle surgery but your blood pressure skyrockets.

All Voices: All is chasing after wind.

One Voice: Each day the news cycle offers the same madness with a new spin.

All Voices: All is chasing after wind.

One Voice: The world has changed so much I can't even recognize it.

All Voices: All is chasing after wind.

One Voice: Church is dying—look how few board volunteers there are.

All Voices: All is chasing after wind.

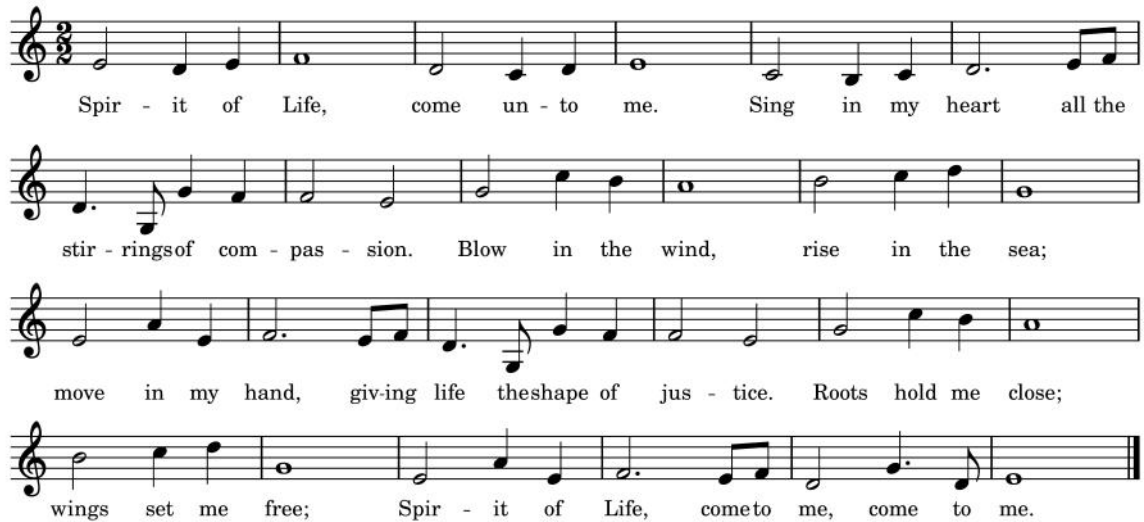
One Voice: Stop. Stop us when we spiral, God. Help us pause and wonder:
amid all that seems pointless, what is your call?

All Voices: And why not chase the wind, if the wind is your Spirit!

Amen.

SUNG PRAYER

"Spirit of Life"



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.

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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 LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

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

"I Choose Love"
by Mark A. Miller

Choir

*HYMN

"We Limit Not the Truth of God"

FOREST GREEN



We lim - it not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind, to
Who dare to bind to one's own sense the or - a - cles of heaven, for
E - ter - nal God, In - car - nate Word, Spir - it of flame and dove: en -



no - tions of our day_ and place, crude, par - tial and con - fined; No,
all the na - tions, tongues, and climes and all the a - ges given? That
large, ex - pand all liv - ing souls to com - pre - hend your love; And



let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be stirred: O
un - i - verse, how much un - known! that o - cean un - ex - plored!
help us all to seek your will with wis - er powers con - ferred:



God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

***BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PREVIEW

Jordan Sandoval, Moderator

PASSING THE PEACE & 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

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Church Office: 360-734-3720

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

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Facebook: facebook.com/fccbucc

Office Hours:

10:00 am-2:00 pm, M-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

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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