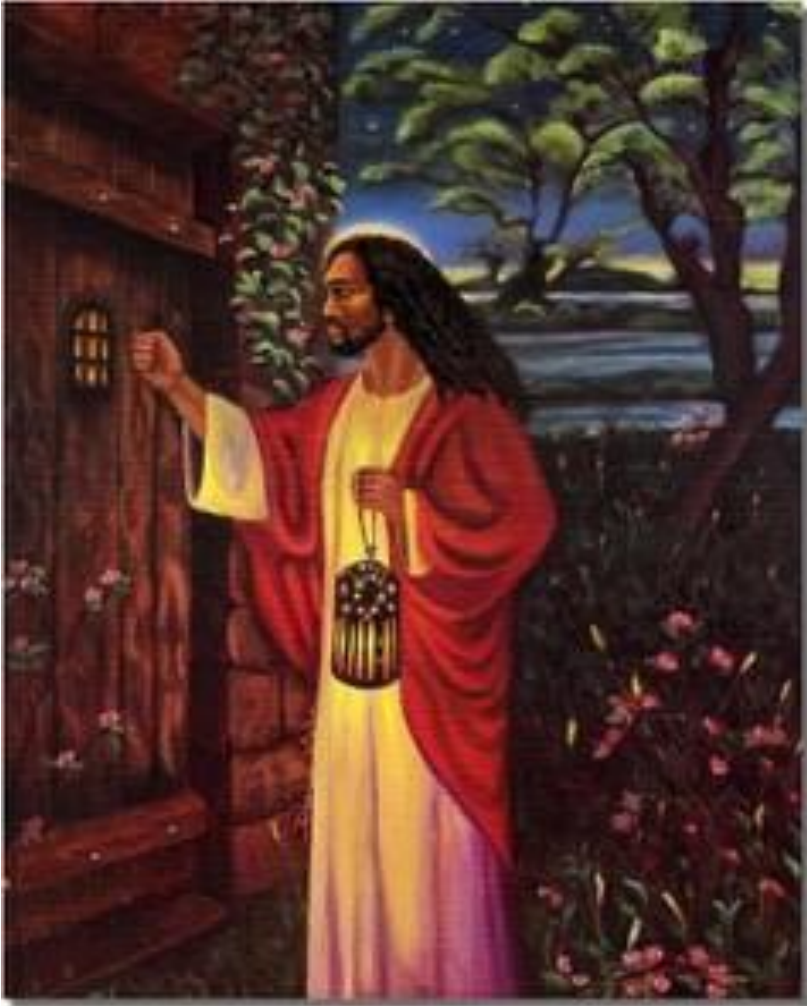


Someone at the Door

July 5, 2026



Vision Statement:

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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 5, 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.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Sharon Benton

by Rev. Erika Marksbury & Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer, alt.

One Voice: Calling all citizens of heaven: exiled dreamers and disciples of love,

All Voices: God is close to the outcast and faithful to all.

One Voice: Calling all pilgrims of the Spirit, carried by the winds of hope,

All Voices: God is everywhere at all times, compassionate to all.

One Voice: Calling all travelers between worlds, who translate compassion into peace,

All Voices: God makes neighbors of strangers and kin of the forgotten.

One Voice: Come to worship and be renewed for this long journey.

All Voices: Strangers in a strange land, we have come to worship the creator of all.

One Voice: No matter who we are or where we are on life's journey,

All Voices: We are welcome here, and we are beloved of God.

**Rise in body or spirit*

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**

“In this Time of Great Reflection”

BEACH SPRING

text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Tune attr. to B. F. White (1844)

**In this time of great reflection on two hundred fifty years,
We remember, as a nation, times we've prospered, times of tears.
"We shall be," a preacher told us, "as a city on a hill" —
not to praise us but to warn us: We've a duty to fulfill.**

**We recall our nation's story. Keep us honest, God above!
In our quest for wealth and glory, we have injured ones you love.
Through enslavement, through displacement, we have chosen ways of sin.
We've been violent. We've stayed silent. So our light of love stays dim.**

**In this time, O God, restore us to the land we're called to be —
where all people here among us know your blest community.
May we seek to be that city, not with pride but as a prayer.
May we love and serve you humbly, in our land and everywhere.**

COMMUNITY PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Janet Ott

by Rev. Erika Marksbury & Rev. Amanda Meisenheimer

One Voice: Gracious One, where do we begin? You call us to do justice,

All Voices: and we explain that justice is complicated.

One Voice: You ask us to love mercy,

All Voices: and we counter that a show of strength is necessary.

One Voice: You invite us to walk humbly with you,

**All Voices: and we struggle to recognize you in our neighbors,
in the dispossessed, in the poor and hungry places of our own hearts.**

One Voice: We confess we have failed to summon the courage and compassion
required by your call.

**All Voices: We have treated hospitality as an option, kinship as a choice,
instead of as the center of our life together.**

One Voice: We have claimed your name, yet rejected your way.

All Voices: Forgive us, we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Janet Ott

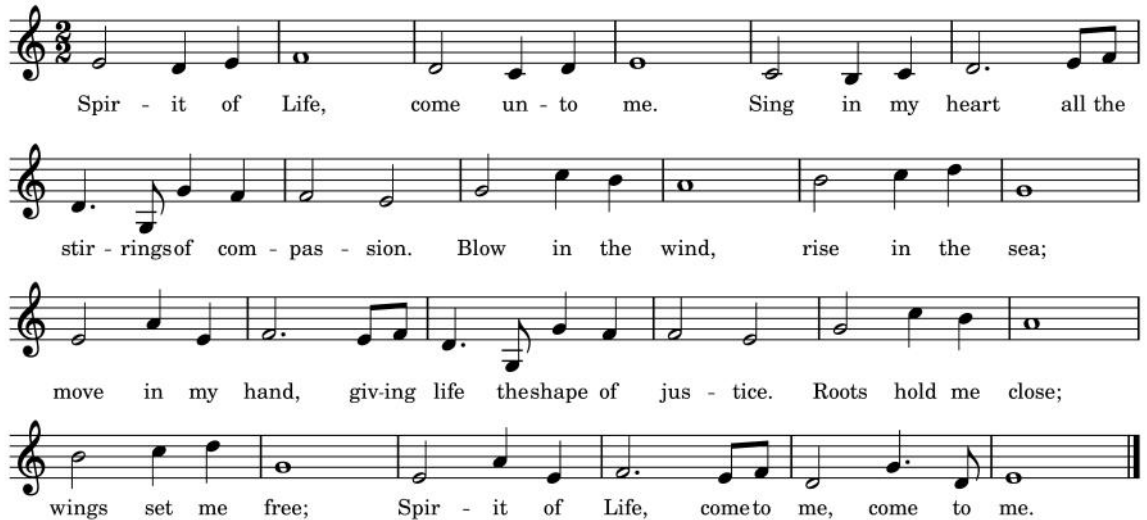
One Voice: Friends, hear this good news:

God's gift is love that liberates, hope that inspires,
grace that transforms.

Each of us alone and all of us together
are forgiven and set free to try again. Alleluia! 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

Sharon Benton

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

Revelation 3:20

Janet Ott

New Revised Standard Version

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Janet Ott

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

“Stephen Ministry: Someone at the Door”

Tim Shepherd

COMMISSIONING OF STEPHEN MINISTERS

Kathleen McGuinness

Ann Brodie-Knope, Julia Ritchie, Jim Hollander

Covenant of the Congregation:

Jordan Sandoval, Moderator

Moderator: Members of this faith community, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to service as Stephen Ministers. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

Congregation: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to support you, to honor your ministry among us, and to allow you to minister to us that we might more fully recognize the faithfulness of God in our midst.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Here I Am, Lord”

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you
call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you
lead me. I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

WE ARE LIVING CHRIST-INSPIRED ACTION.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Communion Song

Come, Let Us Bring

By Billema Kwillia & Marty Haugen

*Come let us bring our gifts to God in praise,
So that we might minister in countless ways.
Come, let us bring the warm and fragrant bread,
Broken here so all God's people might be fed.
Come, let us bring the sweet, abundant wine.
In this cup, we taste the joy of grace divine.*

The Words of Institution & Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Elements

You may come forward to receive communion or if you wish to remain seated, someone will come around to you in your seat. Raise a hand or indicate that you would like communion as they come around. If you come forward you will be on the video stream.

*You may either dip your bread in the communal cup
or take a single-serving of juice from the center server.*

*If you're worshipping at home, gather something to eat and drink:
the risen Christ will meet you right where you are.*

Communion Music

Judy Widrig

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

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

*Your generosity allows us together to 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**

"For This Land in All its Wonder"

CWM RHONDDA

text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Tune by John Hughes, 1907.

**For this land in all its wonder, for each city, farm and town,
For each mountain filled with splendor, for each place where love is found,
For the freedoms we enjoy here,
God, may thanks to you abound! God, may thanks to you abound!**

**For your hand to lead and guide us, for your work in history,
For your vision born inside us of a just society,
God, we thank you and we pray now:
May this vision come to be! May this vision come to be!**

**May we be a nation seeking ways that are both wise and fair,
May our living and our speaking serve your purpose everywhere.
May we follow where you lead us;
God, this is our hope and prayer! God, this is our hope and prayer!**

***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

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: **davi@fccb.net**

Davi's office hours will be on
Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday

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-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:

Moxy Rogers, she/her

OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran, she/her

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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