

Service Sunday August 16, 2026



Vision Statement:

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 16, 2026 10:00 am

10:00-10:15 am IN THE SANCTUARY

PRELUDE

Ricky Inga

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME SONG

"Restless Weaver"

BEACH SPRING

Rest-less Weav - er ev - er spin - ing threads of jus - tice and sha - lom;
dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion where all crea - tures find a home;
gathering up life's var - ied fi - bers ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue:
where Earth's frag - ile web is rav - eling, with us weave your world a - new.

Words: O. I. Cricket Harrison, Music: B. F. White. Usued under OneLicense #A-718199.

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.

**Rise in body or spirit*

ACTS OF SERVICE OPTIONS

Scott Ward

Service will go through 11:15am, then we'll reconvene in the Social Hall at 11:30am for a lunch and sharing about our experiences of service worship.

- Hope House Snack Bags (guided by Pat Elwell) Mount Baker Room
- Postcards to Swing States (guided by Laurie Hoyt) Room 11
- Immigrant Support Food Packs (guided by Michele Good) Social Hall
- Singing Resistance (guided by Wendy Howard) Chapel
- Knitting Prayer Shawls (guided by Cheryl Smith) Fireplace Room
- Neighborhood Trash pickup (guided by Kendra Wagner) meet at Narthex north
- Downtown Delivery of snacks and water (guided by Briana Mihelic) meet at Narthex south

Questions? Ask Pastor Sharon or Scott Ward.

COMMISSIONING

Sharon Benton

One Voice: Today we turn our worship into service—tangibly enacting what we believe and why we worship. Today we go out from our worshiping space to live our faith in different ways than usual.

Congregation: We stand together as a cloud of witnesses and today proclaim:
Where hatred roars, we will sing of love.
Where fear stalks, we will stand with courage.
Where bigotry rages, we will call for justice.
Where pain overwhelms, we will extend kind comfort.
Where systems oppress, we will work for change.
Guide us, Jesus, that we may live according to your way, always.

One Voice: We go out with courage and grace, sowing God's message of love with all, then returning to share the bounty of love.

Congregation: Amen.

SERVICE SONG

"Thuma Mina (Send Me, Jesus)"

Leader All

Send me, God Send me, Je-sus, send me, Je - sus,
send me, Je - sus, send me, God.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Leader and the second for the All. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots, and the second staff also ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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11:30 am IN THE SOCIAL HALL

POTLUCK

Fill your plate and find a seat. We will begin our sharing shortly.

REGATHERING SONG

"Thuma Mina (Fill Me, Jesus)"

Leader All

Fill me, God Fill me, Je-sus, fill me, Je - sus,
fill me, Je - sus, fill me, God.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Leader and the second for the All. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots, and the second staff also ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES

Each service group will have a chance to share what this experience was like for you as worship.

BENEDICTION AND CLEANUP

*Thank you for helping to clear tables, run the dishwasher
and anything else that may be needed!*

REFLECTIONS FOR SHARING OUR EXPERIENCE



REACTIONS TO THE SHARING OF OTHERS EXPERIENCES



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:

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:

Niko F C Pen, he/they (music@fccb.net)

CHURCH SCHOOL/

YOUTH COORDINATOR:

Maya McEachern, they/them

NURSERY ATTENDANT:

Keira Martin, she/her

WORSHIP MEDIA COORDINATOR:

Moxxy Rogers, she/her

CHURCH FACILITY MANAGER:

Eric Whitaker, he/him

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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