

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Father's Day | Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
June 21, 2026

**** *Some rise to their feet, some rise in their hearts—please rise as you are able.*

OPENING BELL

At the sound of the bell please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

All Creatures of Our God, arr Larry Shackley

Martha Jones & Karen Caton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Paul Ashby

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**Whoever you are...and wherever you are on
life's journey... you are welcome here!**

OPENING REFLECTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jean McArthur

As children our favorite words are "mine, mine, mine."

To grow into a loving human requires we learn words like "theirs" and "for them." We evolve from selfishness to sharing.

But if we end there we only care about family and friends.

Grant us the vision to see the truth of our earth, our human race, our animals, our environment, our gift of creation.

As Christians we dare to pray "Our God," "Our Creator," "Our Father" and speak of all the children of this earth.

Save us from the temptation to reduce the vast universe down to my god, my faith, my race, my nation, my religion, my political party, my gender, my team.

****HYMN Sing! Prayer & Praise #26

You Are Welcome Here

All

refrain

You are welcome here, no matter who you are,

no matter where you are, on life's journey.

You are welcome here, no matter who you are.

Come and join with us. We're united in the church of Christ.

Come now all people, join in the song, come be a part of the family of God.

We are God's people and you belong, share in the joy of Christ. *refrain*

We pray for justice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Savior of all.

We find God's mercy; we find release, sharing the joy of Christ. *refrain*

Lifting each other; doing what's right; standing together, whatever may come;

praising our Savior, shining our light, sharing the joy of Christ. *refrain*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Respond to each shared prayer request with "Peace, Shalom, Salaam."

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SIXTY SECONDS FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS/CONTEMPLATION

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Jean

OFFERTORY

Salley Gardens, arr. Larry Shackley

Martha

**DOXOLOGY (tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*)

All

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jean

God of all children, we offer our prayers to the Source of all life and being. Open our hearts to embrace the goodness we find all across this earth. Open our hands to share our spiritual gifts. Give us the eyes of Jesus to see Your divine image in all of creation. Amen

****HYMN Sing! Prayer & Praise #13

Love and Justice

All

Love and justice, peace and pow'r, show us how to live each hour,
raise us up and set us free, show us how to live and be.

Love and Justice, peace and pow'r, challenge us to give each hour,
raise us up and set us free, help us be all we can be.

Tell your neighbors; tell your friends, here's a place hope never ends.
Love and justice, peace and pow'r! God is with us in this hour!
God is with us in this hour! God is with us in this hour!

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NRSVUE)

Jean

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Mother-Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

MESSAGE

"The World Transforming Word 'Our'"

Paul

**HYMN SPP 123

Draw the Circle Wide

All

Refrain

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

God the still point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. *refrain*

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. *refrain*

Let the dreams we dream be larger than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, opening every door. *refrain*

****BENEDICTION

Paul

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
 From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
 Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,
 Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
 Let peace fill our universe!

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE

RECESSIONAL

Reprise on *Draw the Circle Wide*

Martha

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
 liturgist
 musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
 Jean McArthur
 Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

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Pastoral Care

Let Paul know if you want to bring a sandwich and have lunch | This is an ongoing opportunity to discuss with Paul any joy or concern in depth, or anything in the news that weighs on you. **Paul is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 1 pm each week, or Saturday if you work during the week, or by appointment.** Paul's email is revpaulashby@yahoo.com. To call Pastor Paul:

- His cell phone, 970-793-8638.
- His extension at church, 970-242-0298, x104.
- Home landline, 970-200-2668. [Paul is always up until midnight, do not be shy about calling late when there is need.]