

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Grandparenting and Spirituality Sunday | Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 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

Gift of Love Hal Hopson/Marianne Kim

Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Palubicki

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

OPENING REFLECTION

Caroline Ely

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based upon Psalm 37:23-28)

Nancy

Our steps are made firm by the Holy One when She delights in our way;

Though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for God holds us by the hand.

I have been young and now am old,

**Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken; they are ever giving liberally and lending,
and their children become a blessing.**

Depart from evil, and do good; so you shall abide forever.

For the Holy One loves justice; and will not forsake the faithful ones.

****HYMN NCH 376, vs 1,2,4 *God, We Thank You for Our People*

All

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.

Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:

Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,
hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,

Eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.

Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,

welcoming all we together, all your children on the earth.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Caroline

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

Nancy

OFFERTORY

You Are Welcome Here, Gerard DeMan

Choir

****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**

Nancy

Steadfast God, in every season, you hold us, and in every struggle, you knit us together as one body. Receive these gifts as signs that we choose to stand firm, striving side by side, living as citizens of your realm. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, strengthen your church, and bear witness that love is stronger than fear. Amen.

*****HYMN** Song Folder #34

The Gift of Love

All

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be giv'n by love within the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole,
let inward love guide ev'ry deed, by this we wor-ship, and are freed.

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 71:17-18

Nancy

O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might
to all the generations to come.

MESSAGE

"The Spirituality of Grandparenting"

Caroline

*****HYMN** NCH 76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

All

Sent forth by God's blessing our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

****BENEDICTION

Caroline

**** SONG BENEDICTION

World Peace Prayer

All

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

Let All Things Now Living (Ash Grove), Larry Shackley

Martha

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Caroline Ely
Nancy Palubicki
Martha Jones

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