

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
July 13, 2025

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

GATHERING BELL

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

PRELUDE

Prelude in C, J.S. Bach

Martha Jones

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

Nancy Palubicki

What is the business of the church? A model of success seems to be a megachurch built like a sports arena that gives close to zero to the poor or homeless.

Is success measured by the largest, the most money, the new fad look of corporate culture?

Jesus teaches us that the true work of the church is mercy.

You mean the business of the church is not to create bigger budgets and more buildings!

But how will we know when we are successful?

When we remind our community of the Good Samaritan – then we will truly be doing the work of the church.

Bless us with the courage and compassion of the Good Samaritan.

****HYMN Song Folder 1, vs. 1,2,4

Gather Us In

All

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken. Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now and we shall awaken. We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty. Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly. Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining. Now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever. Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bones

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paul

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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Nancy

OFFERTORY

We Walk in Love, Witkowski

Martha

Note that this is also the tune for our last hymn today.

****DOXOLOGY

Hal-le, hal-le hal-le-lu-ja.

All

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Nancy

God of all life, may our offerings be a blessing to the poor, the anxious, the sick, and all seekers of truth. We give thanks for the gift of life and the faith to help others on this spiritual journey called life. Amen.

****HYMN NCH 541

They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"

All

They asked, "Who's my neighbor and whom should I love;
for whom should I do a good deed?"

The Master related a story and said,
"It's anyone who has a need,
yes, anyone who has a need."

There once was a traveler set on by thieves
who beat him and left him to die;
a Priest and a Levite each saw him in pain,
but they turned away and walked by,
yes, they turned away and walked by.

A certain Samaritan then came along
to bind up his wounds and give aid;
he took him to stay at an inn until well,
and for all the service he paid,
yes, for all the service he paid.

I know who's my neighbor and whom I should love,
for whom I should do a good deed;
for Christ made it clear in the story he told:
it's anyone who has a need,
yes, anyone who has a need.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:25-37 [NRSVUE]

Nancy

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn,

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