

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost | Labor Sunday
September 6, 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

Introit, Gordon Young

Ellen Bradley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Long

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

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

OPENING REFLECTION

Mark

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 105)

Deb Weller

O give thanks to the Holy One, the I Am Who I Am, who calls us together and makes their name known.

We glory in God's holy name! Let the hearts that seek the Holy One rejoice and testify!

O give thanks to the Holy One, God of our ancestors, who lives and reigns with all generations.

Sing praises to our God. Remember their wonderful works, saving acts, and redemptive deeds.

O give thanks to the Holy One, Mighty and Just God, who lends strength in the struggle and leads in righteousness.

Seek the presence of the Holy One. Praise God!

******HYMN**

Sing Praise to All (tune: Lobe den Herren)

All

Sing praise to all that has offered us life and sustains us-
All that has opened our hearts to the love borne within us:
Family and friends,
Beauty we see without end-
Gifts that our lives lay before us.

Sing praise to all that has opened our minds to new vistas-
All that has called us to seek out new truths through the ages:
Vision and word,
Music that sought to be heard
These are the gifts that will mold us.

Sing praise to minds that will fashion our bold new tomorrows-
Yesterday's wisdom released from its dogma and credos.
Evermore free
To live out what we believe
Walking the path that Life hallows.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Mark

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

Deb

OFFERTORY

Drone, Barcarole, and Glee on 'Royal Oak' R.H. Kerr

Ellen

****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**

Deb

God of Justice, Mercy, and Fairness: We commit ourselves and these offerings to you, that your will and ways may be manifested in our lives, within your assemblies, and spread forth that the powers that be might serve your purposes until all are fed, housed, cared for, work with dignity, and all of these things done in ways that preserve the sanctity of this one precious earth. Amen.

******HYMN** Song Folder #11

Healer of Our Every Ill

All

Refrain

Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *refrain*

In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. *refrain*

Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *refrain*

You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *refrain*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:24-34 [NRSVUE]

Deb

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had, and she was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his cloak, I will be made well." Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my cloak?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?' " He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell

down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

MESSAGE

"Faith and Cancer"

Mark

****HYMN SONG FOLDER #56

We Walk By Faith

All

We walk by faith, and not by sight: no glorious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice and cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.

That when our life of faith is done in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are in full and endless sight.

We walk by faith, and not by sight: no glorious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.

****BENEDICTION

Mark

**** 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

Be Not Afraid (excerpt from 'Elijah'), Mendelssohn

Ellen

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musician

Mark Long
Deb Weller
Ellen Bradley

Acknowledgements

Unless otherwise noted, the following music is reprinted and/or included in the worship recording with permission through OneLicense #A-709231. All rights reserved. All other music not recorded or in public domain.

- ◇ *Introit*. Gordon Young © 1967, J. Fischer & Bro.
- ◇ *Sing Praise to All*. Text: Gretta Vosper and Scott Kearns who generously give permission for churches to use their hymns in worship services. All rights reserved.
- ◇ *Drone, Barcarole, and Glee on 'Royal Oak.'* R.H. Kerr © 1998 by Belwin-Mills Publishing.
- ◇ *Healer of Our Every Ill*. Text and tune by Marty Haugen © 1987 G.I.A Publications, Inc.
- ◇ *We Walk by Faith*. Music by Marty Haugen © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.
- ◇ *Lead Us from Death to Life (World Peace Prayer)*. Words of refrain by Satish Kumar. Tune by Marty Haugen © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.