

**Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ**  
**Father's Day | Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**June 16, 2024**

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

PRELUDE                      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, arr. John Carter                      Martha Jones

GATHERING BELL

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

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

Spirit of Life, You are the energy of creativity unfolding the cosmos.

**Let us sense Your presence in the sun, the clouds, the green clothed tree and the winds of June.**

We are grateful for every source of human caring.

**Bless us with good memories within our family. And bring healing where past experiences did not create positive memories.**

Remind us of all people of goodness and vitality in our life.

**Enable us to follow in the compassionate light of Jesus that we may reach our goals and help future generations live out their full potential.**

\*\*HYMN      *There is Room in God's Great Welcome* (tune: *Holy Manna*)

All

There is room in God's great welcome; See! The doors are open wide!  
Here on earth as in God's heaven, hear the call to come inside!  
There is so much room for difference — men and women, gay and straight.  
In God's love, the rooms are countless, but there is no room for hate.

There is room in our good nation if we stand on justice-ground.  
God has made a good creation; colors, cultures all abound.  
Welcome, sister! Welcome, brother! All those yearning to breathe free!  
There is room for one another but no room for bigotry.

There is room for understanding, for the outcast and the poor;  
For the Christian, Jew and Muslim — there is room for these and more.  
For the people on the fringes, for the ones with long career,  
There is room for building bridges, but there is no room for fear.

There is room in faithful churches for the wounded and oppressed:  
Women who've been told they're worthless, refugees who feel distressed,  
Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned and pushed and shoved.  
God, may we seek what you treasure: may we all make room for love.

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 *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*, setting by K. Lee Scott Shannon Jones & Martha

**\*\*DOXOLOGY Hal-le, hal-le hal-le-lu-ja. All**

**\*\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Nancy

**Holy One, May Your love flow through us into the relationships in our life. We ask for Your love to flow through every household and every form of family. We express our gratitude for all people in our circle of love. May the heart of this church expand the circles of love within our life. Amen**

SCRIPTURE

John 15:12, Colossians 3:21, Ephesians 6:4

Nancy

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.

And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

MESSAGE

*"Expressions of Love"*

Paul

**\*\*HYMN Sing! Prayer & Praise #112 *Come to the Table of Grace***

All

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.

This is Christ's table, not just yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace.

This is Christ's table, not just yours or mine.

Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love.

This is Christ's table, not just yours or mine.

Come to the table of love.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Paul

All who practice the way of compassion are welcome.

**\*\*HYMN Song Folder #27, vs 1-3, 5**

*Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands*

All

Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it;  
protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands, like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye: our life is meant for caring.

Put Christ into each other's hands, he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.

\*\*BENEDICTION

Paul

\*\* 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

*Fantasy on 'Holy Manna,'* arr John Carter

Martha

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### **Today's Worship Leaders**

preacher  
liturgist  
musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby  
Nancy Palubicki  
Martha Jones

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