

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Second Sunday After Pentecost
June 7, 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

When Morning Gilds the Skies, arr Lani Smith

Ellen Bradley

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

Betsy McLoughlin

God's call is often a whisper within our conscience to help a person in need.

God's call can be as simple as the urge to let go of an addiction.

God's call can be an awareness that we need to move to a new job, a new home, or a new relationship.

God's call can be to let go, relax, find a place of peace amid the challenges of life.

God's call is to bless and not harm neighbors, immigrants, friends and family.

We see the ways of God in how Jesus treated others and pray for his heart to inspire our consciousness.

****HYMN

Morning Has Broken

All

Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE –BAPTISM

Paul

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

Betsy

OFFERTORY

Scherzino, Beethoven

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

Betsy

God of new beginnings, you call us to faith in each act of giving. To love, to listen and to help is always a new beginning that transforms us and others. To care means we open new doors within our heart, mind and soul. Bless us with the gift of callings on the path of Christ's compassion. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-3,7-8; Genesis 22:9-13; Matthew 10:42 (NRSVUE)

Betsy

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

MESSAGE

"Abraham's Faith and Abraham's Failure"

Paul

****HYMN NCH 417, vs 1, 3, and alt(*)

This is a Day of New Beginnings

All

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

In faith we'll gather 'round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings – our God is making all things new.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Gluten free options are available.)

Paul

All are welcome who practice the way of compassion.

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

Paul

**** SUNG 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

We Are Called, David Haas

Ellen

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
 liturgist
 musician

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
 Betsy McLoughlin
 Ellen Bradley

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