

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Pentecost
May 24, 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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit, arr. John Carter

Martha

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

Ellen Bradley

Critics say the Spirit is just a bunch of wind, the hot air of intangible nothing.

But Spirit is when our eyes see beyond structures of racism.

Spirit is in welcoming the stranger and immigrant, realizing we are an immigrant family in an immigrant country.

Spirit is loving good, sometimes labeled God.

Spirit is loving our neighbor, even when they fall short of goodness.

Spirit is an inner light of peace that shines in every peacemaker.

Spirit is that itch for justice, when those who oppress the poor do not want to be delayed from millions in tax cuts.

Spirit is the healing Presence that is constantly offering the grace of good ideas to work on what is broken.

HYMN SPP 19

Santo Espiritu

All

Holy Spirit, come and be with us; Holy Spirit, fill us with your peace;
Holy Spirit, pour on us your grace; Holy Spirit, be with us, we pray.

Holy Spirit, come restore us; Holy Spirit, come and lift us;
Holy Spirit, send your blessing on us; Holy Spirit, be with us, we pray;
Holy Spirit, be with us we pray.

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.

SIXTY SECONDS FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS/SILENT CONTEMPLATION

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Ellen

OFFERTORY

What Makes Me Sing? Ruth Elaine Schram

Choir

****DOXOLOGY

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

All

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ellen

God of Spirit, we often dismiss You as distant and invisible. At the same time, we sense Your presence in every act of giving and self-giving. We pray for fresh revelation of your grace and peace within us and within our world. Amen

****HYMN NCH 552

From the Crush of Wealth and Power

All

From the crush of wealth and power something broken in us all
waits the Spirit's silent hour . . . pleading with a poignant call,
bind all my wounds again.

Even now our hearts are wary of the friend we need so much.
When I see the pain you carry, shall I, with a gentle touch,
bind all your wounds again?

When our love for one another makes our burdens light to bear,
find the sister and the brother, hungry for the feast we share;
bind all their wounds again.

Every time our spirits languish, terrified to draw too near,
may we know each other's anguish and, with love that casts out fear,
bind all our wounds again.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-8;12-21 (NRSVUE)

Ellen

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
 that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
 and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
 and your young men shall see visions,
 and your old men shall dream dreams.
 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
 in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
 and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
 and signs on the earth below,
 blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
 and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

MESSAGE "When a Country Hick Speaks Your Language" Paul

****HYMN SPP #199 Go, Make a Difference All

Refrain

Go make a difference. We can make a difference. Go make a difference in the world. (repeat)

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a difference in the world.

We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.
Go make a difference in the world. *refrain*

So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.
Go make a difference in the world.
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.
Go make a difference in the world. *refrain*

****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 *I'm Goin'-a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing*, arr Chuck Marohnic Martha

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
liturgist Ellen Bradley
musicians Martha Jones

Acknowledgements

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