



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Be Who You Are”
Open and Affirming Sunday
Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
June 28, 2020
10:30 a.m. Facebook Live Service**

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship
and relevant messages deepen spirituality
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

Our Church's Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator
Nicole Finney, Child Care
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

Judy Nielsen, Organist
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director
Brandon Frost, Choir Director
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

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Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text, and an asterisk (*) indicates to please stand, as you are able. Our hymns are not announced, but are printed in the bulletin, so feel free to locate them ahead of time.*
Helpful worship notes and information on the church can be found in the brochure by the hymnals.
Guests and visitors – a special welcome! Please fill out a “Welcome” card (in the pew pocket) and put it in the offering plate so we may send you a small gift.

GREETING

One: The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Borrowed from The Rev. Mak Kneebone, ONA Coalition, The United Church of Christ, 2020)

One: From ancient times to this present day, people have gathered in sacred spaces like this one.

ALL: Moments of time fold together when we immerse ourselves in love and connection.

One: We ask for Divine Love to be revealed to us in this gathering.

ALL: We open our spirits to the depth and breadth of Divine Presence.

One: We listen for sacred whisperings and await holy joy to be written on our hearts.

ALL: Being truly ourselves, we come together in this eternal moment.

One: We bring our prayers to you as one community, one assembled body

ALL: Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Asexual, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Ally. Beloved people of God. We come, and we pledge our commitment to walk the path of Jesus.

*OPENING HYMN #402 (*English only*)

“Sing of Colors”

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

*COLLECT PRAYER

(Borrowed from The Rev. Mak Kneebone, ONA Coalition, The United Church of Christ, 2020)

One: Let us pray.

Many: Together we defy the darkness by being the Light. We make violence tremble by being peacemakers. When chaos and trauma cause distress, we counter by reaching for love and remembering joy. This day, when people are going hungry, give us bread to share. This day, when people are angry and hurtful, give us forgiveness to offer. When there is so much temptation to be selfish and careless, this day give us the strength to be kind and intentional. Remind us that we are all born holy and deserve love and tenderness. In the many names of Love, may it be so.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“We Are One, Lord”

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

(Many thanks to Theresa Thorn for giving us permission to read her book *‘It Feels Good To Be Yourself’: A Book About Gender Identity*)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 139: 1-6 & 13-18 NRSV (pg. 566)

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 10: 40-42 NRSV (pg. 886)

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

Many: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE #283

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

HOMILY

“Be Who You Are”

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

Please give what you can, by mail or through prayers.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com

*CLOSING HYMN (Insert)

“If I Were a Butterfly”

(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful

In the Lord, I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“Happy Trails... Until We Meet Again”

**Please join us for a Zoom coffee hour after the service. Grab a coffee or your favorite beverage and a snack and join the Zoom call using the link sent in the email with this bulletin (or in the link sent through the Thursday Pause).*

- Unless otherwise listed all hymns and responses come from the New Century Hymnal
- Two movies have been made available for free rental on digital platforms during the month of June. **“Just Mercy,”** the 2019 film about the work of civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson, has been made available by Warner Bros. Pictures. Here is a link <https://www.justmercyfilm.com/>. **“Selma,”** Ava DuVernay’s powerful drama telling the incredible story of how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the epic march from Selma to Montgomery to secure equal voting rights, is being made available by Paramount. Here is a link <https://vupulse.com/c/5354>

SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist - Troy Arient

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Fresh Perspective - Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Organist – Chuck Byam

HEALTH CONCERNS

Please follow these links for accurate and up to date information regarding the Coronavirus.

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_99557---,00.html

*Resources found on this website are for individuals experiencing mental and emotional health challenges during this time. Many of these resources are free.

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

<https://www.barryeatonhealth.org/covid-19-resources-and-update>

https://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_churches_establish_protocols_preach_awareness_not_panic_as_covid_19_cases_grow_03102020

(English Only)

402

De colores (Sing of Colors)

Mexican folk song

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1995

1 De co - lo - res, de co - lo - res se vis - ten los
1 Sing of col - ors, sing of col - ors that o - ver the
2 Sing, re - joic - ing! Ev - ery crea - ture that breathes raise a

cam - pos en la pri - ma - ve - ra. De co -
hills in pro - fu - sion are spring - ing; Sing of
song to the God of cre - a - tion. Sing, re -

lo - res, de co - lo - res son los pa - ja - ri - tos que vie - nen de a -
col - ors of the birds that fly out - side my win - dow their can - ti - cles
joic - ing! Sing to God who so ear - nest - ly cares, who has of - fered sal -

fue - ra. De co - lo - res, de co -
sing - ing; Sing of col - ors, in the
va - tion. Sing the good news! Sing the

(continued)

De Colores (Sing of Colors)

lo - res es el ar - co i - ris que ve - mos sa - lir, Y por
rain-bow's bright col - ors God's prom - ise of hope we re - call; Sing of
love of the Sav - ior re - flect - ing the col - ors of all. Man - y

e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co - lo - res me gus - tan a
col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who cre - at - ed us
col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that tell us God's love to re -

mí, Y por e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co -
all. Sing of col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the
call. Man - y col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that

lo - res me gus - tan a mí.
God who cre - at - ed us all.
tell us God's love to re - call.

Psalm 139:1-6 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Psalm 139:13-18 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. ¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Matthew 10:40-42 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁴⁰ "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

If I Were A Butterfly (vs 1 & 3)

If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank you, God, for giving me wings;
And if I were a robin in a tree,
I'd thank you God, that I could sing;
And if I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee;
But I just Thank You Creator, for making me – ME!

'Cause you gave me a heart and
You gave me a smile
You gave us Jesus, and
You made me Your Child
And I just Thank You, Creator
For making me – ME!

If I were a wiggly worm,
I'd thank you, God, that I could squirm;
And if I were a crocodile,
I'd thank you, God, for my big smile;
And if I were a fuzzy-wuzzy bear,
I'd thank you, God, for my fuzzy-wuzzy hair;
But I just Thank You, Creator, for making me – ME!

'Cause you gave me a heart and
You gave me a smile
You gave us Jesus, and
You made me Your Child
And I just Thank You, Creator
For making me – ME!