

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
"Where No One Is A Stranger"  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 1, 2024

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

One: Here, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our hearts:

**Many: calling us to generous acts, to share the gifts we have been given.**

One: Now, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in our land:

**Many: calling us to generous acts, to open our hearts to all in need.**

One: In every place, in every moment, our Beloved speaks to us; the voice of our Beloved sounds in all creation:

**Many: calling us to generous acts, to stand with God's people: the least, the lost, the little, the last.**

\*Opening Song: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" #72

### \*OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

**Creator of the heavenly lights, there is no shadow in your divine light. It remains unchanging across the eons, even as the stars come and go. You are our faithful creator, the Gardener of our lives. You plant your truth within us and inspire lives of caring and love. We honor and worship you. Amen.**

## TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (prayed together)

Holy One of leaders and little children, we hear your words every day, but rarely live them out. Our anger roars like a flooded creek, but our forgiveness drips like a rusty faucet. Our impetuous tongues rush to judgment, while our words of hope sound like a sluggish soundtrack. We listen with impatient ears to the cries of the poor.

God of Light, may your mercy fall on us like a summer shower on parched grass; may your hope overflow our hearts; may your Beloved Child, Jesus, speak to us and call us to life.

## A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Listen and understand - the voice of the Beloved speaks to us, implanting the word of hope, the word of grace, and the word of forgiveness into our hearts.

**Many: We listen and understand. Every gift comes from God, especially the gifts of mercy and love. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

## SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

\*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH inside back cover of hymnal (read together)

### \*GLORIA PATRI #734

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with-out end. A-men, A-men.**

FOCUS SCRIPTURE James 1:17-27 read from the *Good News Bible*

MESSAGE: "Gifted" Pastor Chris

Communion Song: "One Bread, One Body" #689

## GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Invitation, Communion Prayer, Sanctus, Words of Institution, Consecration Prayer, Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors), Sharing the Bread and Cup

## SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

**We give you thanks, God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus, that we, too may use the gifts you have given us to become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.**

## PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

## OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of every good gift, bless the gifts of our resources, our prayers, and our lives. Bless these gifts for the good of others and to the honor of your name. Amen.

\*Closing Song: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" #581

\*Going Forth with the Peace of Christ

**POSTLUDE**

\*Indicates all who are able please stand

Other Lectionary Scripture Readings: Song of Sol. 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 or Duet. 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer, and Offering Prayer of Dedication are by Rebecca J. Guadino from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is a version of our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith. The Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving (adapted) is by Mary Ann Neevel from *Flames of the Spirit-Resources for Worship Like Bread For the Journey* edited by Ruth C. Duck.

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Worship Leader:	Pastor Chris Burtnett
Lector:	David Burrow
Organist:	Antonia Rupert
September Radio Sponsor:	Shelly and Todd TerHark

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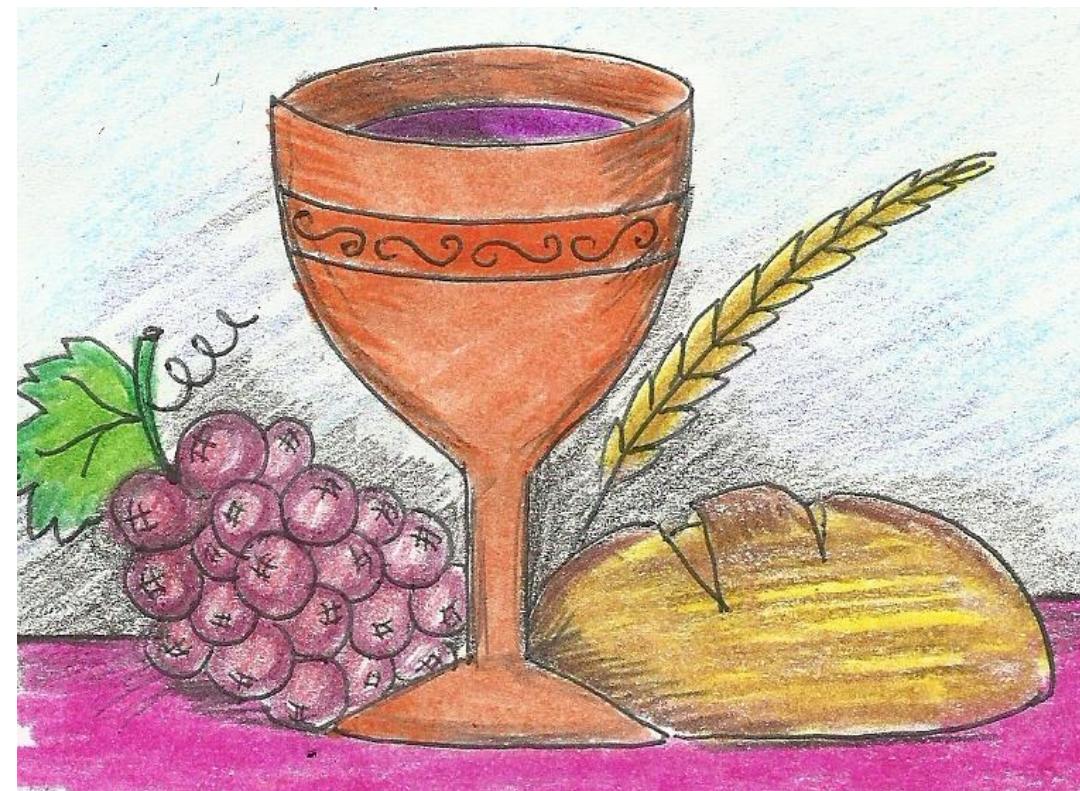
Birthdays: September 1-Mark Williams

Sunday, September 1: 10:30am – Worship with Sacrament of Communion  
Coffee  
Food Pantry

Tuesday, September 3: 9:30am- Pastor at Feed Mill  
4:30pm- Trunk or Treat Meeting at Methodist Church

Sunday, September 8: 10:30am – Worship  
Sunday School  
Coffee  
Potluck

Meals on Wheels: September 3-16, we have two routes. Thank you to all who are able to help with this ministry.



*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
166 Years*

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