

First Congregational United Church of Christ
“Where No One Is A Stranger”
Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 22, 2025

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JESUS ENCOUNTERS+

***Call to Worship** (read responsively)

One: Come into the light of God’s love.

Many: Fear cannot separate us from its blessing.

One: Come into the house of healing and hope.

Many: God’s love makes us whole!

One: Let’s worship God!

***Opening Song:** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” #501

***OPENING PRAYER** (prayed together)

God in whom we take refuge, we seek you as the calm in the storm, the path in the wilderness, and the order in the chaos. Renew our strength with a vision of your kingdom made real and expanding before us. Encourage us with a word of possibility and an encounter with your presence. Enliven us as we pray, sing, laugh, cry, witness, listen, ponder, and imagine in your midst and in our own way. We come to you with our full selves knowing you offer us the fullness of your being. May we find hope and challenge, joy and rest, peace and power as we immerse ourselves in you and glorify your name. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, as we experience difficult moments, we so often fail to recognize your abiding presence. We question if you exist or if you are with us when things do not go our way or when it seems that you have not kept promises we’ve manufactured from our wishes and dreams—and that you’ve never pledged to keep. Forgive us and help us to turn to you in trust even when the present troubles us and the future seems bleak. Guide

us into a prophetic imagination that realizes that your covenant is everlasting. Sustain us by faith for transformation and new life. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Beloved, the grace of God meets us even when we question, “Where is our God?” God is near, with us, behind us, and before us.

Many: Sometimes, the answers we seek come slowly in silence. Sometimes, God charges us to become the solution we need for one another. Whatever and however God replies to our cries, we may be assured that God’s peace, justice, and righteousness are central to the response. We receive the gift of new and renewing life in Jesus. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 8:26-39

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** (read together)

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** GLORIA PATRI:** “Glory Be to the Father” #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: 1 Kings 19:1-15a read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Now, Get Back in There!” Pastor Chris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER (with debts/debtors)

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

*** DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #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**
Healer of life’s ills, bless the gifts we bring before you now. May they bring hope, faith, and love, that your church may be an instrument of healing and a vessel of hope for a hurting world. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: “Dear God, Embracing Humankind” insert (tune to #470 in hymnal)

***Going Forth with the Peace of Christ**

POSTLUDE

***Indicates all who are able please stand**
The Call to Worship (adapted) and the Offering Prayer of dedication (adapted) are by Mary Scifres from *The Abingdon Worship Annual-2025* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Call to Confession is from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *The Tombs: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Pentecost* written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. The Affirmation of Faith is from The United Church of Canada website. <http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed>.

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Organist:	Liz Fehr
Worship Leader:	David Burrow
Pastor:	Rev. Chris Burtnett
June Radio Sponsor:	Sky Meraz

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Birthdays: June 26 Corbin Habeger; 27 Lance Zook

Sunday, June 22: 10:30am: Worship
Coffee

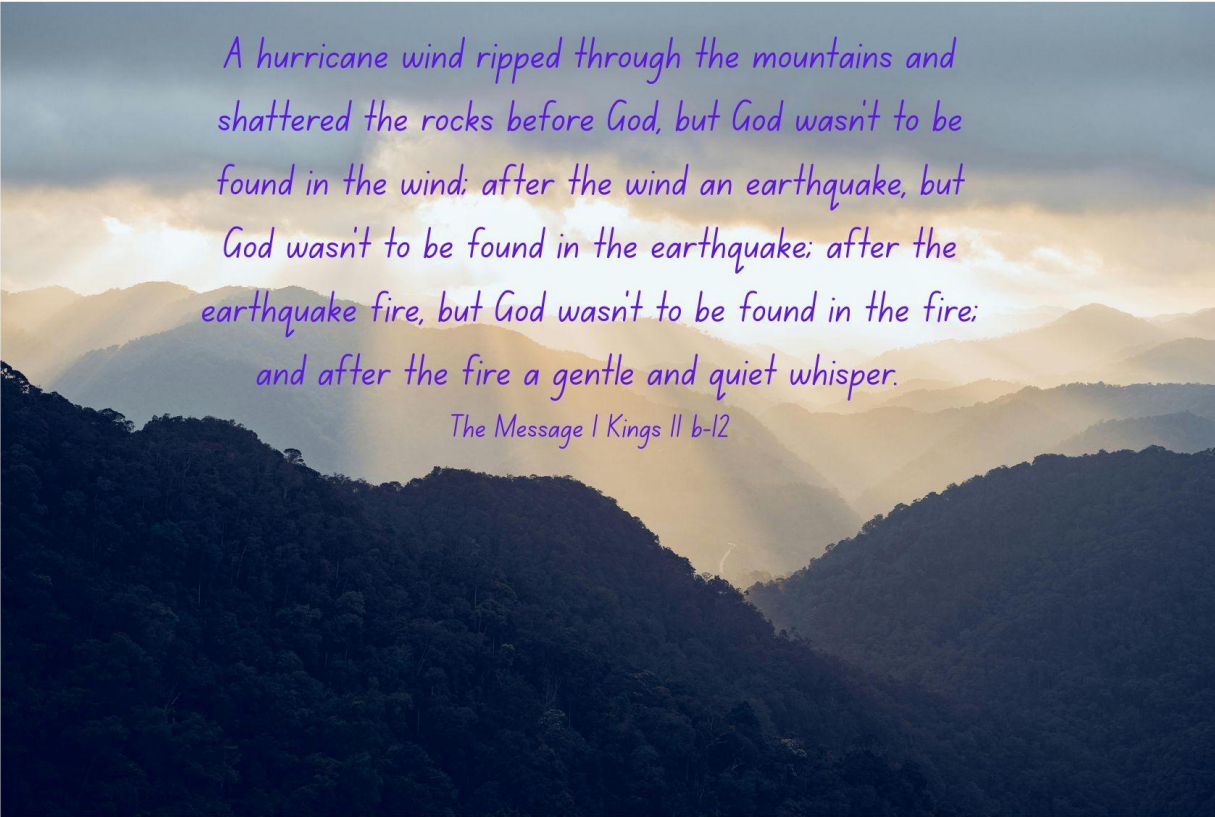
Tuesday, June 24: 9:30am-Pastor Chris at Feed Mill

Friday, June 27: Wedding Rehearsal with dinner following in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, June 28: 4:00pm.- Wedding at Shore’s at 5 Island

Sunday, June 29: 10:30am: Worship
Coffee

Our Daily Bread June/July/August devotion book may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall entry.



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