

June 28 Worship

Celebrating an Open & Affirming Church

Words of Welcome

PB

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Cindy & Dennis

Schultz

Join us as we call into our awareness, again, God's presence...

God calls to worship the beloved community--in all of its diversity.

We welcome the beloved community.

God calls to worship all who are vulnerable--needing to be heard, seen, and lifted up.

We welcome the vulnerable.

God calls to worship all who need a word of challenge.

We welcome the comfortable.

Let us worship God who calls us to be "prophets of welcome."

We welcome all who welcome others.

So we pray together:

Holy One, who calls us into community,

let us experience your welcome to us

gathered in various places but joined in this moment.

Show us how to serve.

Show us how to extend extravagant welcome.

Show us how to love.

Show us how to be the people you call us to be. Amen.

Impact of an Open & Affirming Church

Beth Kitzman

Music "Gather Us In"

Amanda Kaczmarek

Open & Affirming Covenant

Courtney Nenn: We are proud to be a faith community where we not only say all are welcome but our actions show it. As you hear the covenant, be open to renewing it in your heart.

Mike Krogman: We are an Open and Affirming community that follows the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Rochelle Connor: Our faith leads us to welcome all persons, including those of all races, ethnicities, ages...

Andy Simmons: Our faith leads us to welcome all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions...

Our faith leads us to welcome all family structures, faith backgrounds...

Our faith leads us to welcome all abilities and economic circumstances...

Our faith leads us to welcome all into the full life and ministry of this church.

We further commit ourselves to continued dialogue, so that both those who disagree and agree with this statement can support each person's faith journey as we live, grow lean and change, according to our understanding of God's call to us.

A Time for the Child in Us All
Psalm 13

PB
Allison Simmons

How long, O Lord?

Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because [God] has dealt bountifully with me.

Sermon "How Long?"

PB
BK/KF

Choir

Blessing for Our Graduates

PB

A Time of Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Danny Bartelak

Ever-Loving, Ever-Moving God, you love the world and all that is in it. You created each one of us and call us "good," "beloved," "made in your image."

Through each of us, your love is known and shared in the world. Our family structures vary. Our relationships don't all look alike. Yet we know you celebrate the love shared in each. To you, love is love.

We give thanks to you for calling us as the church to be Open and Affirming. The doors of our building and the doors of our hearts are wide open--ready

and willing--to not only welcome but affirm our LGBTQIA+ community. Give thanks for the ways each enriches our lives and our world.

So when one member of the LGBTQ community is oppressed, excluded, or shamed, we all suffer. When justice is *denied* to any, justice is denied to all of us. When justice is *affirmed* to any, justice is affirmed to all of us.

Challenge us that we may ever learn, listen, and engage one another as Jesus did. Stir us, again and again, to build a world where all are welcome, all are heard, all are seen in the way you see us: with joy and delight.

And we pray the way our tradition has taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

PB

Music

Laurie Nicholson & Christine Janusiak

FCUCC Wilderness Covenant

Abbott Family

- As a member of First Congregational UCC, I promise to continue to 'Be the Church' by participating in worship & serving our neighbors.
- *I promise to be as diligent as I can about my giving to support our ministries. I will Give (even temporarily), use Paypal, mail my offering, or use the parking lot, secure mail slot.*
- I promise to practice social but not spiritual distance, remaining connected with my church family & letting Pastor Beth & others know about my health, my spiritual & mental well-being, and my prayer requests.
- *I promise to keep an open mind & willing spirit in engaging church & its ministries in new ways so that, together, we continue to be a vessel of our Stillspeaking God.*
- I promise to lean on my faith in God & cling to hope to shepherd me through all the uncertainty & unknowns of this wilderness time.

Benediction & Blessing

PB