



First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 5, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

***Please join in where words are shown in bold type.
Please stand if you are able for items with an asterisk*.***

Our Mission:

to be a visible and prophetic presence in the church and in the world,
to steadfastly proclaim the radically inclusive love of God,
to be open to, and celebrate differences; to honor thinking for oneself,
to faithfully work for the inclusion of, and justice for all people, regardless of age, gender,
disability, sexual orientation, marital status, race or national origin, or any particular
element of a person's total humanity, and for all of God's creation.

Centering ourselves with the sound of the chime and the Land Acknowledgement

Prelude

Adagio for Strings
Samuel Barber

Dr. Marc Dickey

Invocation

The Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg

Psalm 46:1-7, from the Common English Bible, adapted

God is our refuge and strength,
a help always near in times of
great trouble.
That's why we won't be afraid
when the world falls apart,
when the mountains crumble
into the center of the sea,
when its waters roar and
rage,
when the mountains shake
because of its surging waves.
There is a river whose streams
gladden God's city,

the holiest dwelling of the
Most High.
God is in that city. It will never
crumble.
God will help it when morning
dawns.
Nations roar; kingdoms crumble.
God utters God's voice; the
earth melts.
The Lord of heavenly forces is
with us!
The God of Jacob is our
place of safety.

***Call to Celebration**

Rev. Malleis-Sternberg and The Rev. Wally Hoeger

One: Calling all citizens of heaven: exiled dreamers and disciples of love,

Many: God is close to the outcast and faithful to all.

One: Calling all pilgrims of the Spirit, carried by the winds of hope,

Many: God is everywhere at all times, compassionate to all.

One: Calling all travelers between worlds, who translate compassion into peace,

Many: God makes neighbors of strangers and kin of the forgotten.

One: Come to worship and be renewed for this long journey.

Many: Strangers and neighbors, together in this beautiful part of creation, we give thanks.

One: Come, let us celebrate!

***Processional Hymn, No. 591**

This is My Song

See Page 8

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Hoeger

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Hoeger

Welcome Song

The children are invited to come forward during this song.

O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, Fling the church doors o - pen
 5 wide. May there be room e-nough for ev-'ry-one in - side. For in God there is a
 11 wel-come, In God we all be-long. May that wel - come be our song.

music and lyrics by David Lohman ©2007 Lohman Music Permission granted for congregational use

Time With Children

Rev. Hoeger

Anthem

Sanctuary Choir

The children are invited to Funday Sunday in the Courtyard

Scripture

Matthew 11:28-30
From the Common English Bible

Charlotte Waldo

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light."

Readings

Charlotte Waldo
Selections from *A People's History of the United States*, Howard Zinn

from Chapter 1:

In the villages of the Iroquois, land was owned in common and worked in common. Hunting was done together, and the catch was divided among the members of the village. Houses were considered common property and were shared by several families. ... A French Jesuit priest who encountered them in the 1650s wrote: "No poorhouses are needed among them, because they are neither mendicants nor paupers.... Their kindness, humanity and courtesy not only makes them liberal with what they have, but causes them to possess hardly anything except in common." ...

Not only the Iroquois but other [tribes] behaved the same way. In 1635, Maryland Indians responded to the governor's demand that if any of them killed an Englishman, the guilty one should be delivered up for punishment according to English law. [They replied]:

It is the manner amongst us Indians, that if any such accident happen, wee doe redeeme the life of a man that is so slaine, with a 100 armes length of Beades and since that you are heere strangers, and come into our Countrey, you should rather conform yourselves to the Customes of our Countrey, than impose yours upon us....

So, Columbus and his successors were not coming into an empty wilderness, but into a world which in some places was as densely populated as Europe itself, where the culture was complex, where human relations were more egalitarian than in Europe...

from Chapter 5:

A black man, Benjamin Banneker, who taught himself mathematics and astronomy, predicted accurately a solar eclipse, and was appointed to plan the new city of Washington, wrote to Thomas Jefferson:

I suppose it is a truth too well attested to you, to need a proof here, that we are a race of beings, who have long labored under the abuse and censure

of the world; that we have long been looked upon with an eye of contempt; and that we have long been considered rather as brutish than human, and scarcely capable of mental endowments.... I apprehend you will embrace every opportunity to eradicate that train of absurd and false ideas and opinions, which so generally prevails with respect to us; and that your sentiments are concurrent with mine, which are, that one universal Father hath given being to us all; and that he hath not only made us all of one flesh, but that he hath also, without partiality, afforded us all the same sensations and endowed us all with the same facilities....

Banneker asked Jefferson "to wean yourselves from those narrow prejudices which you have imbibed."

from Chapter 6:

When feminist impulses are recorded, they are, almost always, the writings of privileged women who had some status from which to speak freely, more opportunity to write and have their writings recorded.

Abigail Adams, even before the Declaration of Independence, in March of 1776, wrote to her husband:

... in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies, and be more generous to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power in the hands of husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention are not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound to obey the laws in which we have no voice of representation.

Nevertheless, Jefferson underscored his phrase "all men are created equal" by his statement that American women would be "too wise to wrinkle their foreheads with politics." And after the Revolution, none of the new state constitutions granted women the right to vote, except for New Jersey, and that state rescinded the right in 1807. New York's constitution specifically disfranchised women by using the word "male."

Sermon "Burdens of Injustice; Justice for All" Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Hymn, No. 360 O God, We Thank You for This Land

MELITA 8.8.8.8.8.8, Tune: John Bacchus Dykes, Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

O God, we thank you for this land and for the good on which we stand:
for people down through history who sought to make us kind and free,
for immigrants from every place who built this land with strength and grace.

We thank you, God, for people here who work to counter hate and fear;
who work for justice for the poor; who seek to bring an end to war;
who love the water, land and air and work for your creation's care.

We thank you, too, for those who pause to see and challenge unjust laws;
for those whose vision leads the way to bring a gentler, nobler day;
for those who answer your great call to value, love and welcome all.

As we give thanks for this our land, may we, with others, take a stand:
May we a justice-vigil keep, and never let our conscience sleep;
For silence is complicity, and all are bound till all are free.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Hoeger

Our Common Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the people of the earth!

With the bread we need today, feed us.

For the hurts we inflict on one another, forgive us.

In the time of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For your reign is in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Offering

Invitation to Give

Charlotte Waldo

Offertory

Prelude II. *Andante con moto e poco rubato*

Dr. Dickey

*Scan for our secure online donation site
or go to firstchurchlb.org/donate*



*Doxology: Old Hundredth (Hymn No. 7)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God with all the hosts above;

Praise God in wonder, joy and love.

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Hoeger

Celebration of Communion

***Communion Hymn, No. 335** Come, Gather in this Special Place
See Page 9

Invitation

Words of Institution and Communion Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

All are welcome to share in communion by coming forward, or let an usher know and we will come to you. The bread is gluten free and the cup contains grape juice.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all your children so that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ, Love Incarnate. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn, No. 593** Lift Every Voice and Sing
See Page 10

***Benediction** Rev. Malleis-Sternberg

Postlude Preamble (for A Solemn Occasion Dr. Dickey
Aaron Copland

One License: 706147-A (*in support of our livestream*)

First Church has both assistive listening devices and noise-blocking headphones available to borrow for services. Please see one of the Diaconate, ushering in the entry to the church, to borrow one of these assists or to ask any other questions about available accommodations. Thank you!

The sanctuary flowers this morning are provided by Martha Duncan in memory of her mother, Frances McKinney Duncan, and in honor of all the hard-working moms at First Church.

Parish Concerns

Please remember in your prayers: Tatyana Legina, her daughter Edel, and mother Vera as they return to Ukraine; Michel Guy; Adreana Langston; Laura McCrary; Scott Thompson (brother of Amy Peer); David McMillin; Dale Whitney; Marion Hinze; Wayne Hester; Joanne Paine; and Aida Porteneuve.

To submit joys and concerns for inclusion in the bulletin and the newsletter and to subscribe to the newsletter, contact the office: office@firstchurchlb.org.

Birthdays This Week – Happy Birthday!

06 - Clayton Heard, Jenny Penner

07 - Joanne Cox

08 - Jeremy Dodgen, Gary Shelton,
Stevie Thackeray

09 - Amy Peer, Anne Simoneau,
Robert Cannon

10 - Perry Ellwood

11 - Dave McMillin

This Week at First Church

Sunday, July 5

8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room

9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10:00 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & YouTube.com/1stchurch
Funday Sunday – Courtyard

11:30 AM Board of Cultural Arts Meeting – Pownall Room & Zoom
Board of Social Justice and Outreach Meeting – Klar 3 & Zoom
Board of Stewardship and Finance Meeting – Klar 2

Monday, July 6 (DAYS Summer Day Camp every weekday)

10:00 AM Archives Group

Tuesday, July 7

10:00 AM Handmakers Small Group – Koinonia

6:00 PM Personnel Committee Meeting – Zoom

7:00 PM Building and Safety Committee Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, July 9

5:00 PM DAYS Leaders LB – Klar 2 & 3

Friday, July 10

1:30 PM DAYS Grocery Program – Patterson Hall and Potholder Lot

Saturday, July 11

9:30 AM Golf Group – off-site at a local golf course

Sunday, July 12

8:45 AM Adult Education – Pownall Room

9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10:00 AM Service of Celebration – Sanctuary & YouTube.com/1stchurch
Funday Sunday – Courtyard

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
 2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
 beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
 sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
 where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

Come, Gather in This Special Place

335

Phil Porter, 1991

Unison Em D Em

1 & 4 Come, gath - er in this spe - cial place; the ta - ble here is
2 The grapes have yield - ed es - sence pure, a drink to quench the
3 The bread is fresh - ly baked to - day, a fra - grant feast of

long and wide; For all who heed com - mu - nion's call, there's
grav - est thirst; The cup is passed from hand to hand, and
grain sup - plied; And e - ven crumbs that dust our palms will

room for thou - sands side by side.
each will sense de - spair re - versed.
leave souls ful - ly sat - is - fied.

CM7 D G Bm D Am Em

C D Em

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.



First Congregational Church of Long Beach
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH OFFICERS

Doug Emslie, Moderator
Charlotte Waldo, Vice Moderator
Julie Gholson, Treasurer
Kirsten Pickus, Secretary

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Pam Chapin, Dorothy King

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Elena Legeros

Cultural Arts:

Julie Ford & Tim Mountain

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Alison Mitchell & Don Donan

Social Justice and Outreach:

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Stewardship & Finance:

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Curtis Heard

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Tina Datsko de Sánchez

HISTORIAN

Bob Kalayjian

BOOKKEEPERS

Melody O'Keefe & Heather Chambers at
Privity CPA Partners, LP

CLERGY

Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg, Senior
Minister

pmsternberg@firstchurchlb.org

Rev. Wally Hoeger, Associate Minister

whoeger@firstchurchlb.org

MUSIC STAFF

Curtis Heard, Director of Music

Tracy Halter-Balin, Associate Director of
Music

Dr. Marc Dickey, Organist

Megan O'Toole, Soprano Soloist

Lisa Bode Heard, Alto Soloist

Charlie Carlos, Tenor Soloist

George Carson, Bass Soloist

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Tracy Halter-Balin, Director of Christian
Ed.

Eric Peterson, Business Manager

Rhyan Humphrey, Office Manager

Preston Andres, Lead Custodian

Richie Muhammad, **Yesi Urrea Castro**,

Sebastian Lytwynec, **Mercy Torres**,
Sunday School

Oscar Ramirez, **Elijah Brown**, **Joel**

Gantt, **Cassie Jordan**, Custodians

Julianne Fung, Audio Technician

Abby Zidonis, Video Technician

CLERGY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rev. Jerry Stinson, Senior Minister
Emeritus

Rev. Katy Hyman, Director of Pediatric
and Adult Palliative Care, MemorialCare