

**F****Season of Pentecost June 21, 2026****Looking Ahead: This Week @ First Congo****Sunday—June 21**

Childcare: 9am–end of Worship Service: Infants and pre-schoolers
9:15–10:15am: Before Church Bible Study (*Library + Zoom*)
10:30–end of Worship Service: Children's Church
for K–6th graders (*Larkin Room*)

Monday—June 22

11am–1pm: Community Lunch
6–7:30pm: Yoga & Meditation with Eric Swartz (*Sanctuary*)

Tuesday—June 23

11am–1pm: Community Lunch

Wednesday—June 24

11am–1pm: Community Lunch + Pantry

Thursday—June 25

11am–1pm: Community Lunch
1–3pm: Open Sanctuary Hours

Friday—June 26

6–7:30pm: Congo Connect (*Sanctuary*)
6–8pm: Opening Reception George Edward Walker
"A Snippet of God's Unsung Children's Journey"
(*Crosstown Arts, East Gallery, 1350 Concourse Ave, 38104*)

Saturday—June 27

8am–1pm: Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market (*South Parking Lot*)
3pm: Magnolia Sangha meditation (*call Allan Lummus 901-727-6999 for directions to room*)

Sunday—June 28

Childcare: 9am–end of Worship Service: Infants and pre-schoolers
9:15am: Before Church Bible Study (*Library + Zoom*)
10:30–end of Worship Service: Children's Church
for K–6th graders (*Larkin Room*)

B

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

We Believe...

That God created the world—and that every single one of us has good work to do in life. Our “good work” has to do with living in ways that reflect God’s agenda of love, joy, compassion and hope for the world and all its creatures, even in the midst of struggle.

Jesus showed us how to do this. He had radical trust in the Good-ness of God and our ability to share God’s agenda of life for the world. We can have this trust and share this agenda too, by following in his way.

We feel more alive when we’re living from our sense of connection —with God, with each other, and with life itself.

An open and affirming, just peace, and actively anti-racist community of faith.

STAFF

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Order of Worship

June 21, 2026

Kids' Church Starts at 10:30 in the Larkin Room.

Gathering Music **Nathan McHenry, Pianist**

(In keeping with the tradition of our Pilgrim and Congregational ancestors, please gather for worship in the seated worship space as the drumming begins)

Ringing the Bell

Fall into Worship..... **“Let Your Spirit Rise”**
Choir with Rosalyn Lake, Guest Conductor

words by Naomi King Walker & music By Stan Pethel

Listen, hear the breath of life;
fresh wind, and a kindled fire.
Spirit with dancing flames,
scatter gifts of grace,
scatter gifts of grace.

Come, Holy Spirit;
come and fill our lives.
Pour Your love on us,
Let Your Spirit rise.

May the power of Your presence
descend now as a dove,
that we may speak the language of love.

Spirit, speak this very hour;
touch each heart
with a heavenly power.
Spirit with dancing flames,
scatter gifts of grace,
scatter gifts of grace.

Won't you come,
Holy Spirit;
come and fill our lives.
Pour Your love on us,
let Your Spirit rise.
May the power of your presence
descend now as a dove;
That we may speak
the language of love.
Scatter gifts of grace;
come, O Spirit come.



Welcome..... **David Winter-Gutierrez**



Want to get connected?
Scan here and fill out our online form!

Joys & Concerns at First Congo

We offer prayers of loving peace for Kate Lindeman and Cheryl Cornish as they mourn Eileen Lindeman, Kate's mother and Cheryl's sister, who passed away this week.

We mourn with Fran Fields whose dear cousin Ricky Williams passed away this week, too. We send love to the Williams/Fields family.

We offer prayers of strength and healing for Cynthia and Paul Klein's daughter, Lauren, who is experiencing some significant health challenges right now. We also offer prayers for traveling mercies as Cynthia and Paul prepare to drive to Florida to be with her in this time.

We pray for Kevin Williams as he continues to heal from his recent heart procedure.

We send peace and comfort to Ingeri Camara whose dear friend, Basmin Reddeer, passed away this week in St. Louis with Ingeri and Ingeri's niece Makeesha Coleman at her side.



Auction Block—Exodus 13:14

George Edward Walker

A Snippet of God's
Unsung Children's Journey

art exhibit on view through
Sunday, September 7

Opening Reception:
Friday, June 26 6–8 pm

Crosstown Arts - East Gallery

Opening Song "My Life Flows On in
 Endless Song"
 Choir & Congregation

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?
 Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

One License A-702282



Stay up to date on our community life & upcoming events! **Scan here** to sign up for our weekly email newsletter!

by Robert Lowry

Announcements Isabelle Dillard
Anthem..... "Live Like That"
Nathan McHenry, Soloist

by David Frey, Ben Glover & Ben McDonald.

Sometimes I think
What will people say of me
When I'm only just a memory
When I'm home where my soul belongs
Was I love
When no one else would show up
Was I Jesus to the least of us
Was my worship more than just a song

Chorus: I wanna live like that
And give it all I have
So that everything I say and do
Points to You
If love is who I am
Then this is where I'll stand
Recklessly abandoned
Never holding back
I wanna live like that
I wanna live like that

Am I proof
That You are who You say You are
That grace can really change a heart
Do I live like Your love is true
People pass
And even if they don't know my name
Is there evidence that I've been changed
When they see me do they see You

Chorus

I wanna show the world the love You gave for me
I'm longing for the world to know
The glory of the King

Chorus

I wanna live like that



Scripture Reading.....Acts 9:34-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Message Tony Coleman 9

Offertory.....“I Hope You Dance”

**Kesha Norman, Soloist
with Nathan McHenry, Brooke Papritz,
& Patti Joy Macleod**

by Mark Sanders and Tia Sellers

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger
May you never take one single breath for granted
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed

Chorus: I hope you still feel small standing by the ocean
Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens
Promise me you'll give faith a fighting chance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance
I hope you dance
I hope you dance

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance
And never settle for the path of least resistance
Livin' might mean takin' chances but they're worth takin'
Lovin' might be a mistake but it's worth the makin'
Don't let some hell-bent heart leave you bitter
When you come close to sellin' out, reconsider
Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance
I hope you dance, oh, oh (time is a wheel in constant motion)
I hope you dance (always rolling us along)
Moving us along
(Tell me, who wants to look back on their youth and wonder)
Dance, oh yes
(Where those years have gone?)

Chorus

I hope you dance, oh (dance)
I hope you dance, oh (dance)
I hope you dance (dance)
I wanna tell you (time is a wheel in constant motion)
Oh, rolling us along (always rolling us along)
Moving us along
(Tell me, who, who wants to look back on their youth and wonder)
(Where those years have gone?)
Where the years have gone?
Come on, time, time, don't let it, oh
(time is a wheel in constant motion)
(Always rolling us along)
Where the years gone?
(Tell me, who, who wants to look back on their youth and wonder)
(Where those years have gone?)
Where the years have, where the years have gone?
I hope you dance
Dance—Oh, oh
Don't let it slip away, just dance
Reach out, touch—if you want it so much
To dance
Just dance



*Prefer to make your offering digitally? You can **Venmo** us by using “@ **firstcongo-church**” on your app. (If you’re prompted to give the last four digits of a phone number, you can enter 1955.) You can also text “**give**” to (629)206-5929. **Thank you for your generosity!***

Affirmation of Community

(please stand as you are able)

We will be together.
We will stand as brothers and sisters
given life by one God.
We will be together.
We will watch out for one another.
We will listen to what needs to be said
in a spirit of compassion.
We will respect the power of silence.
We will wait for the slowest.
We will sooner or later catch up with the fastest.
We will dry the tears of those
who are weeping
and know that they will dry ours
when the time comes.
We will let ourselves begin to feel
at least a little of the pain of those
we have considered our enemies.
We will entrust our stories to each other.
We will not be skeptical
that peace can come.
We will not forget the joy of life.
We will not forget to be grateful.
We will do our best to stir in each other
Hope, courage and faith.

Pastoral Prayer + SilenceTony Coleman

The Lord's Prayer

(please join in singing)

Refrain: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name
Our Mother, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.

Verse 1: Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in Heaven.

Verse 2: Give us this day
our daily bread
and forgive us
our trespasses,
as we forgive, as we forgive
those who trespass
against us.

Verse 3: And lead us not
into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory,
are Yours forever.

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Call to Action

One: We are the authors of only one story.

Many: We may influence others, and they might influence us,

One: but ours is the only life we live.

Many: Ours is the only story we can actually tell.

One: God of Love, who continually unfolds and creates all things,

Many: give us the courage to create—in You and through You.

One: In the week ahead, whenever we feel tempted to give over our story,

Many: help us to remember that in Your grace and love, we can dance; we can live; we can build beautiful things.

AMEN!



CONGO CONNECT - THIS FRIDAY, June 26, 6-7:30pm

- * get to know people
- * feel nurtured
- * make deeper connections to ourselves & each other
- * HAVE SOME FUN! ***

in the first congo sanctuary

Closing Song "We Humans Build to Frame a Life"

Choir & Congregation

words by Ruth Duck tune by Robert Lowry



1. We hu - mans build to frame a life with mean - ing, love, and feel - ing,
2. For ev - 'ry - thing our hands con - struct will one day fall and crum - ble.
3. We ded - i - cate our - selves to - day a - mid life's change and dan - ger

but time or hate can bring col - lapse and loss can leave us reel - ing.
The God who is a car - pen - ter cre - ates from scrap and jum - ble.
to build with God a house of peace for friend and foe and stran - ger.

Let faith - ful souls from rub - ble rise to find new ways from sor - row
And we can join the work of God to raise a new cre - a - tion
Here may the peo - ples come and go, de - light in shared en - deav - or,

and slow - ly, slow - ly form a shape to wel - come God's to - mor - row.
that what we do will long en - dure up - on a firm foun - da - tion.
set free from ter - ror, hate, and war, a - live in God for - ev - er.