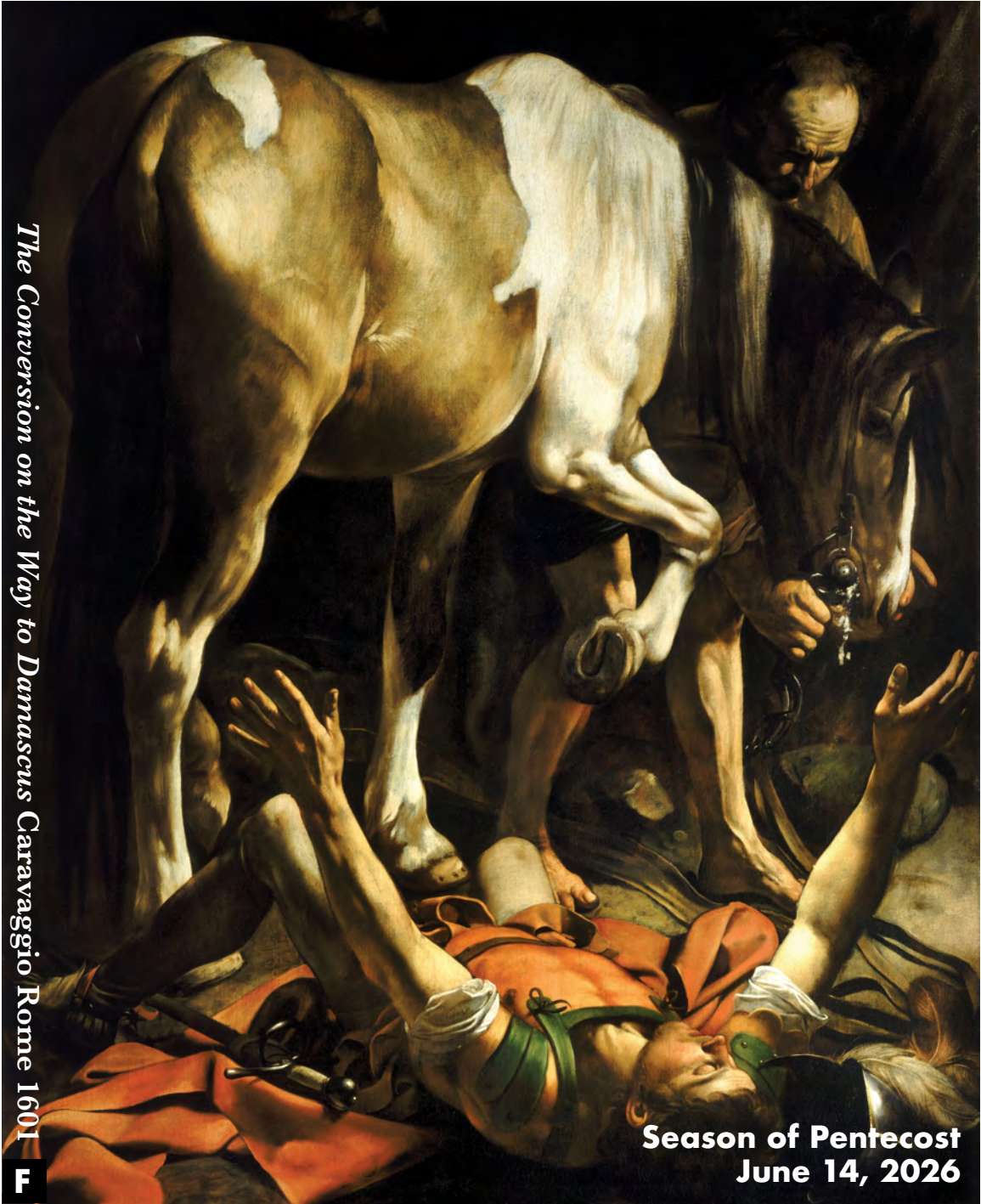


The Conversion on the Way to Damascus Caravaggio Rome 1601



Season of Pentecost
June 14, 2026



Sunday—June 14

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*)
After worship till 1:30pm: Youth Group Pride Month Discussion + Craft

Monday—June 15

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

Tuesday—June 16

11am–1pm: Community Lunch

Wednesday—June 17

11am–1pm: Community Lunch + Pantry

Thursday—June 18

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

Friday—June 19

Saturday—June 20

8am–1pm: Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market (*South Parking Lot*)
10am–noon: Writing Group with Bradley Sharp (*Sanctuary*)

Sunday—June 21

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*)

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 14, 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 **"Life is a Red Wagon"**

Brooke Papritz, Soloist & Choir

by Jane Siberry

you watch the slow train moving
through the city late at night
adjusting back and forth
against the darkness and street lights
I know that you're feeling bad
but I'm glad you didn't lie
easy to get caught up... but you know
you can always you can always
you can always walk away

Chorus: the life is the red wagon rolling along
the life is the red wagon simple and strong
the life is the red... is the red...
oh, it's no big deal
but when the feet are draggin'

Please turn the page

you pull me
and I pull for you
you pull me
and I pull for you past the teeming marketplace
and the blur of faces there
past the silent dockyards
and the darkness looming there
maybe it won't work this time
but that's the risk you take
(and you want to take it)
and just as long as it feels right
doesn't matter just as long as...
doesn't matter... gotta feel good
even though you don't know why

Chorus

you pull me
and i pull for you
you pull me
and i pull for you
the life is the red wagon
simple and strong.



Welcome.....Jackie Nerren



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

Opening Song "The Systems Meant to Keep Us Safe" Choir & Congregation

words Eli Cooper-Nelson tune African American Traditional

1. The sys - tems meant to keep us safe fail
 2. When hor - rors scroll be - fore our eyes— a -
 3. And if we still be - lieve the lie "one
 4. Trans - form our wait - ing in - to work. Let

time and time a - gain: we pray, and we must
 buse of pow'r the norm— God, star - tle us from
 voice is far too small," com - bine our whis - pers
 "some - day" come to - day! Shape plow-shares of our

al - so rise to act with each "a - men."
 ap - a - thy, em - pow - ered to re - form.
 to a roar that makes these sys - tems fall.
 pol - i - cies. Make peace our end and way.

One License A-702282



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

Anthem..... "You've Got the Love"

Hope Mohon & Emily Rooker, Duet

By Anthony Stephens, Arnecia Harris, and John Truelove

Sometimes I feel like throwing my hands up in the air
I know I can count on you
Sometimes I feel like saying, "Lord I just don't care"
But you've got the love I need
To see me through

Sometimes it seems the going is just too rough
And things go wrong no matter what I do
Now and then it seems that life is just too much
But you've got the love I need to see me through

When food is gone you are my daily meal, oh
When friends are gone I know my savior's love is real
You know it's real

Chorus: 'Cause you've got the love
You've got the love
You've got the love
You've got the love
You've got the love
You've got the love

Time after time I think, "Oh Lord what's the use?"
Time after time I think it's just no good
'Cause sooner or later in life, the things you love you lose
But you've got the love I need to see me through

Chorus

Sometimes I feel like throwing my hands up in the air
'Cause I know I can count on you, oh
Sometimes I feel like saying, "Lord I just don't care"
But you've got the love I need to see me through

Scripture Reading..... Acts 9:1-9

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Message..... Tony Coleman



*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!***

Offertory “Heavy”

Bradley Sharp & Elicia Curry, Duet

*by Zack Green, Dani Green, Jesse N. Baker, Andrew Hubright
& Brian Seligman*

If you're lost and you're lonely
Go and figure out why
Take a trip to your darkside
Go on and have a good cry
'Cause we're all lonely
Yeah, we're all lonely together

I want to see your sadness
I want to share your sin
I want to be your blood
And I want to be let in
Don't you just
Don't we all just
Want to be together

Chorus: Leave what's heavy
What's heavy behind
Leave what's heavy
What's heavy behind

If your face is down
Take a look around
Do your fingers move?
Do your lungs inflate?
Are you tired, are you weary
Of the hidden hate you've been holding?
And did you lose that love?
Or have you never had it?
Are you feeling sad 'cause you did a bad thing?

Chorus

Are you feeling fearful brother?
Are you feeling fearful sister?
The only way to lose that fearful feeling
Replace it with love that's healing
Are you feeling fearful brother?
Are you feeling fearful sister?

Chorus



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: God of Grace and Unrelenting Love

Many: help us to know that You are here.

One: When we tumble into failure,

Many: remind us that we can never fall short of Your love.

One: When we stumble into doubt,

Many: remind us that faith is a choice, an effort, and a practice.

One: In the week ahead, whenever we find ourselves wondering if we are worthy,

Many: remind us that we are, just as we are—bruises, blindness, broken places, and all.

AMEN!

Joys & Concerns
at First Congo

We pray for Deb Myers who is continuing to heal after a recent back surgery.

We pray for Leland Baugh as he prepares to transfer to a rehab facility.

We lift up prayers for safety and healing as Emerson Kirkpatrick prepares to undergo surgery this Monday.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for Patty Crawford and the beautiful flower arrangements she has been bringing to our sanctuary!

Closing Song**"Lean on Me"**

Choir & Congregation

by Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives we all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow

Chorus: Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

Chorus

You just call on me sister, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on

Chorus

YOUTH GROUP!
June 14 - AFTER WORSHIP
Pride Month Discussion + Craft

ARTS **FRIDAY JUNE 26** **6-8PM** **GALLERIES**



OPENING RECEPTION

BIG LIFE, LONG LIFE
by **BARBARA PENN**

A SNIPPET OF GOD'S UNSUNG CHILDREN'S JOURNEY!
by **GEORGE EDWARD WALKER**

CHROMESTHESIA
by **ROMAIN COLLIN and MATTHEW PALMER**

ON VIEW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

VECINDARIOS 901 VOLUNTEER TRAINING

NEXT DISPATCHER TRAINING

NEW DATE: JUNE 27 / 1PM - 4PM

Location will be shared ahead of event



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