

**Congregational Church of Birmingham  
United Church of Christ**

**A Just World for All**



**God Is Holding Your Life**

**Sunday  
July 25, 2021  
10:00 AM**

**Welcome Visitors!** We heartily welcome you and hope you enjoy this church home.

**You May Contact** Rev. Ott for any pastoral request or emergency at 989-245-0092 or [REVLRO@aol.com](mailto:REVLRO@aol.com)

**Prayers?** Write them in the book on the Welcome Podium at outdoor worship, or email them to Rev. Ott ([REVLRO@aol.com](mailto:REVLRO@aol.com)) or the church office ([ccbinfo@ccbucc.org](mailto:ccbinfo@ccbucc.org)) to be included in the Sunday prayer time and the Weekly Prayers email.

**Are You in the Loop?** Stay current on CCB news. Contact the church office to receive our email communications.

**View Sunday Worship Broadcasts** and all previously recorded services on the "Congregational Church of Birmingham, United Church of Christ" YouTube channel at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwfTgUDxKOY9u4KkZbExhpw>

## **WORSHIP GUIDE**

(**Bold** indicates in unison.)

### OUR GIFTS & SERVICE

Your offering is welcomed in support of our ministry and may be made online at [www.ccbucc.org](http://www.ccbucc.org) or deposited in the cloth bags at the welcome table.

PRELUDE "Great Is the Lord" Smith & Smith, arr. Ray

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Louise

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## **OUR MINISTRY UPDATES**

**CHILDREN'S SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING WORSHIP ENDS TODAY.** Children's Sunday School will resume during Worship in-person after Labor Day. Questions? Contact Carmel Tinnes at [carmelf711@yahoo.com](mailto:carmelf711@yahoo.com)

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS & WEEKLY E-UPDATE:** During July & August, the church office is CLOSED on Friday and OPEN Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 3:30 PM. The Weekly E-Update will continue to appear in your email Inbox on Friday, but the submission deadline is Thursday by 9:00 AM.

**SUNDAY MORNING OUTDOOR WORSHIP INFO, ZOOM & YOU TUBE LINKS!** Check your email each Friday for the Weekly E-Update message AND each Saturday at 6 PM for the outdoor worship weather update. If in-person worship is called due to weather, the Friday message contains all the up-to-date Zoom and YouTube links for online Worship, Social Hour, and any additional meetings and events.

**EMERGENCY WATER SITUATION IN BENTON HARBOR:** The city of Benton Harbor is experiencing severe water shortages. Rev. Pinckney of God's Household of Faith, says the water crisis there has taken a turn for the worse. The water supply is contaminated with lead and bacteria. Peace Nick ships them full pallets of water. Please donate to this effort at the Peace Nick website ([www.peacenick.org](http://www.peacenick.org)) and click on "Water Crisis" or directly link to the water donate page: [www.peacenick.org/cgi-bin/index.pl?fs=2&init=1](http://www.peacenick.org/cgi-bin/index.pl?fs=2&init=1). Questions? Call Greg Panzica at (313) 215-5767 or Paul von Oeyen at (248) 891-7509.

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WELCOME TO A SUMMER OF PSALMS

Pastor Louise

We continue our summer of Psalms here at the Congregational Church of Birmingham, United Church of Christ, reveling in the understanding that "God Is Holding Our Lives." Today's Psalm is one of lament. We might call these the original blues. Like the musicians of the bayous, the plaintive voices of the psalms sing out. W.E.B. Dubois describes these songs as "the music of disappointment." There is comfort in the empathy of shared personal anguish and calling for deliverance. Let us pray:

O God, in times ancient and contemporary, you have heard our cries in a dangerous world. Thank for the remembrance of the Hebrew people who had faith in you during trying circumstances.

**PEOPLE: We praise you for your steadfast presence,  
holding our lives together in love. Amen.**

**OPENING SONG****"How Firm a Foundation"****Sing Along**

(stanzas 1-3)

[CH #618]

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you God has said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

OUR PSALM READING

Psalm 31:9-16

Pastor, Choir &amp; People

**Choral Response: Let your face shine upon your servant.**

Be gracious to me, O God, for I am in distress;  
my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.  
For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.  
I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbors,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.  
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;  
I have become like a broken vessel. **[Choral Response]**

For I hear the whispering of many — terror all around! —  
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.  
But I trust in you, O God; I say, "You are my God."  
My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.  
Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love. **[Choral Response]**

For the word of God in Scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us, **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

PSALMS WITH CHILDREN  
(Online YouTube worship only.)

Dr. Carmel Tinnes,  
Director of Christian Education

OUR PSALM SONG                      "Into Your Hands"                      Colligan

OUR CONVERSATION                      "Wasted, Broken, Loved"                      Rev. Louise R. Ott

MUSIC OF THE DAY                      "All Things Bright and Beautiful"                      Rutter  
(In-person worship.)                      CCB-UCC Choir

(Online YouTube worship.)                      "Thy Word"                      Smith/Grant,  
CCB-UCC Virtual Choir                      arr. Schrader

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE                      Pastor & People

**THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER OF JESUS**                      **All People**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

We continue to pray for:

- All at risk in contracting COVID-19
- Annabelle, Cindy Kyle's mother, frail and living alone at a distance
- Ben Sharpe, with depression challenges
- Carmel Tinnes, recovering from total knee replacement surgery
- David, brother of Paul von Oeyen, diagnosed with aggressive leukemia
- Educators in pandemic challenges

- Jackie Wagoner, recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Jake Zinke, grieving the death of his grandfather
- Joyce, Pastor Louise and Elaine's friend, with terminal ALS; and cousin Suzy, in hospice care
- Judy, Greg Peterson's aunt, in palliative care with terminal cancer
- Karyn Walack-Otani, grieving the death of her father, Norman
- Kevin Wilson, grieving the death of his father, Neal
- Melissa and Calliope Crook, to be reunited permanently
- Nate Ballard, extended family of Greg & Mary Peterson, in Beaumont Hospital after a heart attack, as well as Nate's daughters Debra, Susan, Dawn & Lisa
- Pastor Louise, with kidney stone after affects
- Ruth Biersdorf, in treatment for cancer
- Sue Potter, recovering from hip surgery; grieving the death of her Dad; and praying for her brother, Rob, with metastasized cancer in his bones
- Victims of war, violence, and natural disasters everywhere
- We hold CCB families in supportive prayer, especially working adults with children educating at home
- Youth and adults with mental health challenges

## GOD'S TRUST

Pastor Louise

Life is good. God is good. And when fiery trials, water wars, and pain crosses our path, we lean into the wind with God's love at our backs. We put our faith in God, who hears our cries of lament and continues to hold our lives with hope and strength. As God has never forsaken us, we too, take comfort in never forsaking God's way, God's foundation for living.

## CLOSING SONG

### "How Firm a Foundation"

(stanzas 4-5)

## Sing Along

[CH #618]

**"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**"The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"**

OUR BLESSING FROM GOD

Pastor Louise

Our times are in the hands of God.  
So we trust in God to receive our laments.  
Go in the knowledge that  
the face of God is shining upon your life.  
God is holding your life  
even as we hold each other.  
You are not alone.  
You are loved.  
You are blessed to be a blessing!  
Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Shout to the Lord"

Zschech, arr. Ray

CREDITS: [www.worshipdesignstudio.com./life](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com./life), CCLI #741179.

**WE THANK** our greeters, ushers, set-up helpers, choir, Tech Team: Chris Hiner & Gabriel White-Vega, Worship Design Team: Leslie O'Day-Benyo & Elaine Winter, and Music Team: Joe Bentley & Yalan Piao, for all their help with today's service.

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**THE COMPLETE CHURCH CALENDAR** can be seen on our website at:  
[www.ccbucc.org](http://www.ccbucc.org)



# A Just World for All

**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost.....July 25, 2021**

## **Welcome to CCB-UCC an "Open and Affirming" Church**

We warmly welcome everyone to worship and into the full life and leadership of the church. Whatever your background - your race, your nationality, your physical or mental condition, your gender, your sexual orientation - whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you in love as Jesus Christ welcomes all. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, may the comfort and challenge of God's presence renew and inspire us all throughout the coming week. Again, welcome!



### **A Stephen Ministry Congregation**

Contact a Stephen Minister Leader:

Dr. Paul von Oeyen 248-646-0837

Rev. Louise R. Ott 989-245-0092

### **THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM**

1000 CRANBROOK ROAD (@ WOODWARD AVE)  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48304-2725



a just  
world  
for all  
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**CCB WEBSITE:** [www.ccbucc.org](http://www.ccbucc.org)

**MICHIGAN CONFERENCE WEBSITE:** [www.michucc.org](http://www.michucc.org)

**DENOMINATIONAL WEBSITE:** [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF**

#### **Ministers - The Congregation**

Dr. Carmel Tinnes, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Yalan Piao, Accompanist

Rev. Louise R. Ott, Pastor

Dr. Joe Bentley, Choral Director

Beth Prevost, Church Administrator

**Summer Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00AM-3:30PM, Closed Friday (thru August)