



"Every generation inherits both the debts and
the dreams of the one before it."
-- Lawrence Nault

July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Keith Ciccone, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace with one another...

*Introit

Thy Word is a Lamp

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid,

Think I've lost my way

Still you're there right beside me

And nothing will I fear

As long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end.

*Call to Worship c. David Sparks, Uniting Church of Canada

You care for us, Loving God; you care for those closest to us.

When there is joy within the family circle, you celebrate with us.

You care for us, Loving God; you care for those closest to us.

Where there is sorrow within the family, you grieve with us.

You encourage us, Loving God; you are our support in times of trouble.

When the hard times arrive, you listen to our anguish.

You care for us, Loving God; you care for those closest to us.

In the midst of conflict, you are the voice that counsels peace.

You care for us, Loving God; you care for those closest to us.

In all times, in all places, your love will see us through. Amen.

* *Indicates all who are able may stand.*

Please silence your cell phones.

Unison Prayer

Merciful God, the stories of our ancestors show your willingness to enter into the messiness of our human struggles: into fractured relationships, family differences, unreconciled situations with people we care about. Yet we confess that too often we hold on because we do not want to loosen our grip on our resentment, fear or selfish desires.

Help us to face the conflicting values, desires and pressures that confront us daily so that we can unclench our hearts and open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Only then can we fully embrace others in their pain—and be embraced—in the name of Christ. Amen.

Children's Time

Scripture

Genesis 25-28 selections
Jeremiah 31

*Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

Sermon:

"And the Next Generation"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Musical Reflection

Prayer of Release

God of Love,

We accept that we inherit patterns of trauma from our families and from our society. We accept that we are participants in those patterns, too.....(silence)

How can we fix what has been broken for ages?

How can we stop these cycles? ...(silence)

Yet we remember: with You all things are possible. What started can stop.

What seemed to be destiny can become history. We don't have to act out the same tragedy, year after year, generation after generation...(silence)

We cancel the lie that says we're unwanted, unlovable, forgotten, or destined to repeat the same pain...(silence)

Let healing flow through us so it reaches future generations. Heal trauma that shaped our fears, our anger, and our broken communication. Grant us grace toward one another.....(silence)

In the name of our compassionate Christ, Amen.

Words of Assurance

Prayer of the People/Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father (Creator), 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 for ever. Amen.

Dedication of the Offering

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures, here, below.
Praise God, above, ye heav'nly hosts. Creator,
Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication c.Carol Penner, Uniting Church of Australia

**Lord, it's a small gesture--
Pulling bills out of our pockets, writing a cheque.
It almost makes no sound as it drops into the offering plate.
But it is the sound of our hearts opening, giving you the fruit of our labour.
It is our collective offering of love, a weekly deposit in the account of your
faithfulness. With thanks we pray, Amen.**

*Hymn 443

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*Benediction

Postlude





Air-Conditioned Parlor

Summer Worship Plan

July 19 - Parlor

July 26 - Parlor

Sundays in August - Parlor

September 6 - Parlor

September 13 - West Lawn
(Rally Sunday)



West Lawn

The office is closed on Mondays.

Deb will not be in the office on Mondays and Pastor Karen will be available by appointment. Call her at (517) 899-4851.

The First Congregational Church of Braintree is an Open & Affirming Congregation working in partnership with all churches of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all God's children into Christian faith regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, political stance or theological perspective, national origin, mental health status, physical and cognitive abilities, and the many diverse forms of family configurations. We proclaim and affirm that full and equal participation in the life and leadership of our church is open to all. We seek to continue learning and growing together as the inclusive Body of Christ. We are committed to spreading the light and love of Christ into the world through worship and service.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



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