

Use the following worship guide as we gather on Sunday morning via Zoom. Simply click here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2398495210>

The Service of Worship  
**First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ**  
Baltimore, Maryland  
PRIDE Sunday - Year C

June 22, 2025

10:30 a.m.



Prelude

*The Quiet Church*  
By Mark Fax

Nancy Flandermeyer Chronister,  
Director of Music

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Sisson, Pastor

Our Congregation's Open and Affirming Statement

~ in unison ~

**We declare that First and St. Stephen's United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation. We believe that all people are sacred in the eyes of God, welcome at God's table, and entitled to full and equal participation in the life of the church. We recognize that congregations have historically condemned and excluded some persons and groups of persons from the institutional church whether through an active effort or through complicit silence. In response to our understanding of Christ's invitation to the table, we declare that we will continue in our struggle to be open and affirming to all persons regardless of sexual orientation, age, race, national origin, gender identity or gender expression, physical or mental abilities, and we will work to show our understanding of the Realm of God as a place of diversity and justice by our actions and our witness in the world.**

Hymn for Worship

*Sing A New World Into Being*  
~ as you are able, please stand ~

NETTLETON

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

*Remember these known joys and concerns:*

- Renard Noble – preparing for surgery on 06/25
- Rachel Ezell and Len Dufauchard as they prepare to move to Michigan
- Laura Weaver-Haas after the death of her mother
- McKenzie Shaw – living with chronic pain
- Jen's friend, Andrew and his family
- Peace in our world, our country, our community

*If you share a concern and wish for it to be printed on this list, please consult with the person/s whose names are involved, then let the pastor know in writing via email they give their consent.*

Hymn for Spirit MV #121

*We Are All One*

(see insert)

By Tom Rasely

~ please remain seated ~

Silence is Observed

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sisson

Wisdom Reading

*Human Family*

By Maya Angelou

Rachel Ezell, Liturgist

The Anthem

*For Everyone Born*

Choir

By Shirley Erena Murray, Brian Mann

The Message

*The Sacred Thread:*

Dr. Vincent Stringer

*Art as a Bridge Between Spirit and Society*

Making an Offering

Please consider making an offering through on-line giving or mail your check to the church address. You can find information on our church web page: [first-ststephens.org](http://first-ststephens.org) You may also place your offering in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. Or, you may use the QR Code in this bulletin. Thank you.

Prayer of Dedication

*~congregation reads **bold print**~*

It is a gift to be able to give something away.

**We are called to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.**

Spirit of Love, look upon us now.

**Bless these gifts; those we can see and those we cannot.**

May our hopes come true for the better world we dream of

**As we work together in love. Amen.**

A Litany of Farewell

(see insert)

Hymn for Sending NCH #573

*Lead On, Eternal Sovereign*

LANCASHIRE

*~ as you are able, please stand ~*

Benediction

Postlude

+ + + + +

Worship Resources for today are adapted from:  
United Church of Christ Book of Worship

**Welcome!** We are glad you are here. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a visitor's card from the back of one of the chairs and place it in the offering plate or hand it to the pastor after the service.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome Dr. Vincent Stringer!** Vincent is the exhibiting artist for this gallery theme, and we welcome him to our worship today. He will be speaking in the service, and then plan to stay for a "Meet the Artist" Reception from noon until 2p.m.

**ACTC** is asking for any non-perishable food items. For June, please bring **mac and cheese boxes, pastas, and bottled water.** Place items in the red wagon in the foyer so they may be delivered weekly.

**Save your Bubble Wrap** – If you receive packages at home that are wrapped in bubble wrap, please bring the bubble wrap to the box in the foyer and it will be repurposed by Zach Langdon-Kennedy, our artist-in-residence.

**Coffee Hour** - Today – will be in the sanctuary after worship  
June 29th - Stephanie and Becca Dimick

Church Office (410) 377-5224

WiFi Password: ONAcomma

## Church Staff

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## Consistory for 2025

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