



**First Church of Christ in Mansfield
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250

860.423.9008 + www.myfcc.info

Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Rev. Charles Ericson, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**October 19, 2025
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Welcome to Our Guests!

*We're delighted you have joined us for worship; the members are the ministers of this church...
if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us!*

Playing the Chimes

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Centering in the Spirit (*inspired by Psalm 121*)

Gary Cote

One: In times of confusion and worry, we often wonder, "Where will my help come from?"

All: Our ancient scriptures invite us to lift our eyes to the hills to see that our help comes from God.

One: For the Great Creator, who brought the universe to life, can carry us through any challenge.

All: Our Loving God watches over us and keeps us at all times.

One: Our God is like a cool shade bringing us relief when things become heated.

All: Our God can keep us from stumbling or following the wrong path.

One: Our God can deliver the help we need at any time, in any situation.

All: For our God does not slumber. Our God does not sleep. Our God is always here for us.

One: May we all feel the support and warmth of God's presence as we worship together this day!

All: May we all be fully present, as well, to receive all that God offers us in this holy hour.

***Opening Hymn**

God is Here!

CH280

Prayer for Transformation

God of Wonder, we rejoice knowing that you are always present with each of us...and yet at the same time we realize that we are not always present with you. Our thoughts get distracted, our attention drifts, at times we can tend to focus on our own self-interests instead of you and our neighbors whom we are called to serve. In these next few moments of holy silence, mercy-full God, please show us the way that leads us back closer to you...closer to one another...closer to those who need us. For the way that you show us will surely lift our spirits...feed our hungry souls...and fill us with new life. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Family of faith, our Ever-present God has been listening to our prayers...leaning in to sense our need for grace...reaching out to assure us that redemption and new life are ours for the taking. New life awaits us now. May we receive it with joy!

*Song of Praise

Glory to God

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has
end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out
4 par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it was in the be-ginning, is
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.
8 1. now and ev - er shall be, A - men. 2. World with-out men!

Psalms

Psalms 119:97-104

- 119: ⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.
⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.
⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.
¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.
¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.
¹⁰² I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.
¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Epistle

II Timothy 3:14-4:5

3: ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Reflection

"Ticklish Ears"

Rev. Chuck Ericson

Hymn

Open My Eyes, That I May See

CH586

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is comfortable for you.

The following are offered as examples...

**Our Father/Mother/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/sins/trespasses,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity

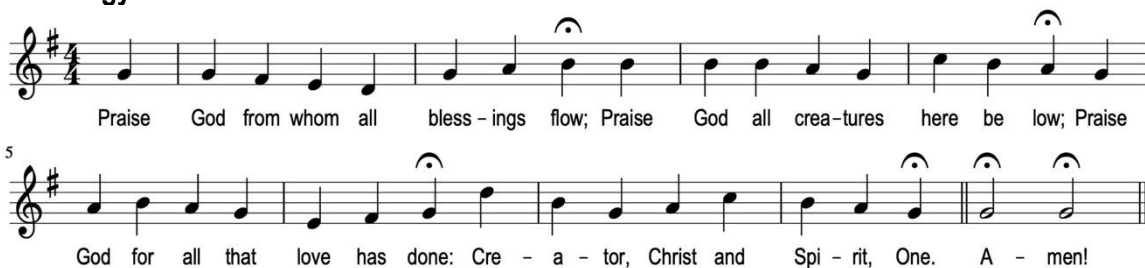
Just as we seek God's presence in our lives, so do others yearn for us to be present with them in times of struggle, alienation, injustice, hunger and hurt. We cannot always respond in person to help those in such needs, but the gifts we give generously to support our church's ministries and missions can provide the next best thing — the assurance that they have been seen and heard, and we have responded with love and support. In this spirit, the morning offering will now be received.

*Your financial offerings may be placed in the collection plates as they come around,
or mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC, PO Box 36, Mansfield Center, CT 06250,*

Musical Offering

Children's Worship Circle

*Doxology



*Prayer of Dedication

Through these offerings, Holy One, may our neighbors, near and far, come to know that they are not alone or overlooked. May they feel your close and comforting presence though

the giving of these gifts. May their spirits be strengthened and may their hopes increase.
Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

CH612

***Benediction**

Now may God bless you and keep you;
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
May God's countenance be lifted up upon you and give you peace. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

Postlude

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH...

Sunday, October 19	10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle 5:00 p.m. PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland
Monday, October 20	6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal
Tuesday, October 21	5:30 p.m. Worth Fighting For
Wednesday, October 22	1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:00 p.m. Meditation Group 6:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee
Thursday, October 23	9:30 a.m. Quilt Group
Saturday, October 25	12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 3:00 p.m. Downtown Boo Bash

LOOKING AHEAD...

Sunday, October 26 following worship, Deb Richards will be sharing the story of her recent **Mission Trip to Ghana**.

ANNUAL LASAGNA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Friday, November 14, 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are available from Donna Clauson and Laurel Thurman
Adults \$20, Children under 8 \$10