



**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 26, 2025
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday**

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

Don Baxter

L: We come from many different places as we gather today.

A: Some of us live nearby, while others travel from a distance to get here.

L: Our moods are varied, as well, as the hour of worship commences.

A: Some of us may be joyful, others anxious, and some may be sad or troubled.

L: The faith that we bring is diverse, too.

A: For some, the faith we bring is steadfast, for others it is growing...uncertain...or brand new.

L: Some of us have been sitting in the same place for decades nearly every week.

A: Others may be scanning for a place to sit, for this is their very first time here.

L: Yet in the midst of this rich and beautiful variety, there is a strong bond that unites us all.

A: We are bound together by God's Spirit, and our love for one another. Come, let us worship!

***Opening Hymn**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

CH65

Prayer for Transformation

In our hymn, you are a mighty fortress, dear God — a source of strength... protection... resilience. You are so much more than this, though. You are a fresh, flowing wind of Spirit that gently pushes us out of our comfort zones into bold, new ventures. You are a wellspring of wisdom that provides guidance and direction when we are uncertain or confounded. You are a warm and welcoming place of retreat when we long for reassurance and safety. And, you are a bestower of infinite mercy, understanding, forgiveness and compassion when our human imperfections have gotten the better of us, and we seek your grace. In these next few moments of silent prayer and reflection, please reveal to each of us your strength, Spirit, wisdom, warmth... and grace. Amen.

Words of Grace

***Song of Praise**

Paul Vasile

Psalms

Psalm 84:1-7

- ## Gospel

Luke 18:9-14

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his

home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Reflection

“If This Meetinghouse Could Talk”

Rev. Chuck Ericson

Hymn

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

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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

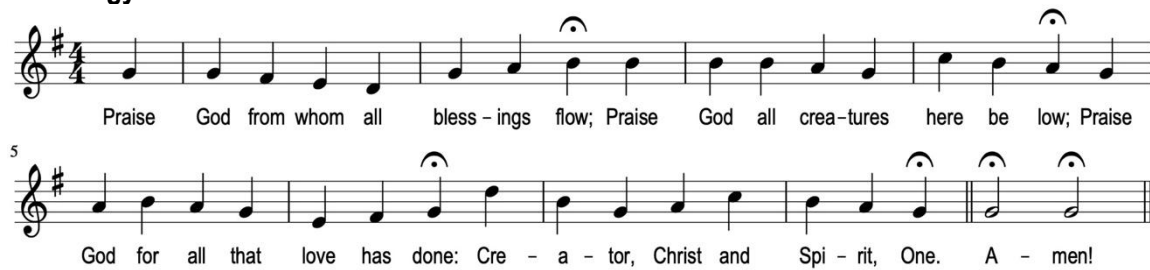
Our giving provides for the upkeep and maintenance of our cherished meetinghouse where we gather to worship, where meetings take place to shape our church's future, and where children learn about the love of Jesus. Our meetinghouse is also the place where dreams begin and visions take shape — dreams and visions that reach far beyond the walls of this place to bring hope and good news to neighbors near and far whom God calls us to serve. So may we give gladly and generously now — for the blessings that begin here, and then get sent out into the world! 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

Erik Haeger

*Doxology



*Prayer of Dedication

We ask your blessing, Gracious God, on the offerings we bring to you now. We pray that you would guide our congregation in transforming these gifts into acts of love and hope that bless our church family and all we are called to serve in the world around us. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

We Would Be Building

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*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

THE WEEK AHEAD...

TODAY Second Hour Presentation immediately following worship:
Deb Richards' mission experience with Smiles for Speech

Monday, October 27 6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal

Wednesday, October 29 1:00 p.m. Book Group
5:00 p.m. Meditation Group
5:30 p.m. Search Committee

Sunday, November 2 10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle
11:15 a.m. Church World Service kit assembly

ANNUAL LASAGNA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

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

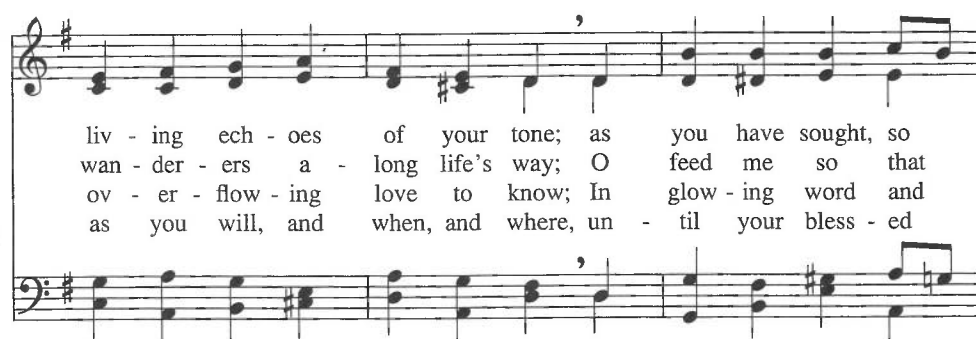
Tickets are available from Donna Clauson and Laurel Thurman

Adults \$20, Children under 8 \$10

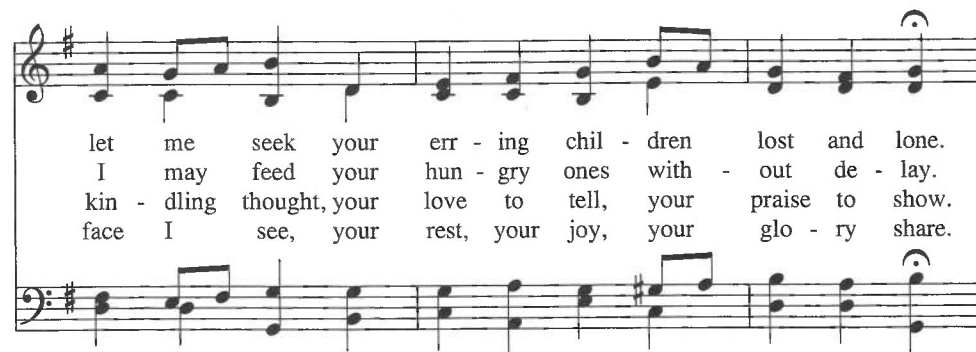
God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.


1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

*Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
 Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872*

1 We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done o'er crum - bling
 2 Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock we set the
 3 O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands ne'er fal - ter

walls their cross - es scarce - ly lift, wait - ing till love can
 dream that hard - ens in - to deed, ribbed with fine steel, both
 when the dream is in our hearts, when to our ears there

raise the bro - ken stone, and hearts cre - a - tive
 time and change to mock, the un - fail - ing pur - pose
 come di - vine com - mands and all the pride of

bridge the hu - man rift. We would be build - ing,
 of our no - blest creed. Teach us to build; O
 sin - ful will de - parts. We build with you; O

Ar - chi - tect Di - vine, re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.
 Mak - er, lend us sight to see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.
 grant en - dur - ing worth un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

Purd Deitz, pastor of Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church in Philadelphia, wrote this hymn to express the youth conference theme, "Christian Youth Building a New World." Set to one of his favorite tunes, Finlandia, it became popular around the world.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
 Jean Sibelius, 1899
 Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933