



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

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

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Rev. Charles Ericson, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**November 16, 2025
Twenty-third 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

Gary Coté

One: What a glorious time of year this is as we gather for worship this morning!

All: It is a time of change...transition...and adjustment.

One: The summer is now long past, autumn is in full swing, and Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

All: Leaves have been falling, it's chillier outside, and we're adapting to Daylight Saving Time.

One: So it is with Sunday morning when the hour of worship arrives, for changes are taking place.

All: We transition from the weekday pace of life and center ourselves on God and one another.

One: The secular yields to the sacred, the material yields to the spiritual, and anxiety yields to calm.

All: As this happens, our souls are quieted and our hearts are warmed.

One: Amidst such changes, one thing remains sure and steady: the everlasting, unconditional love of God.

All: Yes! What a glorious time this is as we gather for worship this morning!

***Opening Hymn**

Renew Your Church

CH463

Prayer for Transformation

We never stop longing for you to “teach us how to love,” dear God. When we are feeling attacked by others, we long for you to teach us again that we must learn to love our neighbors. When we are consumed with guilt over mistakes we have made, we long for you to teach us again to love ourselves. And when we wonder if you have forgotten or abandoned us, we long for you to remind us that you will always be at our sides — even if we cannot perceive you there — and your love for us will never end. In these next few moments of holy silence and reflection, we long for you to hear the unspoken yearnings of our hearts...and to feel the outpouring of your love. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Friends in faith, our Kind and Merciful God has been listening, and has heard us. God's grace has already begun to embrace us... lift us... fill us. Feel the power of God's reassuring love. Give thanks!

*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
World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out
par - doned me, and to the Spir - it whose love has set me free! As it
end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men.
was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, A - men.

Psalms

Psalms 98

- 1 O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.
- 2 The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
- 3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
- 5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.
- 7 Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.
- 8 Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy
- 9 At the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Epistle

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴ there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

¹¹ He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Reflection

"The Work of Ministry"

The Rev. Chuck Ericson

Hymn

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

CH490

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

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/trespases,
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.**

A Stewardship Moment: A Season of Thankfulness

Invitation to Generosity

The work of ministry is a two-way process. As covenanted partners in our church's ministry, we receive much, through: inspiring worship, pastoral support, opportunities to learn and grow in faith, congregational gatherings and more. In turn, as covenanted partners in our church's ministry, we are also called to give generously, through: financial support, serving on ministry teams and in the community, leading special projects and events and more. As our morning offering is now received, may we each take a few moments to reflect upon all that we receive...and all we can give.

*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

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Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be low; Praise

God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

God of Love, as always we ask you to bless the gifts we bring to you this morning. We pray, too, that you would guide them to people and places where needs are great and we can make a difference. And for all that we receive, and all that we can give, Gentle Spirit, we give thanks. Amen.

CH461

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.

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.

Today, following worship, we gather in Fellowship Hall for an intergenerational craft activity. Come create “Give Thanks” banners for your home!

TODAY	5:00 p.m. PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland
Monday, November 17	6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal
Tuesday through Friday	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Quilt Camp
Wednesday, November 19	1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:00 p.m. Meditation Group
Thursday, November 20	7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Friday, November 21	4:30 p.m. Special Olympics
Saturday, November 22	12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Holiday Outreach

The Mansfield Senior Center is sponsoring a Giving Tree. You are invited to donate gently used or new scarves, mittens and hats. Much like our Blessing Box, it will be outside and people who need can choose items. There will be a box in Fellowship Hall or you can drop off items at the Senior Center.

WAIM WALK FOR WARMTH

Winter is coming, rental and energy prices are skyrocketing. Many in our community will continue to struggle to stay housed and manage their heating costs. This year, our 33rd ANNUAL WALK FOR WARMTH, we are fundraising for WAIM's energy, rental assistance, and additional basic needs fund. Please help make a difference as we come together again this year, as members of WAIM's faith communities, to reach our fundraising goal of \$55,000. These funds will help ensure that our neighbors are not left out in the cold.

Please join us for our 2-mile Walk (or 1-mile if you choose!), at St. Joseph's Church in Willimantic on Sunday, November 23rd, or walk at your own time and place as a 'virtual' walker. While you can register as an individual, join a team that has already registered, or create your own team. You can also register in-person the day of, at 12:30 pm. The Walk will be preceded by our Interfaith Thanksgiving service at 1:30 pm also at the church, 99 Jackson Street in Willimantic. The Walk will follow at 2:15 pm.

If you would like to donate online, you can go to <http://www.pledgereg.com/517078> and search under Sharon Foster-Chalecki or First Church of Christ Mansfield.

Penny Guerin and Diane Wright are also collecting if you would prefer not to donate online.