



**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. Don Erickson, Pastor

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

Mandy Boukus, Office Assistant

March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday of Lent

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

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Call to Worship

Cheryl Chase

Tell me something good!

God loves you more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

This is good news indeed!

Let us worship our compassionate God.

Silent Confession

Words of Grace

Faith family,
even when we act with judgment,
even when we are guided by fear,
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,

God does not turn God's back on us.

So join me in this good-news declaration:

We are seen.

We are forgiven.

We are invited to try again.

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

*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.

Gospel Reading

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus^[a] to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. ³⁷ And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸ She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." ⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "I

suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt.” And Jesus⁴⁴ said to him, “You have judged rightly.” ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little.” ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹ But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰ But he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Reflection

Kenosis: A Christian Practice

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

9 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

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

“You Are Welcome Here”

Gerald DeMan

*Doxology

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

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

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Laurel Thurman

Loving God, the woman in today’s story broke open her jar of perfume, offering her best in gratitude for the forgiveness she received. As we bring our tithes and offerings, we pray that we might not hold back. Let these gifts be used to break down walls, show mercy, and spread your love, mirroring the extravagant grace shown to us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

~ The Service of Holy Communion ~

Pastoral Introduction

Communion Litany

“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body broken for you”

(distribute bread)

One: O God, just as this broken loaf was scattered over the hill as grain, and, having been gathered together, became one; in like fashion, may your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

All: *Because yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.*

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Life...

In remembrance of our Lord Jesus, Our Way, Truth, and Life *(partake)*

"In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant effected by my lifeblood poured out for you."

(distribute juice)

One: O God, just as this juice comes from a gathering of grapes grown on a vine rooted deep, in like fashion, may we be rooted in the Vine that is Christ, and bear good fruit together as we look to your kingdom.

All: *Because yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.*

The Lifeblood of the New Covenant, the Cup of Wholeness...

In remembrance of our Lord Jesus, Our Way, Truth, and Life *(partake)*

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 *help us yield not to/Lead us not into temptation,*
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

For the Bread, Which You Have Broken

CH 411

***Poetry Prayer**

Kenosis

*Elizabeth Poreba
Read by Julie Menard*

*Look at the rock cut
to carve the highway
and see the history
of its making —
molten rivers molded
appearing frozen
while working out
their next dissolution,
replenishing plenitude
apparent only*

*as it's lavished
lava-like.
What about the earth
that even solid rock
is not, but all in transit,
crazy tracks visible
in marble bands
rumpled like bed sheets —
so full it must brim,
reach, spill, get lost,
carried in capillary
action, in endless
emptying and
resurrection?*

***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

*Our Greeters today are Kathy Healey and Robert Johnson
Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman
Our Communion Servers are David Darnell, Gary Cote, Bill Briggs, and Penny Guerin
Coffee Hour is hosted by the DeAngelis family*

*Much of this morning's liturgy and poetry reading were written by the Rev. Sarah A. Speed for the Lent series
"Tell me something good... Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent." Permission for use has
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THIS WEEK'S THEME:

 **the good news is...**
great love for God & neighbor

About Communion at First Church

At the Last Supper, Jesus turned no one away and imposed no restrictions on receiving the bread and the cup. Neither do we here at the First Church of Christ in Mansfield. Christ's table is open at all, and we extend an extravagant welcome to you to join us. The communion elements will be brought to the pews by servers. Plates containing pieces of bread will be distributed first, followed by trays containing individual cups of grape juice. Each time, worshipers are asked to hold the elements until all have been served and an invitation to partake is spoken from the communion table. For those who wish to know, the cup contains non-alcoholic grape juice and the bread is gluten-free.



This Lent and Easter season we will once again use the creative ministry resources from A Sanctified Art LLC. The overarching theme for Lent 2026 is **“Tell me something good... Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent.”**

We often describe Jesus’ ministry as “radical” which comes from the Latin word “radicalis,” meaning “root” or “ground.” Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God’s unending grace. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

@sanctifiedart

First Hour Programs During Lent Sundays, 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

*A Lenten spiritual journey of reflection and renewal.
Discovering and discussing the extraordinary in the ordinary.*

Weekly Offerings

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|------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2/22 | Karen Christianson – The Spirituality of Teaching. |
| 3/1 | Steve Lane – The Spirituality of Refugee Resettlement. |
| 3/8 | Don Baxter – The Spirituality of Cycling. |
| 3/15 | Penny Guerin/Barbara Dobrocki – The Spirituality of Painting. |
| 3/22 | Paul Tanner – The Spirituality of Beekeeping & Honey Harvesting. |
| 3/29 | Rev. Don Erickson – The Spirituality of Writing Poetry |

Easter Candy Fundraiser

Our annual Easter Candy Fundraiser campaign starts today and runs through Thursday, March 5th. It's a short, two-week time frame so be sure to submit your order right away!

Please check the most recent all-church email for more information and a clickable link. (The link is on our website, too.)

NOTE: Orders are placed online but you do not submit any payment information. You will pay with cash or check at the time of delivery.

www.munsonschocolates.com/online-fundraising/first-church-of-christ-mansfield-ctct/

Easter Flower Fundraiser

The Easter Flower Order Forms are now available in the Sanctuary and on our website. Our flowers this year will be from Hart's Greenhouses. Please submit your order and payment no later than March 16.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday - March 29, 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 2, 6:30 p.m.
Contemplative Service with Communion

Good Friday - April 3, 6:30 p.m.
Were You There? - A Service of Poetry and Song

Easter Sunday - April 5, 10:15 a.m.

Pop/Rock God-Talk

a Song... a Spiritual Theme... a Short Symposium



Friday, March 27, 7-8 pm
I Want to Know What Love Is
(Foreigner)

What is Pop/Rock God-Talk? An alternative form of church gathering that is focused on theology and religious contemplation, using popular music to spark and stimulate discuss.

THE WEEK AHEAD

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, March 2 | 6:00 pm Meeting (Special Olympics) in Break Room
6:30 pm Take Note! Rehearsal |
| Tuesday, March 3 | 10:30 am MCNR Monthly Service |
| Wednesday, March 4 | 1:00 pm Book Group
5:00 pm Meditation Group |
| Thursday, March 5 | 9:30 am Sewing & Service |
| Friday, March 6 | 10:30 am Private Use of Cappella |
| Saturday, March 7 | 10:00 am Coffeetime with Rev Don (Price Chopper food court) |