The 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 Reverend Dr. Susan J. Foster, Bridge Minister
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

October 25, 2026 ~ Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Thought for the Week

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it. *~ inspired by the Talmud ~*

Playing the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Erik Haeger

Call to Worship Karen Christianson

Leader: The world belongs to God, the earth and all its people.
People: How good it is, how wonderful to live together in unity.
Leader: Love and faith come together; justice and peace join hands.
People: Open our lips, O God, and our mouths shall proclaim your praise. Let us worship you with our words, our hearts, and our lives. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *I Woke Up This Morning (NCH85)* bulletin p.7

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession and New Life
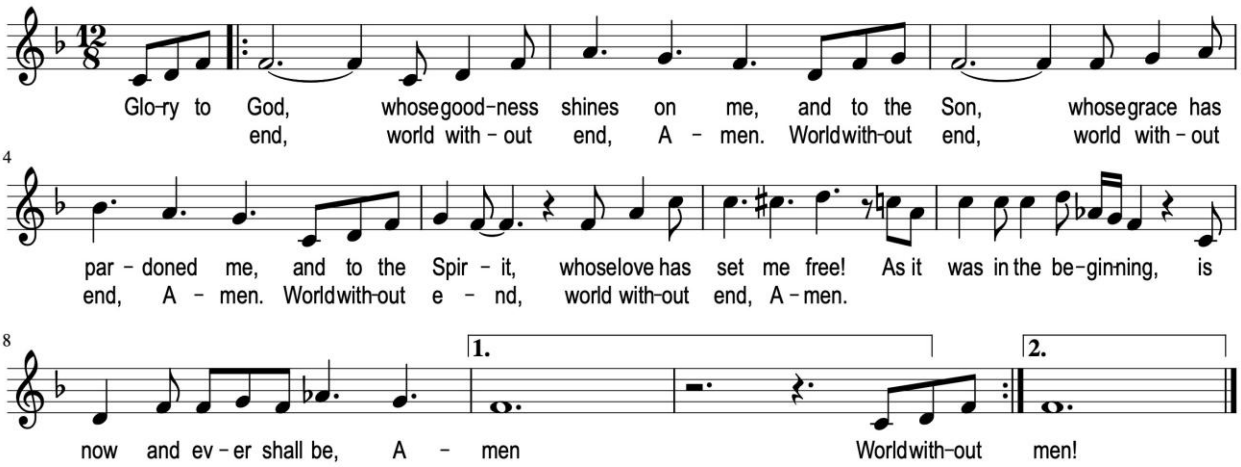
God, in whose heart is love and justice, show us this day whom we must love and what we should challenge or change in order that your will for the earth might be done. Increase our hope, dispel our apathy; inspire our imagination, and deepen

our commitment until we become the signs of your peace and hope. In Jesus' name we pray.

(followed by a brief time of silent prayer)

Words of Grace
Friends, hear the Good News - God so loved this world - and every single person in it - so much that God gave his only Son. In Jesus Christ we see God face to face and we hear of his mercy. Standing therefore in Jesus Christ, I celebrate with you the Good News - that we are loved, we are forgiven, we are cherished by God. Amen.

***Song of Praise** *Glory to God* Paul Vasile



First Reading Deuteronomy 34:1-9

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: **4** The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. **6** He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab but no one knows his burial place to this day. **7** Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. **8** The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.
9 Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Second Reading Matthew 22:34-40
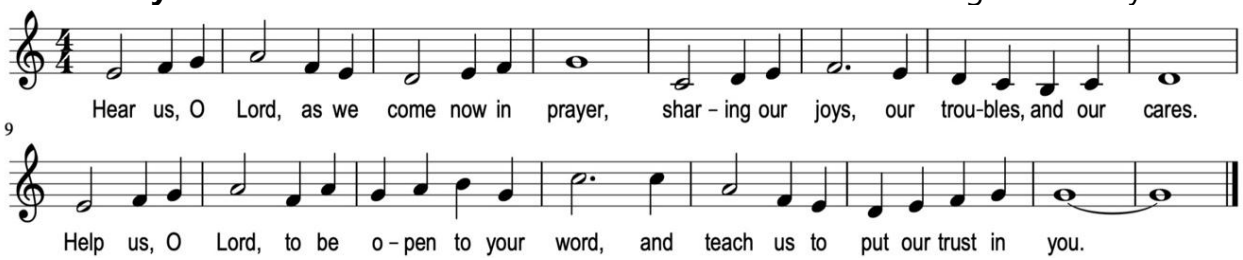
When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, **35** and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. **36**

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" **37** He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' **38** This is the greatest and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Reflection *"Living the faith"* Rev. Sue Foster

Hymn *Jesu, Jesu* CH 600

Call to Prayer *Hear Us O Lord* Don Besig and Nancy Price



Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

You are invited to pray in whatever language is most comfortable for you. The following examples are offered:

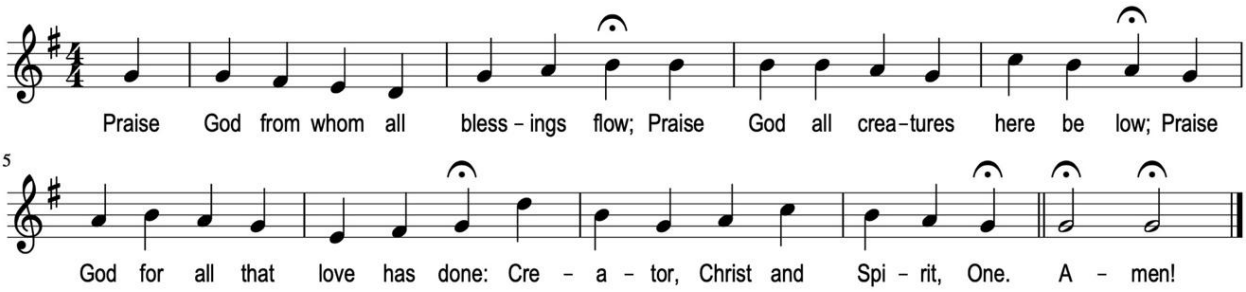
Our Father / Mother / Creator,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts / sins / trespasses,
as we forgive our debtors / those who sin / trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation / help us yield not to temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering our Gifts and Gratitude

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 and Thanksgiving**

Giving God, we are grateful for the gifts you offer us each day. We thank you for your boundless love. We offer to you our gifts and our lives. Use us to share your love with our neighbors in our community and across the globe. Let us proclaim our faith and trust in you by sharing the love you give to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *Jesus Calls Us* CH 337

***Benediction**

***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

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!

Our worship service is made available digitally for those who cannot attend in person. Footage from this service may also be used in marketing materials for our community. If you do not wish to have your likeness recorded, streamed, or photographed please inform a Greeter who can seat you appropriately.

Worship Resources: *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Our Greeters this morning are Karen Christianson and Julie Menard.
Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman.
Today's Digital Minister is Deb Hubbell.
Coffee Hour is hosted by the Clauson family.

All are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee and a cake that celebrates Clergy Appreciation Month - Thank you, Pastor Sue!

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Monday, October 26	6:30 p.m. Take Note rehearsal
Wednesday, October 28	1:00 p.m. Book Group
Saturday, October 31	12:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Search Update

Some members of the Search Committee will be available after service on Sunday, November 8th. Grab a cup of coffee and come join us for a conversation/update in Fellowship Hall - We have been busy!

An Invitation -
"Sowing Seeds of Hope in Ukraine"

A presentation on the immediate relief, lasting healing,
and support for the Ukrainian children and families impacted by war.

Sunday, November 8, 12 p.m.
Buckingham Congregational Church
16 Cricket Lane, Glastonbury

Light lunch will be provided, followed by presentation at 12:30 p.m.

Hosted by Common Man for Ukraine
(commonmanforukraine.org)

see Barbara Dobrocki for more information

****Help Needed: Invasive Plant Removal****

Mark Messier is looking for volunteers to help remove invasive plants from the church property. If you're able to lend a hand, please reach out to Mark at 860-729-1622 or mark.messier1973@gmail.com. He's happy to work around your schedule — whatever time is convenient for you! Please note - adult volunteers only.

Supporting Project HOPE this fall

Project HOPE (formerly the Windham Region No Freeze Project) is currently at capacity and will open its doors at the end of October for transient individuals to drop in and stay the night. Guests are provided with cots for sleeping and have access to essential amenities, including showers and laundry facilities.
The organization employs a dedicated outreach worker who remains in consistent contact with individuals living in tents and vehicles to monitor and address their immediate needs. Items needed include:

Household
Disinfectant wipes
Disinfectant spray
Hand soap
Tissues
Cleaning products and supplies
55 Gallon trash bags
Paper towels
Toilet Paper

Hygiene
Deodorant
Shampoo
Conditioner
Soap
Lotion
Razors
First Aid supplies
Nail clippers
Tweezers
Combs and brushes

Miscellaneous
Pillows
Twin blankets
Hand/foot warmers
Ear buds/ headphones
Ear plugs
Laundry detergent
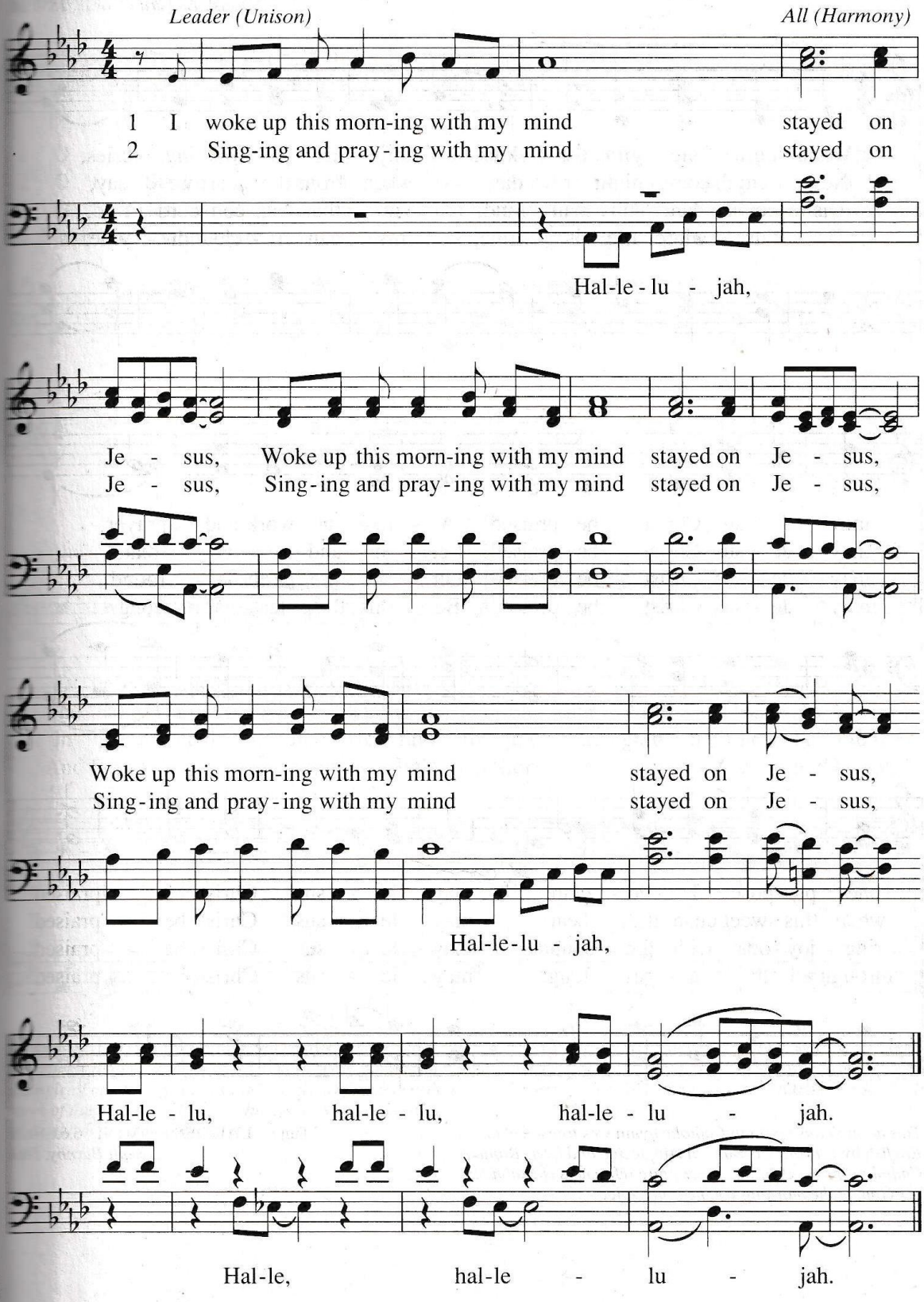
Items can be dropped off at their 459 Valley Street location.

Or use this link to make an online monetary donation.
https://thenofreezeproject.harnessgiving.org/donate

I Woke Up This Morning

African-American traditional

Leader (Unison) *All (Harmony)*



The spirituals that were passed down through the African-American oral tradition were not only enduring but also adaptable. During the civil rights movement of the 1960s this spiritual was sung as "Woke up this morning with my mind on freedom."

Tune: WOKE UP THIS MORNING Irr.
African-American spiritual
Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993