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

November 8, 2026 ~ Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Thought for the Week

"Just because you're paranoid, doesn't mean they aren't out to get you."
- Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*

Playing the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Erik Haeger

Call to Worship Julia Sherman

Leader: God of grace and God of glory, thank you for welcoming us into your presence.
People: Pour your power upon us so that we may serve you today and always.
Leader: Holy God, grant us wisdom and courage so that we may live faithfully in these troubled days.
People: We lift up our voices to sing your praises and receive your guidance. Come, let us worship our loving God! Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *God of Grace and God of Glory (NCH 436)* bulletin insert

Prayer of Confession and New Life

God of love and justice, you call us to a life of faithfulness, trust, and service. Yet we confess that we are often anxious and doubting. We often wonder where you are but don't bother to silence our noisy lives to listen for your voice. We yearn for immediate results and find it difficult to wait and watch and wonder. Forgive us, healing God, and make us whole. Speak to our restless hearts. Help us to look for you in the world around us and

notice your many blessings. Fill our hearts with your love so that we may share your much-needed hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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 Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O LORD, make haste to help me!
Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.
Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.
Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"
But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

Second Reading Matthew 25: 1-13

[Jesus said], Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. **3** When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, **4** but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. **5** As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' **7** Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. **8** The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' **9** But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. **11** Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' **12** But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' **13** Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Reflection **"**Be aware, not discouraged" Rev. Sue Foster

Hymn *Precious Lord, Take my Hand* CH 628

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.

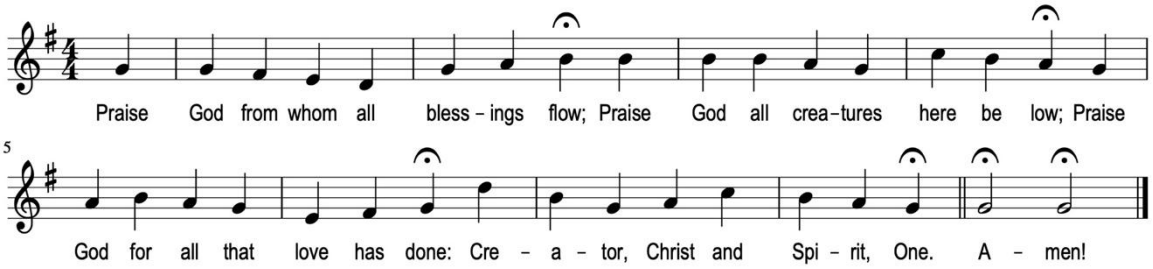
A Moment for Stewardship Steve Lane

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**

Faithful God, thank you for being with us on our journey. We offer to you our gratitude, our gifts, and our lives. Use us, loving God, so that we may encourage one another in the living of these days. May our offerings be used to proclaim your steadfast love. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *We Shall Overcome* CH 630

***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.

Our Greeters this morning is Ray LaPointe.
Our Cantor is Howard Drescher.
Our Digital Minister is Deb Hubbell.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments after worship!
All are welcome!

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY ***Following worship - Grab a cup of coffee and join members of the Search Committee in Fellowship Hall for an update and conversation.***

Monday, November 9	6:30 p.m. Take Note rehearsal
Tuesday, November 10	6:00 p.m. Strategic Planning meeting
Wednesday, November 11	1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:00 p.m. Meditation Group
Thursday, November 12	5:30 p.m. Governing Board

Other Second Hour programs coming this month!

Sunday, November 15, 11:30 a.m.
Conversation with the WAIM Director

Dwayne David Paul, the new Executive Director of Windham Area Interfaith Ministries, will talk about WAIM's mission and the range of services and resources the organization provides.

Sunday, November 22, 11:30 a.m.
Potluck, Presentation and Discussion - "Cultivating Shalom"
Jana MacDonald, a native of Mansfield, will be with us to talk about ***Cultivating Shalom.*** *She is a writer, educator, and everyday peacemaker who believes that learning to become better neighbors is holy work.*

FIVE GUYS FUNDRAISER
Sunday, November 15th - 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Enjoy a fun meal of burgers, fries, and fundraising for First Church!

For one day only - Sunday, November 15 - Five Guys will donate 20% of the sales brought in by First Church family and friends at their Mansfield location. And we'll receive an additional $1 for every milkshake purchased. Just present our flyer at the counter and pick up some food (and/or gift cards) and you'll support our cause! **Pick up a flyer from the front table in the sanctuary.**

WAIM WALK FOR WARMTH

The 34th Annual Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM) Walk for Warmth will take place on Sunday, November 22, 2026, in Willimantic. **You can support the team of walkers from First Church at http://www.PledgeReg.com/581312**

ANNUAL LASAGNA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION
Friday, December 4, 6:00 p.m.

This is one of our church community's favorite events! A delicious lasagna dinner followed by lots of laughter and friendly competition during the silent auction.

Tickets will be available soon.

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry

WALK FOR WARMTH

SUNDAY 22 NOV 2026

TEMPLE BNAI ISRAEL
383 JACKSON ST,
WILLIMANTIC, CT

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION: 12:30
INTERFAITH SERVICE: 1:30
WALK BEGINS: 2:15

waimct.org/walk | 860-456-7270x105 | officevolunteer@waimct.org

God of Grace and God of Glory 436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.



Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
John Hughes, c. 1907