**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 15, 2026 ~ Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

## Thought for the Week

"*Stop measuring your progress against someone else's journey.*
*Your path has its own season.*"
- Anonymous

**Playing the Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** Erik Haeger

**Call to Worship** Dave Litrico

Leader: This is the Lord's Day, the day of wonder and grace.
**People: This is the day to worship the One who calls us here.**
Leader: This is the Lord's Day, the day we are given joy and peace.
**People: This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.**
Leader: This is the Lord's Day, and it has come just in time!
**People: This is the day we gather with hope, with faith, with love.**
**Let us come together to worship God! Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* CH 61

**Prayer of Confession and New Life**

**God of all people, we confess our struggles to be faithful disciples. You entrust us with all your gifts. Too often we become fearful of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. You invite us to dance in the light of your love and we stand against the wall, afraid to take a risk or a step in faith. You**

**encourage us to step into the unknown and we often hesitate to try something new. Loving God, have mercy on us. Open our eyes to your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

*Silent reflection*

**Words of Grace**

Leader: This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Servant.
**People: The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness, but the fullness of grace and hope in our God. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

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




**Scripture** Matthew 25: 14-30

**14** "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; **15** to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once **16** the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. **17** In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. **18** But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. **19** After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. **20** Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' **21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' **22** And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' **23** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy

in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' **24** Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' **26** But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. **29** For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **30** As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Reflection** **"**Pushing past pause" Rev. Sue Foster

**Hymn** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* CH 453

**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.**

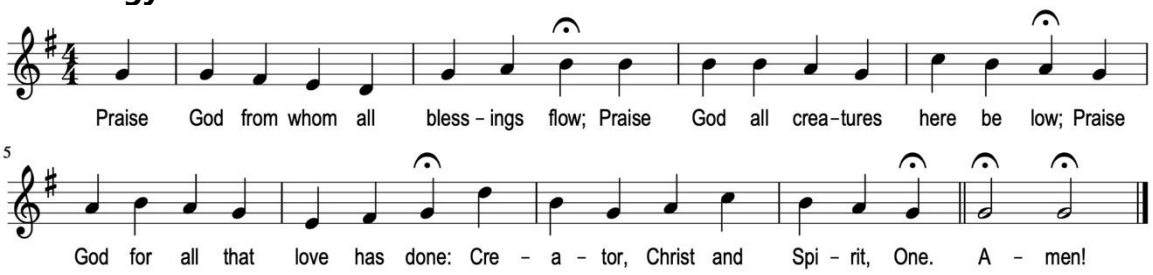
**A Moment for Stewardship** Deb Hubbell

**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, we offer humble thanks today for your generosity to us. Receive our gifts as tokens of our love and loyalty. Use them to sustain the mission of the Church in ways we cannot yet imagine, in a future that you are creating through Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *We Who Would Valiant Be (NCH494)* bulletin back page

***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**

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*Service Resources:*

*Prayers were inspired by LectionaryLitanies.com*
*Prayer of Thanksgiving - Presbyterian Church of Canada*

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**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.*

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Our Greeter this morning Deb Richards.
Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman.
Our Digital Minister is Deb Hubbell.
Coffee Hour is hosted by Eleanor Joyce and Frank Ball.

***Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments after the service!***

And join in conversation with Dwayne David Paul, the Executive Director of Windham Area Interfaith Ministries, who will talk about WAIM's mission and the range of services and resources they provide.

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**THE WEEK AHEAD**

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| Sunday, November 15 | 10 a.m.-10 p.m. FIVE GUYS FUNDRAISER<br>5 p.m. PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland |
| Monday, November 16 | 6:30 p.m. Take Note rehearsal |
| Tuesday, November 17 | 5:30 p.m. Search Committee |
| Tuesday, Nov 17 – Friday, Nov 20 | Quiet Corner Quilt Camp |
| Wednesday, November 18 | 1:00 p.m. Book Group<br>5:00 p.m. Meditation Group |
| Thursday, November 19 | 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal |
| Saturday, November 21 | Girl Scouts' Friendsgiving Celebration |

## NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

### 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.*

### 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**

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### 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 available from Donna Clauson and Laurel Thurman.*

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**Advent is just around the corner - Don't miss these activities!**

### DECK THE HALLS, NOT THE MALLS

**Friday, November 27, 10 a.m.**

Escape the Black Friday rush. Come help us transform the Sanctuary for the coming Christmas season!

### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & CAROL KARAOKE

**Sunday, November 29, 6:00 p.m.**

Join us on the front lawn to light the Christmas tree, then gather in Fellowship Hall for cocoa, cookies, and Christmas Carol Karaoke!

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

# 494 We Who Would Valiant Be

*John Bunyan, 1684; alt.*




*The English author John Bunyan became an influential Congregational and Baptist preacher, for which he was imprisoned for many years. Part One of his* Pilgrim's Progress *was written in prison. Lines from* Pilgrim's Progress, *Part Two, have been recast as this hymn.*

Tune: ST. DUNSTAN'S 6.5.6.5.6.6.5.5
*C. Winfred Douglas, 1937*