

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

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church

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

November 22, 2026 ~ Thanksgiving Sunday

Thought for the Week

"If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "**thank you,**" that would suffice."
- *Meister Eckhart* (German theologian, 1260-1328)

Playing the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Erik Haeger

Call to Worship Gary Coté

Leader: Come, you thankful people, come. Come into God's presence.
People: Come, let us give thanks for the blessings of the fields and the beauty of this earth.
Leader: Come, let us lift up our voices and praise God from whom all blessings flow.
People: Let us come together as thankful people and worship God.

***Opening Hymn** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* CH 718

Prayer of Confession and New Life

Giving and generous God, we thank you for our countless blessings.
When we don't notice the gifts all around us, forgive us.
When we walk past beauty unaware, slow us down.
When we neglect to pause and offer praise, remind us.
You call us into a daily living spirit of thanksgiving.
Help us respond with open hearts and lives filled with praise.

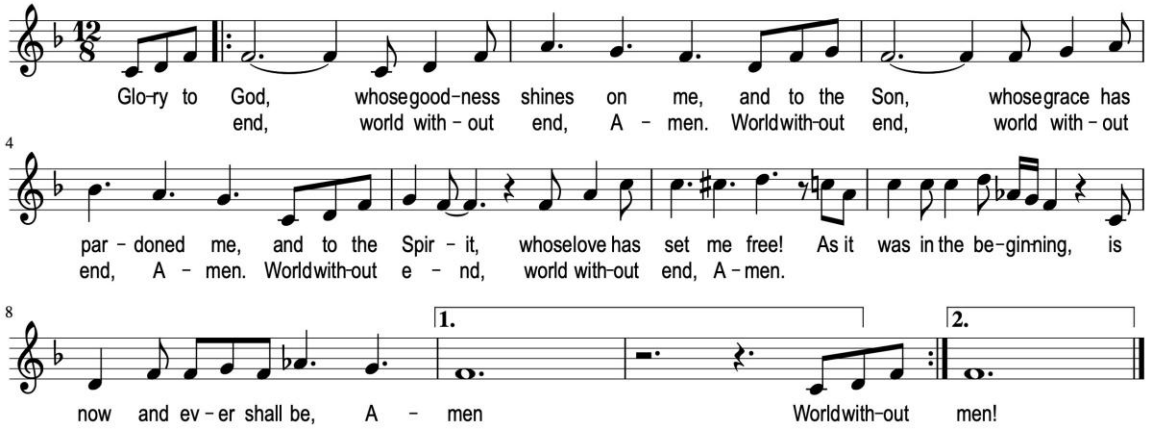
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Silent reflection

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. Let us rejoice in this today and always. Amen.

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



Unison Psalm Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Gospel Luke 17: 11-19

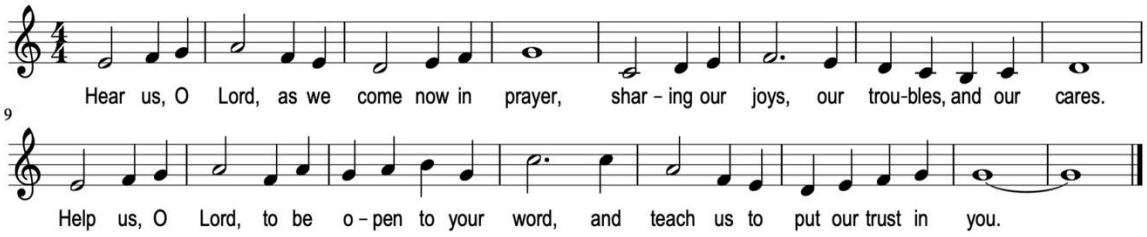
On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. **12** As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, **13** they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" **14** When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. **15** Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. **16** He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. **17** Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this

foreigner?" **19** Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Reflection **"**Wonder Keepers" Rev. Sue Foster

Hymn *Now Thank We All Our God* CH 715

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.

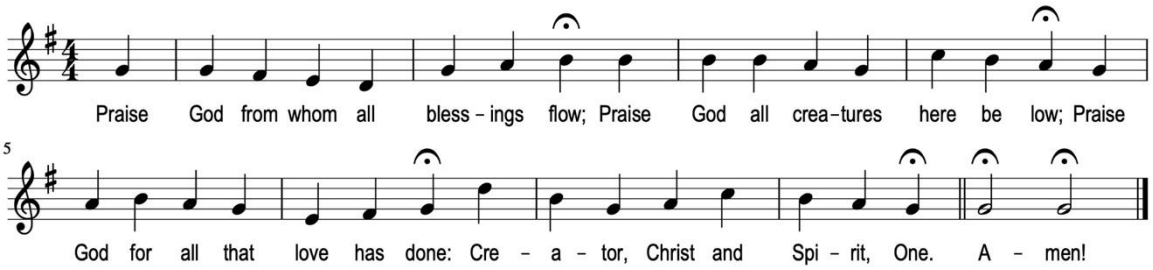
A Moment for Stewardship Mark Phelps

Offering our Gifts and Gratitude

Pledge cards and 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 Thanksgiving**

Generous and loving God, we respond with joy as we lift up our offerings and our pledges. The opportunity to share is a blessing for which we are very thankful. Your generous provision for our needs prompts us to be generous in return. We pray that you would bless both our material resources and our personal time and effort here offered and use them to extend your vision and mission in our congregation, our community and the world. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** *Great is Thy Faithfulness* CH 86

***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

Our Greeter this morning is Cheryl Chase.
Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman.
Our Digital Minister is Deb Hubbell.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall after the service for a time of fellowship, a potluck lunch, and a presentation by Jana MacDonald on "Cultivating Shalom." All are welcome!

Following today's potluck and presentation,
join our First Church Team for the
34th Annual WAIM Walk for Warmth

Where: Temple Bnai Israel, 383 Jackson St, Willimantic

When: In-person registration will begin at 12:30 p.m.
Interfaith prayer service: 1:30 p.m.
Departure for walk: 2:15 p.m.

You can support our walkers from First Church at
http://www.PledgeReg.com/581312.
Donations are accepted until December 20, 2026.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, November 23	6:30 p.m. Take Note rehearsal
Wednesday, November 25	1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:00 p.m. Meditation Group
Thursday, November 26	**Happy Thanksgiving!**
Friday, November 27	10 a.m. Sanctuary and front lawn decorating *(see next page)*
Sunday, November 29	10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle 6:00 p.m. Christmas Tree Lighting *(see next page)*

Christmas Poinsettia Order Forms

Help us decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season! Poinsettias will be on display from **Sunday, December 20 through Sunday, December 27**, and may be taken home following the service on December 27.

- **Cost:** $7 (4-inch) or $13 (6-inch) per plant
- **How to Order:** Complete an order form and return it with your payment to **Carol Drescher** or place it in the **offering plate**.
- **Payment:** Please make checks payable to **First Church of Christ in Mansfield** (please write "Poinsettias" in the memo line).
- **Order Deadline: Sunday, December 6**

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 transform the Sanctuary for the coming Christmas season! **We will also need some extra hands outdoors to assemble the Christmas tree on the front lawn.**

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!

We need volunteers to provide cookies for this event.
Drop them off in the kitchen next Sunday morning.

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.*
Auction Donation Forms *are available in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.*
Drop completed forms in the designated box in Fellowship Hall.
Or use the link in the weekly e-mail to submit electronically.

Interested in Joining First Church?

If you have been worshiping with us and are curious about taking the next step toward membership, we invite you to join us after the service on **Sunday, January 10, at 11:30 AM** for a 90-minute New Members Session.

Together, we will explore First Church's mission and ministries, learn how our local church is governed, and discover what it means to be part of the wider United Church of Christ. Whether you are ready to join or simply want to ask questions and connect with others in a relaxed setting, we would love to have you there. Light refreshments will be provided. To let us know you plan to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the sanctuary—or if you have any questions, feel free to speak with Julie Menard or Steve Lane!