

“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”



September 17, 2023

**WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY
LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

PRELUDE *Diapason Movement* - John Bennett (1735-1784)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

People: We have gathered to hear the story of God.

Leader: It is a story of mercy and steadfast love.

People: It is our story too, for we are the people of God.

Leader: Inspire us, O God, to faithfulness, to mercy, to steadfast love.

People: Let us become a people who reflect your image.

All: God’s people have gathered. Let us worship God together.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

GLORIA PATRI*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

HYMN* *All Things Bright and Beautiful* #61

INVOCATION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Merciful God, in Jesus you have made us your children. We have heard your call and have gathered here on this September morning. We have come to praise you and to listen to your word. We give into your hands our lives, our joys, and our sorrows. Open our hearts. Banish worry and hopelessness. Heal our wounds. May your greatness and goodness be real to us in this hour. Speak your word to the need in each one of us. We ask this in Jesus’ name who taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Choral Response

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 147:1-11

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory *As Long As I Live* - Pepper Choplin

Song of Presentation*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering Prayer*

We give thanks, Gracious God, for the joy of giving our gifts and ourselves. May others find renewal and life through our sharing. In Christ’s name. Amen.

HYMN* *The Lord’s Prayer* #308

Church School children will process to the Parish House during the second verse.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 11:1, Matthew 6:9-12

Choral Response

SERMON Lord, teach us to pray: “Our Father who art in heaven...”

Choral Response

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN* *O Jesus, I Have Promised* #612

BENEDICTION* spoken and sung

POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* arr. Joel Raney

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

The Lord’s Prayer (contemporary version)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Every Sunday	Sept. 20 – 4:30 p.m. – Baby Bundles
9 a.m. – Coffee House Crew	6 p.m. - Bibles & Brews - Housatonic Brewery
10 a.m. – Worship	Sept. 23 – Apple Festival – Pies and Stitchers on the Green
11 a.m. – Coffee Hours	Sept. 24 – Walk-A-Mile – Immediately after Worship
	Sept. 25 – 1 p.m. Women of the Bible Study
Sept. 17 – Chapel Stitchers following Coffee Hour	Sept. 26 – 6 p.m. – Bible Study with Rev. Buchan
Confirmation Meeting Following Worship	Oct. 1 – 1pm Blessing of the Animals (weather permitting)
CE is meeting in the Parish House after worship	5:30 – 7 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting
5:30 – 7 p.m. Youth Group Meeting	Oct. 3 - 7:00 p.m. Women’s Ministry Book Club
Sept. 18 – Women of the Bible Study	Oct. 4 – 12:30 p.m. – “Lunch and Learn” Luncheon
6:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting	6 p.m. – Bibles & Brews at The Abbey
Sept. 19 – 6 p.m. – Bible Study with Rev. Buchan	Oct. 15 -11:30 a.m. - Family Program - Spinning Demo

Welcome & thank you for joining us in-person or via live stream today.

Assisted listening devices are available near the doors in the back for those who need help hearing the service. Please turn them off and put them back in the box after use. The worship service is being live streamed into the chapel for those who need to step out of the sanctuary during the service.

Flowers on the communion table are given by Robert Quimby in loving memory of Marissa.

Newsletter: We invite you to sign up for our email newsletter. Please email news@nmchurch.org.

Coffee Hour: Please join us in the Taylor Room following worship. Thank you to our hosts Sandy Gammons & Jan McCarthy.

Pie Peep Pies - Frozen apple pies are available for purchase at \$20 each. Look for them in Fellowship Hall.

The A/V team is looking for volunteers who can help one Sunday a month to manage the sound or video for the livestream. Training provided. Email avteam@nmchurch.org

The Chapel Stitches will meet today following coffee hour in the Chapel. All are welcome to join us, no experience necessary. Learn to knit or crochet - we have supplies!

The Women of the Bible study group will meet at 1pm each Monday beginning September 18th. We meet in the Chapel for a time of faith and fellowship. Bring a friend, all are welcome to join us. Questions feel free to contact Leslie at news@nmchurch.org

The Apple Festival is coming to the green on Saturday September 23rd! We as a church will have two booths on the green and have the sanctuary open for tours. **The Chapel Stitches** will be selling apple hats, winter hats, quilted items and much, much more. **The Pie Peeps** will be selling their homemade apple pie. Interested in volunteering that day please contact Leslie at news@nmchurch.org

The Parables of Jesus “God tells the truth in parables because they are easier for common folk to understand and recollect.” --Abraham Lincoln. Rev. Buchan will conduct a Bible Study 6:00 -7:00 Tuesday evenings starting September 19. We’ll be discussing some of the parables of Jesus and their relevance to our lives. Parables were a favorite teaching device of the rabbis. Jesus’ parables, however, stand out in their freshness, genius, creativity and even playfulness. Email Revbuchan@nmchurch.org if you would like to attend. No previous Bible knowledge is needed.

Confirmation Class will be offered this year to students in 9th grade and above. There will be a meeting for confirmands and the parent(s) in the sanctuary today immediately following worship. At that time we will set a schedule that works for those who are participating. Confirmation is a wonderful process for teens to explore what their faith means to them and how it relates to everyday life. We will be exploring topics which include: the Bible, traditions, church history, worship, and discipleship, just to name a few. Rev. Pat will be leading the class. You can contact her to find out more via phone call or text at 203-770-1885, or email at ptnick723@gmail.com.

Youth Group - First meeting is TODAY from 5:30-7pm. All youth in grades 6th through 12th are welcome. Please contact Hannah Albright at youthdirector@nmchurch.org

Walk a Mile - September 24th - Only a few weeks until this year's Walk A Mile!

This annual event provides a lot of food for our community food bank.

The estimates for the fall and winter are showing that quite a few of our neighbors will be needing the resources of New Milford Social Services. I hope you will consider participating! Our church is participating in a big way, and once again all of the walkers will end their walk at the Marsh Parish House. This is always a great way to showcase our church and our hospitality. The Church Council has a plan involving each of the five ministries to make sure we make this meaningful for our congregation, and effective for our community. If you can join the walk, we will be leaving earlier than the other groups. We will be leaving after our church service (around 11:00), walking to Big Y, buying a bag of food, and walking back. Once you get back to the Parish House we will have pizza for all of our church participants! So, plan on asking your friends and neighbors, wear comfortable shoes, and get ready to have fun while doing a good thing.

Blessing Of the Animals - Sunday, October 1st at 1:00 p.m.

The “Blessing of the Animals” is a wonderfully noisy and chaotic celebration of all God’s creatures. Come and join us (weather permitting). This service is open to the New Milford community and to all types of pets. For safety reasons, all pets must be on a leash or somehow contained. If your pet can’t be present, you can bring a photo for a blessing. Stuffed animals are always welcome.

Sunday bulletin information and announcements are due **Tuesday by noon** each week. Please email communicationsgroup@nmchurch.org Thank you!

The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ		
Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9am - noon (860)354-8232 Voicemail available 24/7 www.nmchurch.org church@nmchurch.org		
Interim Pastor	Rev. David Buchan	revbuchan@nmchurch.org
Director of Music	Sarah Fay	musicdirector@nmchurch.org
Manager-Church Operations	Temporary Volunteers	
CE Director	Donna MacKenzie	cedirector@nmchurch.org
Bell Choir Director	Diane Taylor	bells@nmchurch.org
Treasurer	Jill Coolbeth	treasurer@nmchurch.org
Financial secretary	Katie McKay	financialsecretary@nmchurch.org
Today's Service		
Deacon on Duty	Cary Westfall	
Trustee on Duty	Bill Jackson	
Ushers	Youth	
Scripture Readers	Carol McKay and Jennifer Albright	