

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



## **ADVENT - HOPE**

**First Congregational Church of New Milford**

**November 30, 2025**

### **WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY**

### **LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

### **PRELUDE**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We begin the journey that leads to Christmas.

**People: Let us walk in the light of God.**

Leader: This is a journey of peace.

**People: Let us beat swords into plowshares.**

Leader: This is a journey of hope.

**People: Let us walk with God.**

### **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\***

Come, O Long Expected Jesus #125

## **LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

The Schlemmer family

Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent. Advent means “coming,” and in this season, we prepare for the coming of Christ. We light the candle on the Advent wreath to remind us of the blessings that Christ brings to the world. Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.

**(Light the first candle.)**

The prophet Jeremiah spoke words of hope to Israel. He talked about the promise of Shalom and of a new beginning. We hope and pray for a world of peace and harmony.

Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, v. 1

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

## **INVOCATION & LORD’S PRAYER**

**Everlasting God, we begin our journey toward Christmas with hope stirring within. Teach us how to get ready. Show how to prepare our hearts for Jesus. Help us walk in your ways of hope. Guide us on your paths of peace and understanding, as we prepare our hearts anew for the road ahead. We pray in the name of Jesus, saying...**

**Holy God, giver of life, for sunshine and showers, we give you thanks. For food and drink, we give you praise. For clothing and shelter, we bestow our gratitude. Gather our worries and our burdens this day and shelter us from fear and despair. Help us rest assured in your arms, knowing that your loving care is enough. We pray in Jesus’ name with the words he taught us...**

Choral Response

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

A Lute Carol/Mary E. Caldwell

## 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\*

**God of all goodness, as we walk in the light of your love, we are blessed by the abundance of your gifts. You give us the beauty of nature, food to nourish our bodies, and communities to love and support us. Out of our abundance, we bring our gifts to you. May these gifts increase peace in our community and throughout the world. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

### HYMN\*

Comfort, Comfort You My People #122

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

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 24:36-44

Choral Response

## SERMON

Stay Awake

Choral Response

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### HYMN\*

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates #129

**BENEDICTION\*** - spoken and sung

**POSTLUDE**

*\*All are invited to stand in body or spirit*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***All Are Welcome Here:*** For your comfort, listening devices are available by the front doors of the church. Additionally, services are live streamed in the chapel, should you need to step out of the service for any reason. Simply turn on the TV. Please see a Deacon if you need assistance.

**Thank you to Diane Taylor and Dave Sommerville** for their gift of music at today's service.

**Thank you to the Schlemmer Family** for reading the lighting of the first advent candle.

**Coffee Hour:** Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall following today's service.

**Bible Study Group** will meet in the Taylor room today at 11:15. This week's discussion will be Abraham: Mature faith trusts God even when the command is costly. Genesis 22; Hebrews 11:17–19; James 2:21–23

**Women of the Bible Study Group** meet in the Chapel on Monday, December 1 at 1:00 PM.

**Holiday Lunch and Learn** will be on Wednesday, December 3 at 12:30 PM in the Taylor Room.

**Christmas Tree decorating and Chili Lunch** will be on Sunday, December 7 at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.

**Christmas Concert** will be held on Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 PM with the Christmas Choir, village Handbell Ringers and Cherub Choir.

**The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ**

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 PM

(860) 354-8232 Voicemail Available 24/7

www.nmchurch.org | church@nmchurch.org

Rev. Marie's day off is Friday. She can be reached at 475-207-0740. Please leave a voicemail, we are working on texting.

Pastor	Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi	revmarieb@nmchurch.org
Director of Music	Sarah Fay	musicidirector@nmchurch.org
Bell Choir Director	Kristen Dorrell	bells@nmchurch.org
CE Director	Katie Johnson	cedirector@nmchurch.org
Manager-Church Operations	Carole Zeigler	czeigler@nmchurch.org
Treasurer	Jill Coolbeth	tresurer@nmchurch.org
Financial Secretary	Ann Brennan	financialsecretary@nmchurch.org

**Today's service**

Deacon on Duty	Debbie Poole
Trustee on Duty	John Wittmann
Ushers	Dave Eherts
Scripture Reader	Deacons
Acolytes	Deacons

<b>Weekly</b>
Sundays - Worship 10:00 AM
Coffee Hour 11:00 AM
Bible Study Group 11:15 AM
Mondays - Woman of the Bible Study Group 1:00 PM
<b>November</b>
Nov. 29 - Holiday Craft Fair 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Live Nativity – Evening 6:00 PM
Nov. 30 - Advent Week 1
<b>December</b>
Dec. 3 - Lunch & Learn 12:30 PM
Dec. 7 - Advent Week 2 Chili Lunch
Dec. 14 - Advent Week 3 Christmas Concert 4:00 PM
Dec. 20 - Men's Breakfast
Dec. 21 - Advent Week 4 Christmas Pageant Brunch following Service
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve services 4:00 PM & 9:00 PM

**Called to Care Ministry Volunteers  
Thank You for Caring!**

**Condolence Reception**

Jen Albright  
Ruth Almond  
Pam Cafiero  
Mary Eherts  
Kathy Elmore  
Sheri Gunn  
Cindy Hendricks  
Janet Junz  
Jan McCarthy  
Holly Meissner  
Sue Metcalf  
Sharon Millard  
Anne Olson  
Gail Peck  
Debbie Poole  
Lori Reiling  
Leslie Schlemmer  
Barbara Shimmel  
Janet Wittmann  
Joan Vill

**Parish Visitors**

Mary Eherts  
Alice Horrigan  
Peggy King  
Jan McCarthy  
Sue Metcalf

**IPU**

**(Intensive Prayer Unit)**

Jennifer Albright  
Sharon Detwiler  
Mary Eherts  
Kathy Elmore  
Sarah Fay  
Virnette Hamilton  
Jerry King  
Johnis Macchiaverna  
Kathy Maher  
Carrie Martin  
Dan Martin  
Jan McCarthy  
Barbara McGiver  
Holly Meissner  
Pat Nicholas  
Gail Peck  
Debbie Poole  
Leslie Sarich  
Leslie Schlemmer  
Carole Swartzman  
Melanie Traynor  
Janet Wittmann  
John Wittmann

**Correspondents**

Jennifer Albright  
Kathy Elmore  
Sheri Gunn  
Jan McCarthy  
Sue Metcalf  
Holly Meissner  
Leslie Schlemmer  
Scott Wittmann  
Joan Vill

**Meal Chain**

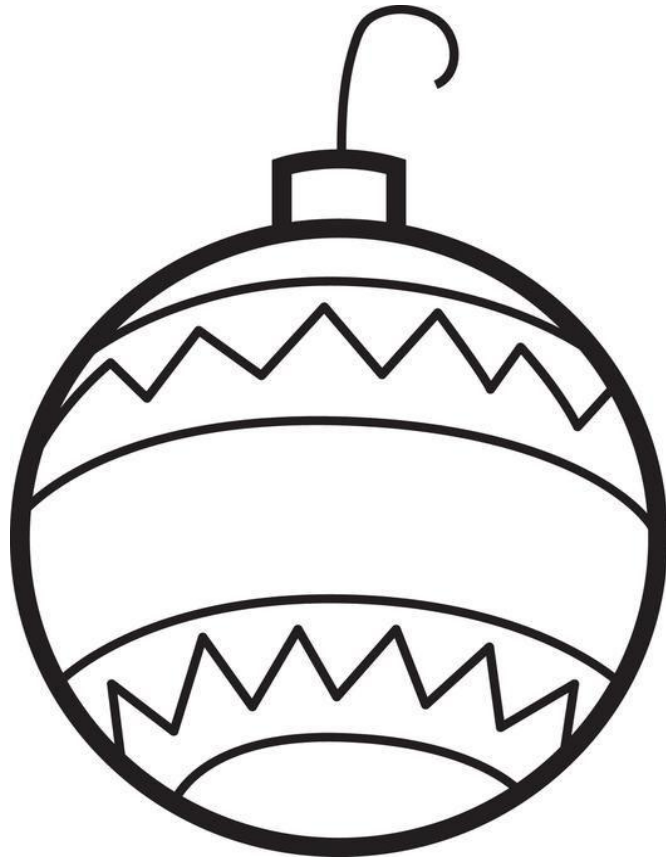
Jen Albright  
Kathy Elmore  
Sheri Gunn  
Cindy Hendricks  
Susan Metcalf  
Sharon Millard  
Anne Olson  
Leslie Schlemmer  
Janet Wittmann  
Joan Vill

**Drivers**

Mary Eherts  
Jan McCarthy  
John Wittmann







## **Advent Devotion Week 1: Hope**

What do you hope for this Advent? Write it in the center of the ornament. You can color the ornament in Advent colors: purple, pink, and blue or any colors you want. Then cut out the ornament and hang it on your tree to remind to look for hope this Advent.

