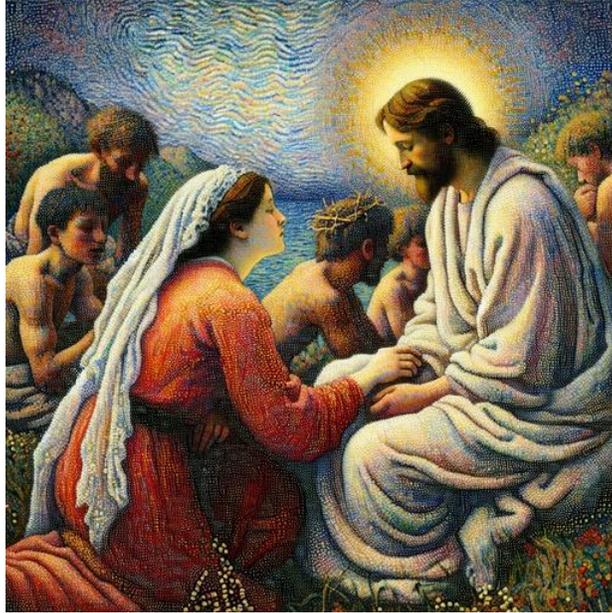


*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”*



**First Congregational Church of New Milford
February 22, 2026**

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love is This/arr. John Carter

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice.

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

Leader: When we confess our sins, Christ’s grace and forgiveness encompass us.

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

Leader: Open yourselves to the teachings and wisdom of the Spirit.

People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

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*

God of Grace and God of Glory #464

INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious and Loving God, we seek the freedom found in the grace we receive through Christ Jesus. We seek to know more fully your great love. Turn us from our temptations. Inspire us to open ourselves to the way of Christ, that as we examine our lives and live out these days, we may become examples of your abundant love for all people. During these holy days, may we feel revived and sustained to follow Jesus. We pray in Jesus' name with the words he taught us...

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

Psalm 32

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

My Lighthouse/arr. David Angerman

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 offer ourselves to you, Holy God, emptying ourselves to become your vessels of love and grace and hope to all we encounter. May the gift of our lives and the gifts of our service create God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.

CHERUB CHOIR

I Can Pray/Toni Sullivan

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN*

Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days #180

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:1-11

Choral Response

SERMON

Our Lenten Journey

Choral Response

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN*

Forty Days and Forty Nights #179

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D Minor/J.S. Bach

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

Today's liturgy has been adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Cary Westfall, Sharon Millard, Gail Peck, Mike & Debbie Burch and Deacons for participating in today's service.

Thank you to the Cherub Choir for their gift of music at today's service.

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.

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

Confirmation class will meet in the Chapel after today's service.

Women of the Bible Study Group meet in the Chapel Monday's at 1:00 PM.

Lenten Study: Join Rev. Marie in a Lenten Study on the Gospel of Matthew on Wednesday's at 7:00 PM in the Chapel through the end of March.

Lunch and Learn will welcome the Northville Amateur Radio Association on Wednesday, March 4 at 12:30 PM in the Taylor Room.

The Russell Ayre Scholarship application deadline is Friday April 24, 2026.

The Online Church Merchandise Store will open on Sunday, March 1, 2026. Available merchandise includes short and long sleeve t-shirts, sweaters, hoodies, and hat.



If you are interested in making a donation, **Digital Giving** is available.

Please scan the QR Code to donate.

We kindly ask that you use the comment feature to direct your contribution.



Your continued support for the church is appreciated.

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 Bacchiocchi | revmarieb@nmchurch.org | 732-874-0528