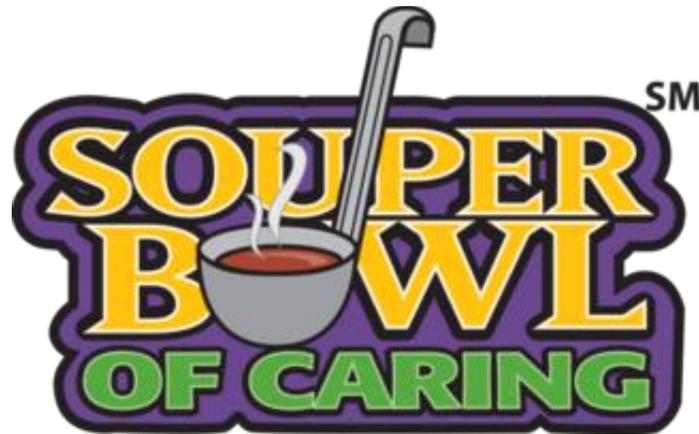


*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”*



**First Congregational Church of New Milford
February 8, 2026**

FROM THE COMMENTATORS (WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY)

PREGAME EVENTS (LIGHTING THE CANDLES)

PREPPING THE FIELD (PRELUDE) As the Deer/arr. Douglas E. Wagner

INTRODUCING THE TEAM (CALL TO WORSHIP)

Offense: Praise the Lord!

Defense: We come to this place, where generations before us have gathered.

Offense: Here we remember the light of God that shines in our lives.

Defense: Here we allow God’s light to shine through us.

Offense: Let us worship our radiant God.

Defense: Happy are we who delight in the Lord!

MEETING OF THE CAPTAINS (PASSING OF THE PEACE)

KICK OFF (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.

COMMERCIAL (HYMN)*

Called As Partners in Christ's Service #453

CONSULTING THE UPSTAIRS BOOTH (INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER)

Amazing God, you have gathered us from many places to come together and praise you this day. For this we are grateful. As we worship today, may our minds be opened to learn your wisdom. May our eyes be opened to places that need healing. May our hands be opened to do your good work. May our hearts be opened to your Holy Spirit, who gifts us and guides us. In the name of Christ, we pray with the words he taught us...

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.

Time Out (Choral Response)

CONSULTING THE PLAY BOOK (SCRIPTURE READING)

1 Corinthians 12:4-12

TWO MINUTE WARNING TO THE HALF (OFFERING OUR GIFTS)

Concession Stand Visit (Call to Offering)

Half Time (Offertory)

Will the Circle Be Unbroken/trad. Appalachian

Start of Second Half (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.

Second Half Kick Off (Offering Prayer*)

Abundant God, we are grateful for the ways you bless our lives and for the gifts you give us. May these gifts help heal and restore our community, so that all will flourish. Amen.

INSTRUCTING NEW PLAYERS (CHILDREN'S TIME)

COMMERCIAL (HYMN)*

Open My Eyes That I May See #586

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

CONSULTING THE PLAY BOOK (SCRIPTURE READING) Matthew 5:13-16

Time Out (Choral Response)

PEP TALK (SERMON)

The Essence of Teamwork

Time Out (Choral Response)

THE HAIL MARY PASS (PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE)

COMMERCIAL (HYMN)*

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus #344

TWO MINUTE WARNING (BENEDICTION)* - spoken and sung.

POSTGAME WRAP UP (POSTLUDE)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty/arr. John Carter

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

Today's liturgy has been adapted from Ministry Matters.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Cary Westfall, Deacons and the Building & Ground team for participating in 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.

Super Bowl of Caring: Join us for a soup potluck in Fellowship Hall following today's service.

Chapel Stitchers will meet February 15 at 11:30 AM in the Chapel.

Women of the Bible study group meet in the Chapel Monday at 1:00 PM.

Bible Study will meet in the Taylor room after worship on the 3rd Sunday of each month starting on February 15.

Brinner Dinner will be Tuesday, February 17 at 5:00 PM. Joins us for breakfast for dinner in Fellowship Hall.

Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, February 21 in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 AM.

Rev. Marie will hold a six week Lenten study on the Gospel of Matthew starting on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel.



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



First Congregational Church
Of New Milford



BRINNER DINNER

FEBRUARY 17, 2026 • 5:30-7:30pm

**INCLUDES: PANCAKES, SAUSAGE or
BACON, and COFFEE, JUICE, or MILK**

Donations Welcomed

**First Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall
36 Main St
New Milford CT 06776**