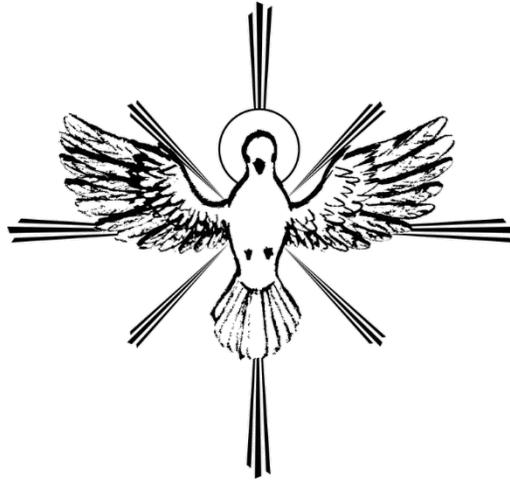


*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”*



**First Congregational Church of New Milford
March 15, 2026
Confirmation Sunday**

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE Prelude on Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing arr. Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Once you lived in darkness.

People: Now the light of God has shone upon us.

Leader: Find what is pleasing to God and follow God’s ways.

People: The acts of darkness are left behind as we journey to God’s light.

Leader: Thanks be to God who gives us the light.

People: Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your light of salvation.

‘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*

#25 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness. For we offer this prayer 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

Ephesians 5:8-14

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

Make My Life a Blessing/Chopin and Martin

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*

Holy God, you see the gifts we give: our treasure and our time, our service and our lives. Bless our lives and our gifts, that they might become points of light to bring all of creation closer to you and to your love. Amen.

Confirmation

(see insert)

HYMN*

#75 I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

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

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Choral Response

SERMON

Chosen By God

Choral Response

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN*

#606 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

You raise Me Up arr. Bober

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

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

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

AN ORDER FOR CONFIRMATION

QUESTIONS OF THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

In this church when a child is baptized, the child's parents reaffirm their own faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, claim God's promises on their child's behalf, and promise to pray with and for their child and to bring them up to know and love God. Today, you confirm your faith for yourself. Do you confirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Confirmands: I do, with the help of God.

INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMANDS:

Trevor Robert Deitz

Douglas Richard Gallik

Kienan Joseph McAleer

Ryan Fredrick Simmons

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Rev. Bacchiocchi: What is your name?

Confirmand responds: (your name)

Rev. Bacchiocchi: What do you seek?

Confirmand responds: Faith

Rev. Bacchiocchi: Confirm, O Lord with your heavenly grace; that he may continue to grow in faith and in the power of the Spirit.
Amen.

PRAYER

We rejoice, O merciful God, with this confirmation class, in the gift of the Holy Spirit and in the Spirit's power to inspire us to follow Jesus, your son and our brother. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and for others. Keep them full of hope, living ever more grounded in you, courageous like Christ, and joyful in the Spirit. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Deacon Cary Westfall: Would the congregation please join with our confirmands and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ?

Unison: We confess our faith in God, our heavenly Creator, and our reverent love for Jesus Christ, our Savior, and our willingness to be guided by the Holy Spirit. We promise, as members of this church, to walk together as Christians, obedient to the teachings of the Holy Scripture and to participate in the government, worship, and mission of this church. This we do for the glory of God, for the good of our neighbors and for the mutual growth in Christian grace seeking to do all in faith, fellowship and service, in the spirit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME OF THE CONGREGATION

Deacon Cary Westfall: Would the congregation please join me to welcome these new members and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ?

Unison: We, the members of this church welcome you with joy into our communion and fellowship. We pledge to you our sympathy, our help, and our prayers, that you may increase in the knowledge and love of God. God grant that loving and being loved, serving and being served, blessing and being blessed, we may be prepared, while we dwell together on earth, for the perfect fellowship of those above.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice that your maturing in faith has brought you to this time and place and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith. In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in New Milford, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

The peace of God be with you always.

And also with you.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Toni Sullivan for being our guest organist today, standing in for Sarah Fay.

Thank you to Hannah Albright, Marilyn Wilkes, Youth, and Deacons 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.

Please join us downstairs for coffee and cake to celebrate our Confirmand's in Fellowship Hall following today's service.

Bible Study Group will meet in the Taylor room following today service.

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

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

Men's breakfast will meet on Saturday, March 21 at 7:00 in Fellowship Hall

Women's Fellowship will hold a kitchen garden craft night on Saturday, March 21 at 4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

Acolyte Training (for children in first grade and up) will be held in the Sanctuary following worship on Sunday, March 22.

New Member Class will be held on Sunday, March 22 in the Chapel following worship.

We are collecting filled easter eggs thru March 29. Eggs can be dropped off at the office or left in the large basket outside of the Sanctuary.

Palm Sunday: Join us on March 29, for a Waffle Bar and egg hunt following worship.

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

The Online Church Merchandise Store is open until March 31.

https://imagesulld.net/fcc_of_nm/shop/home

KITCHEN GARDEN CRAFT NIGHT



**CREATE YOUR OWN KITCHEN HERB GARDEN AND
PAINT PERSONALIZED PLANT POTS IN A FUN,
RELAXING EVENING OF CREATIVITY AND FELLOWSHIP!**

MARCH 21, 2026 @ 4PM

PLEASE RSVP, SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED

H.E.ALBRIGHT@PM.ME

