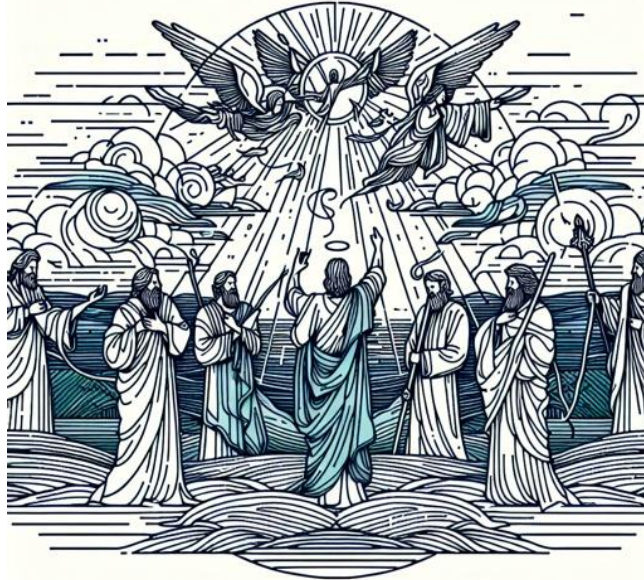


*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”*



**First Congregational Church of New Milford
April 12, 2026**

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

God’s Time is the Best/J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come as we are:

People: Doubting Thomases, fearful disciples, rejoicing psalmists!

Leader: You come as you are:

People: Risen Christ, Spirit of forgiveness, God of new birth!

Leader: You, Holy God, show us the ways of life.

People: Your presence fills us with gladness.

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, Ye Faithful Raise the Strain #215

INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

Generous God, we thank you for your presence with us in all our lives. As we gather this morning we are reminded of the many times we have doubted and feared. Today banish our fears with the memory of the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Remind us again that through all our troubles, doubts, and fears, your power, mercy and love are with us. We pray in the name of Jesus 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

1 Peter 1:3-9

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

Rejoice, the Lord is King!/Dan Forrest

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 great mercy, accept our offerings, given out of what is more precious than gold—our faith in you, giver of hope and life. And through these gifts, reveal the risen Christ in acts of mercy, love, and joy. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

He's Got the Whole World/Spiritual

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN*

Morning Has Broken #53

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-31

Choral Response

SERMON

Doubts to Faith

Choral Response

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN*

He Lives! #226

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

All Glory, Laud and Honor/arr. Albin C. Whitworth

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

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

THANK YOU

Thank you Debbie Poole, Sophie Ryan, Susan Sennello, Communication Team and Deacons for participating in today's service.

Thank you to the Cherub and Joyful Noise 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.

Rev. Marie will be attending a clergy retreat on Thursday, April 16.

Book of Remembrance Sunday is May 24th. Envelopes for donations are available at the entrances to the sanctuary. Kindly, list the names to be memorialized as well as the donor. Checks should be made out to the Book of Remembrance, First Congregational Church. Donations will be received until May 10th.

This is the 25th year of the New Milford High School Grad Party. The church has been part of it since the beginning, and we will once again be sponsoring the rotunda for the 2026 Grad Party. The party will take place on the night of **June 13, from 9 pm - 3 am.** We will need help with decorations & games for the rotunda leading up to the party, **set up on June 12, working the grad party on June 13, and clean up on June 14.** We are also looking for donations of storage bins to help organize decorations. **Our First decoration meeting will be April 27 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm,** in the parish house. Please email Nicole at coleylh@gmail.com, if you would like to help with any or all of it!

The Flower Committee would like to invite you to celebrate a special occasion by donating flowers to a Church Service in memory of a loved one or special event. You can sign up on the new Flower Chart posted on the bulletin board in the church lobby or email Carole: czeigler@nmchurch.org .

Lawn Mowing: We are looking for a few volunteers to mow our church lawn. Please fill in the sign up sheet placed on the bulletin board in the church lobby or email Carole: czeigler@nmchurch.org .

If you would like to **acknowledge a 2026 High School, College, Advanced Degree graduate**, please submit the student's name, degree, school to the office by Tuesday, May 26. Carole: czeigler@nmchurch.org

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Chapel Stitchers will meet in the Chapel following coffee hour.

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

Wednesday Study: Join Rev. Marie on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in Room 3 for a study of the Book of Acts.

Men's Breakfast is Saturday, April 18 at 7:00 am

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

Music Sunday is Sunday, April 26.

Reception of New Member will be Sunday May 3.

Annual Spring Meeting will be Sunday, May 3.

Craft Fair, Saturday, May 9.

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.

Imagine
Together



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

Women's Fellowship – Prayer Flag Making

Join us as we create our own version of a Tibetan prayer flag.

Prayer flags are hung outside, traditionally used to carry blessings and intentions on the wind, spreading peace and goodwill to all. Our version will honor that spirit by creating flags that lift our prayers or sayings for our families, our church, our community, and the world.

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026

Time: Two sessions: 1:00 and 6:00 pm

Location: Taylor Room

Materials will be provided

Please confirm if you will be attending to Debbie Poole:
debpoole.mail@gmail.com

If you have a particular bible verse or saying you like to use (6 – 10 words), **please email it to me by Wednesday, April 22.**

I will have some pre-printed as well. You will add finishing embellishments.

I have many saved sayings if you need inspiration.

