

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



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEW MILFORD
May 3, 2026**

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken/arr. Marilyn Hamm

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Once we were not a people.

People: Now we are God’s people.

Leader: God is our refuge.

People: We can find peace in God’s abiding love.

Leader: When troubles assail us, we call upon God.

People: When joys abound, we call upon God.

Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

People: We thank you and praise you, Holy 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*

Called as Partners in Christ's Service #453

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

Patient and forgiving God, we come to you this day. Remind us that your blessings are poured out in many ways, through many people. Give us the confident faith that reaches beyond our own lives to help others. Forgive us when we sink into our own selfishness and pettiness. For it is in those times that we turn our back on you. Bring us back to you, to the awareness of your eternal love. We pray in Christ's name; 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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Choral Response

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:4-10

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

Cold December Flies Away/Daniel Schreiner

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*

Receive these gifts this morning, O God, author of every good gift. Out of the bounty of our hearts, we respond with faithful generosity and love. May these gifts become blessings for others as they have been blessings for us. Amen

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(see insert)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

#361 in Hymnal

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*The Deacons will serve communion. Gluten free crackers are in the center cup.
Please hold the bread and juice until we partake as a group.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, we thank you for feeding us at your table. Lift up our eyes so that we will know You are with us always. Help us listen for the voice of Christ, so we can follow where he leads. May we find the Holy Spirit dwelling within us so that we can help renew and restore Your world. Amen.

HYMN*

All Who Hunger, Gladly Gather #419

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:1-14

Choral Response

SERMON

Called as God’s Own

Choral Response

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN*

O God, Our Help in Ages Past #67

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

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

THANK YOU

Thank you Jennifer Albright, Evelyn Johnson, Gail Peck 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.

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

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.

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

Lunch and Learn, Wednesday, May 6

Airing of the Quilts, Friday and Saturday May 8 & 9

Craft Fair, Saturday, May 9.

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.

Children's Day, Sunday, May 31

All Church Picnic, Sunday, May 31

Scholarship Day, Sunday, June 7

Choir Day, Sunday, June 14

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

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

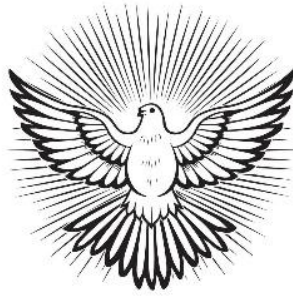
Please scan the QR Code to donate.

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

Imagine
Together



Your continued support for the church is appreciated.



Reception of New Members

**Rebecca Cole Elam
Charles Frank Gaumond
Ruth Ann Gaumond
Helen Katherine Greene**

**Alice I Horrigan
Philip J Marx
Ekaterina Lee McKernan
Gary William Murphy**

Leader: We invite to come forward those who wish to unite with us in this household of faith.

Here these words from Paul:

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Leader: In coming forward in covenant with the First Congregational Church of New Milford, United Church of Christ, do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

New Members: I promise, with the help of God.

Deacon: Will the members of this congregation please join with the new members in an affirmation of our covenant.

All: 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, stewardship, and mission of this church. This we do for the glory of God, for the good of our neighbors, and for our mutual growth in Christian grace, seeking to do all in faith, fellowship, and service, in the spirit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors as the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Leader and Deacon: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of this congregation, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

Leader: Let us pray:

O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mothers Day 2026

“A generous person will prosper: whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Proverbs 11:25



Most of us had a mother, grandmother, or special person that made us feel seen. That feeling refreshed our spirits and gave us a sense of dignity.

Disasters and homelessness often destroy sanitation infrastructure, and the sense of dignity and refreshment

Hygiene Kits help physical health:

- Preventing Outbreaks: Hygiene kits are critical for curbing the spread of waterborne and communicable diseases, as well as respiratory infections in crowded shelters.
- Wound Care: Basic supplies help prevent minor cuts from becoming infected, which is a major risk in debris-filled environments.

Hygiene Kits also help psychological health:

The trauma of displacement can strip individuals of their sense of self.

- Restoring Dignity: The ability to wash one's face, brush teeth, or comb hair allows survivors to feel "more like themselves" and less like victims.
- Mental Resilience: Simple acts of self-care provide a sense of control and normalcy in chaotic situations, which is vital for long-term emotional recovery.

Imagine
Together

This Mother's Day, would you consider a gift of \$10.00 in honor or memory of someone that refreshed you or restored your sense of dignity? This will enable us to buy a complete kit in bulk from Church World Service.

Names in honor and in memory will be dedicated in our service on May 10th.

The form below will be in the bulletin on April 19th, April 26th and May 3rd. Please place these forms, and your contribution into the colored pew envelope and place in the collection plate. If you wish to make an e-payment on our website, please make sure to include your names in honor/memory in the notes.

Mothers Day 2026

Please place this form, and your contribution into the colored pew envelope and place in the collection plate.

Name(s) in honor of:

Name(s) in memory of:

Given by:

Amount enclosed:



Spring Craft Fair

Saturday, May 9th - 10am to 3pm

FREE FAMILY EVENT

WOOD WORK, JEWELRY, CANDLES
& LOTIONS, HAND MADE CRAFTS,
SEASONAL DECOR & MORE

RAFFLE TABLE

**Parish House
36 Main St
New Milford, CT 06776**