

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



**Christmas in July
July 26, 2026**

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all.

People: For out of God’s own being, Jesus has come to bring love and light to all people.

Leader: Jesus is our Emmanuel—God with us—come to gather our tears and laughter into God’s love.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all.

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*

#150 Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, vs. 1, 3

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

We come before you in awe, O God, freshly aware of your glory and love embodied in the midst of this world. Here amid dirt and straw, amid the noise of cattle and sheep, we perceive your work. It is you, Holy One, coming to be among us in Jesus, and so we sing our songs of praise to you. We pray in the name of the Christ child, 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

Isaiah 52:7-10

HYMN*

#119 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 1, 4

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

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*

O God may our gifts open us to your promises, your love, and your transformation. May we vision and dream. May we be surprised. May we receive the life you give us. May we encounter Emmanuel—God with us. And may we never be the same. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

HYMN*

#159 There’s a Song in the Air, vs. 1, 3

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20

Choral Response

SERMON

Out of Season?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Choral Response

HYMN*

#167 Go Tell It On the Mountain, vs. 1, 3

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

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

Today’s liturgy has been adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual.

THANK YOU

Bella Emmons – Acolyte

Gail Peck - Deacon on Duty

Jeff and Sandy Gammons – Ushers

Susan Sennello – Scripture Reader

Susan Chapin and Anne Olson for their gift of music at today’s service.

To everyone who chose our hymns today.

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.

The flowers at today's service are in memory of Susan Chapin's parents, and family members of Anne Olson.

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.

Lawn Mowing Sign-Up: We are still in need of volunteers to mow our church lawn the week of August 2, 16 & 31. Please sign up on the chart posted on the bulletin board located in the church lobby or email Carole at: czeigler@nmchurch.org.

Carole is on vacation and will return to the office on August 10. If you need immediate assistance while she is away, please contact Rev. Marie:
revmarieb@nmchurch.org / 732-874-0528

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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
