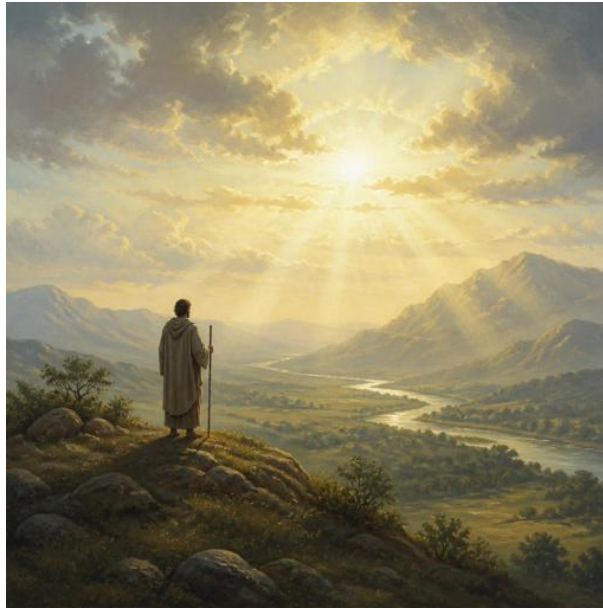


***“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”***



**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026**

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

In Nomine/Richard Alwood

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Life can sometimes be very difficult.

People: We look around and wonder where God is.

Leader: In the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

People: God surrounds us with love and courage.

Leader: Come, let us praise God for God’s abiding presence.

**People: Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we don’t
recognize your loving presence. Amen.**

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*

#53 Morning Has Broken

INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, Father and Mother of us all, in Jesus you have sent to us your own son, to show us your true nature as creator, sustainer and redeemer. Enable us to recognize him as the Messiah. Empower us to follow him with confidence and courage, even when we aren't sure where we are headed. Enlighten us, that through him we may find our own true identity as your children, and our way in this world through the one 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

Psalm 124

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

Precious Lord/Thomas A. Dorsey

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*

Loving God, a commitment to you provides a foundation for the living of our lives, may the gifts we offer serve as a sign of our confession of faith, and our commitment to support the mission of our church. By your grace, let our faithfulness grow upon the groundwork of joyful obedience and compassionate outreach through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN*

#592 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16: 13-20

Choral Response

SERMON

Who Do You Say I Am

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Choral Response

HYMN*

#477 Pass It On

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

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

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

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

Imagine
Together



Your continued support for the church is appreciated.

THANK YOU

Debbie Poole - Deacon on Duty **Lily McGee** - Acolyte
Alice Horrigan, Gail Peck, Diane Taylor and Susan Sennello - Ushers
Don MacInnis, Diane Taylor and Dave Sommerville for their gift of music at today's service.
Rev. Dr. Pat Nicholas for joining us on the pulpit today.
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.

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.

Lunch and Learn will be on Wednesday September 2, 2026 in the Taylor Room at 12:30 pm. Our presenter will be Angie from Camella's Cupboard. Please RSVP to news@nmchurch.org.

Lawn Mowing Sign-Up: We are still in need of volunteers to mow our church lawn the weeks of August 31 & September 14. Please sign up on the chart posted on the bulletin board located in the church lobby or email Carole at: czeigler@nmchurch.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

September 13: **Welcome Back Sunday**

September 20: **Walk a Mile**

September 26: **Apple Fest**

October 4: **Pastor Emeritus Celebration**

October 4: **Roger Sherman presentation @ 3:15 pm**

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

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