

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



**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026**

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

We Gather Together/arr. Joel Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing songs of hope and peace.

People: God’s love and power have lifted us.

Leader: Sing songs of mercy and grace.

People: God’s mercy and forgiveness frame our lives.

Leader: Thanks be to God for divine love and mercy.

People: Praise be to God for the healing power extended to each one of us.

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*

*This Little Light of Mine
(See insert)*

INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the great mercy and grace that draw us close to your holiness. Flow through our worship and through our lives with your presence and your grace. Keep our hearts, minds, and spirits open to learn new ways in which we can offer your love to others. May our actions show everyone that we are Your people filled with your abundant love and gracious forgiveness. For we ask this in Jesus' name, 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

Romans 14:1-12

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

With a Voice of Singing/Martin Shaw

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, thank you for the generosity of your love, forgiveness, and grace. Thank you for trusting us to share this generosity with others. Bless our offerings, our lives, and our actions, that they may reflect and share these gifts in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.

Blessing of the Backpacks

HYMN*

#673 Down By the Riverside

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Choral Response

SERMON

Forgiving One Another

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Choral Response

HYMN*

#442 We Are Walking in the Light of God

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Minor/Jean Jacques Charpentier

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

Today's liturgy has been adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual and Ministry Matters.

THANK YOU

Hannah Albright - Deacon on Duty

Shelby Behrens – Acolyte

CE Team- Ushers

To everyone who chose our hymns today.

The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 PM

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LOOKING AHEAD

September 20: **Walk a Mile**
September 21: **Church Council Meeting**
September 26: **Apple Fest**
September 27: **Worship Team Meeting - after worship**
October 4: **Pastor Emeritus Celebration**
Roger Sherman presentation @ 3:15 pm
November 1: **Remembrance Sunday**

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 the Fellowship Hall following today's service for our Welcome Back Celebration.

The Deacons will meet in the Taylor Room following the all-church lunch.

The Chapel stitchers will meet in the Chapel today at 11:30 am.

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

Men's breakfast will meet in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 19 at 8:30 am.

The Children's Choir practice has been canceled Tuesday, September 15. The next practice will be on Tuesday, September 22.

Lawn Mowing Sign-Up: We are still in need of volunteers to mow our church lawn this week and the weeks of September 27. Please sign up on the chart posted on the bulletin board located in the church lobby or email Carole at: czeigler@nmchurch.org.

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.		
Your continued support for the church is appreciated.		



This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, not! I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine.
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine.
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.





and New Milford Social Services Invite You to...

Walk a Mile for a Meal to benefit the New Milford Food Bank

Meet at the Big Y shopping center and
walk to the First Congregational Church
Parish Hall located behind the
First Congregational Church



Sept 20, 2026 at 1PM

PARTICIPANTS ARE ASKED TO:

- Raise funds in order to purchase one bag of needed food per walker
- Arrive at the Big Y between 1 pm and 2 pm
- Purchase your bags of non-perishable groceries

SUMMARY:

New Milford Social Services invites the members of your Girl or Boy Scout Troop, Youth Group, Congregation, School Club, Athletic Team; as well as individuals and families to participate in our annual "Walk a Mile for a Meal" benefiting the New Milford Food Bank.

WISH LIST ITEMS:

- Flavored Rice
- Jarred Tomato Sauce
- Hearty Soups
- Pasta
- Canned Fruit
- Tuna/Salmon
- Canned Beans (Assorted)
- Cereal
- Snacks
- Juice, Coffee, Tea
- Canned Pasta
- Broth (Veggie, Beef or Chicken)
- Apple Sauce
- Oil (Canola, Vegetable or Corn)
- Pancake Mix
- Toilet Paper/Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Cleaning Products
- Children's Diapers (Sizes 4/5/6 Only)
- Women's Maxi Pads

If you have any additional questions or wish to register, contact: New Milford Social Services Dept.

860-355-6079 | Socialservices@newmilfordct.gov