

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



**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026**

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart/
arr. Lloyd Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Open your hearts to God’s loving mercy.

People: Lord, come into our hearts this day.

Leader: Having received God’s mercy, bring that love to others.

People: Lord, be with us as we reach out to others in compassion.

Leader: Feel your spirits filled with the goodness of God.

People: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings which you pour into our lives.

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*

#276 We Gather Together

INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

Holy and merciful God reside in our hearts today. Help us to listen closely for your word to us. Remind us that you are always with us throughout all of our lives. Give us confidence in your presence, so that we may go into your world ready to witness to your love through our works and our deeds, for we pray these things 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

Exodus 16:2-15

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

No Longer Strangers/Avery & Marsh

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*

Great God, receive our gifts for the glory of your name and the blessing of your people. May we be dedicated stewards of your abundance and use these gifts for the benefit of your kingdom. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN*

#198 Were You There

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 20:1-16

Choral Response

SERMON

Plenty and Want

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Choral Response

HYMN*

#715 Now Thank We All Our God

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress is Our God/
Johann Gottfried Walther

**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 **Bella Emmons-** Acolyte

Youth with Deacons - Ushers

To everyone who chose our hymns today.

LOOKING AHEAD

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.

Walk-A-Mile is today. Food donations will be collected in front of the parish house from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

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

Church Council Meeting is this Monday, September 21 at 6:30 in the Taylor Room. All are welcome to attend.

Apple Festival is this Saturday on the Town Green. We are selling pies, hand crafted knit and crochet items.

Book of Remembrance Sunday is November 1st. Donations will be received until October 18th. Envelopes for this purpose are available at the front and rear entrances to the sanctuary. Please list the names of those to be memorialized on the envelope and place it in the collection plate or leave it in the church office. Checks should be made out to First Congregational Church c/o Book of Remembrance.

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.

The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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

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