

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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEW MILFORD
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

Aria from Goldberg Variations/J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: How shall we live in the love of God?

People: We will treat one another with fairness and dignity.

Leader: How shall we witness God’s forgiving love?

People: We will reach out others with compassion.

Leader: Come, let us worship God who has always loved us.

People: Let our worship of God be reflected in our lives of hope and peace.

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*

#469 I Am the Light of the World

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, amidst our songs of joy, our hearts are touched by fear. Sin plagues our world, even as we strive to build your realm. Sorrow enters our lives, even as we put on false smiles and engage in empty conversations. Forgive us when we forget that you are always with us. Reconcile us with your love and compassion, and bless us with your compassionate presence, that we may be filled with joy, love, and hope this day. We pray 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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:8-14

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

Lift Thine Eyes/Felix Mendelssohn

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 as offerings of love, O God. Bless them with your grace, that those who receive them may find compassion and hope. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Leader: People of God, let us receive the grace of God.

People: We will practice self-compassion, feeding our souls with good food.

Leader: People of God, let us learn to love one another.

People: We will generously love family, friends, and our neighbors.

Leader: People of God, love God with all your heart.

People: Christ, the bread of life, longs for us to feast with God and with one another.

Leader: Be hungry no longer; receive what God has offered.

People: Fill us, Holy Spirit, with the grace we crave, that we may hunger and thirst no more.

Great 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 this table with the food that sustains us eternally. From this table we are joined together as one and are strengthened to share our gifts with the world. We are now strengthened to go forth to lead lives worthy of Christ's call. Amen.

HYMN*

#200 What Wondrous Love Is This

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:15-20

SERMON

Love Always

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Choral Response

HYMN*

My God Is an Awesome God
(see insert)

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

Adagio and Allegro/Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Today's liturgy has been adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual, Ministry Matters, and Worship Ways.

THANK YOU

Sophie Ryan – Acolyte

Hannah Albright – Deacon on Duty

Deacons - Ushers

Pam Cafiero, Melanie Fay, Anne Olson for their gift of music at today's service.

To everyone who chose our hymns today.

LOOKING AHEAD

September 13: **Welcome Back Sunday**
Blessing of the Backpacks

September 20: **Walk a Mile**

September 21: **Church Council Meeting**

September 26: **Apple Fest**

October 4: **Pastor Emeritus Celebration**

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

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.

The office will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

The Children's Choir and Handbell Choir rehearsals start on Tuesday, September 8.

The Senior Choir rehearsals start on Thursday, September 10.

The Chapel Stitchers will meet in the Chapel on Sunday, September 13 at 11:30am.

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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My God Is an Awesome God

Verse 1

When He rolls up His sleeves He ain't just putting on the ritz
(Our God is an awesome God)
There's thunder in His footsteps and lightning in His fists
(Our God is an awesome God)
And the Lord wasn't joking when He kicked 'em out of Eden
It wasn't for no reason that He shed His blood
His return is very close and so you better be believing
That our God is an awesome God

Chorus

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power and love
Our God is an awesome God
Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom, power and love
Our God is an awesome God

Verse 2

And when the sky was starless in the void of the night
(Our God is an awesome God)
He spoke into the darkness and created the light
(Our God is an awesome God)
Judgment and wrath He poured out on Sodom
Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross
I hope that we have not too quickly forgotten
That our God is an awesome God

Chorus

First Congregational Church
OF NEW MILFORD

A new year. A new adventure. God is with you every step.

Blessing of the Backpacks

SEPTEMBER 13TH

DURING OUR
Welcome Back
CELEBRATION
AFTER SERVICE



WHAT IS THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS?

The Blessing of the Backpacks is a meaningful tradition where we ask God's love, guidance, and protection to be with students, educators, and all who learn and lead.

- ♥ We invite children, youth, teachers, staff, and anyone carrying a backpack (or bag!) to bring it forward to be blessed for the school year ahead.

All are welcome! ♥



Bring your backpack
(or briefcase, tote, or bag!)
and join us as we step into
a new season together—
*rooted in faith,
ready for the journey.*



ALL ARE WELCOME.
All are loved. ♥



First Congregational Church OF NEW MILFORD

Welcome
BACK
SUNDAY!

September 13th

Following Service



Hot Dog Bar
&
Grilled Cheese



Please bring a dessert or side to share!



ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS!



We can't wait to see you!