

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



**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026**

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

God of Our Fathers arr.by Barbara B. Kinyon

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Before the mountains were born,

People: God was present and dreaming of us.

Leader: Before the law was given,

People: God’s love was present and blessing us.

Leader: Before we knew God’s love,

People: God’s love knew us.

Leader: And now God invites us to live in this love

People: and to share it abundantly with 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*

#65 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, vs. 1, 2, 4

INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

God of ages past and days to come, help us embrace both your ancient wisdom and your ongoing guidance. Help us hear anew your words from years gone by. Open our hearts and minds to fully embrace what it means to love you, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbors as you have loved us. In love and gratitude, we pray the words Jesus taught us...

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

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Call to Offering

Offertory

It is Well with My Soul/arr. Tom Fetke

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*

Gracious God, bless the offerings of ourselves and our gifts. May they be offerings of love, for you and for your people. In loving gratitude, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN*

#713 God of Our Life

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:34-40

Choral Response

SERMON

The Legacy of Love

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Choral Response

HYMN*

#86 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

Morning Has Broken/arr. Marilyn Ham

**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

Ruth Gaumond - Deacon on Duty

Shelby Behrens – Acolyte

Susan Sennello - Scripture Reader

Tom Tucker, Cary Westfall, Mike Curley with older youth group - Ushers

To everyone who chose our hymns today.

LOOKING AHEAD

November 1: **Remembrance Sunday**

November 4: **Lunch and Learn:** New Milford Community Ambulance Corp

November 8: **Stewardship Sunday**

November 15: **Congregational Meeting** – Following Worship

November 20: **TDOR 7 pm**

November 21: **Men's Breakfast**

November 28: **Craft Fair 9 am – 5 pm**

Living Nativity following the tree lighting ceremony

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.

Frozen, ready to bake, apple pies are available for purchase. Please see anyone in the kitchen during coffee hour. Pies are \$20 each.

Women of the Bible Study group meet in Room 3 of the Parish House Mondays at 1:00 PM.

Book of Remembrance Sunday is November 1st. The list of donors and people to be memorialized is posted on the bulletin board outside the Chapel. Please check the list for omissions, spellings, etc. and make the appropriate changes.

Baby Bundles is looking for warm clothing donations, sizes 2T to 6X, to replenish their shelves for the colder months. (sweaters, long sleeves, pants, pajamas, etc.) Donations can be dropped off inside the office during business hours or outside of the Sanctuary on Sundays through the end of October.

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.

Imagine
Together



Your continued support for the church is appreciated.

The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus’ question to the disciples in Mark 8 is not only a test of theological accuracy; it is a summons to unveil the true allegiance of the heart. Our answers inevitably shape what—and whom—we treasure, because naming Christ as Messiah re-orders all other loyalties. Matthew 6:21 tells us, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Stewardship, then, is not merely about budgets and benevolence reports; it is locating the gravity that pulls our hearts, the gravitational center around which money, time, energy, and hope orbit.

In a culture that equates generosity with publicity—naming rights on buildings, donor walls, social-media hashtags—Jesus’ own pattern is startling. He embraces his identity as Messiah yet commands silence. He reveals divine love not through acclaim but through costly self-giving. Here we glimpse a different economy: an invitation to invest our hearts where applause cannot reach and where the return is measured in transformed lives rather than public praise.

To practice hidden generosity is to trust that God’s gaze—not the crowd’s—is what matters. It liberates both giver and gift from the tyranny of recognition and keeps our motives free from the corrosion of vanity. Such hidden stewardship is not small-minded privacy; it is a spacious discipline that keeps the heart’s treasure unentangled from ego’s craving for affirmation.

Unseen faithfulness as a profound act of discipleship—an investment of the heart that outlasts any plaque or ledger. If you looked at your own budget, calendar, and attention, what would it reveal about your heart’s priorities?

CONSIDER YOUR GIVING AS A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even **1% more of our annual income** would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in God’s world. **Thank you for prayerfully considering your commitment!**