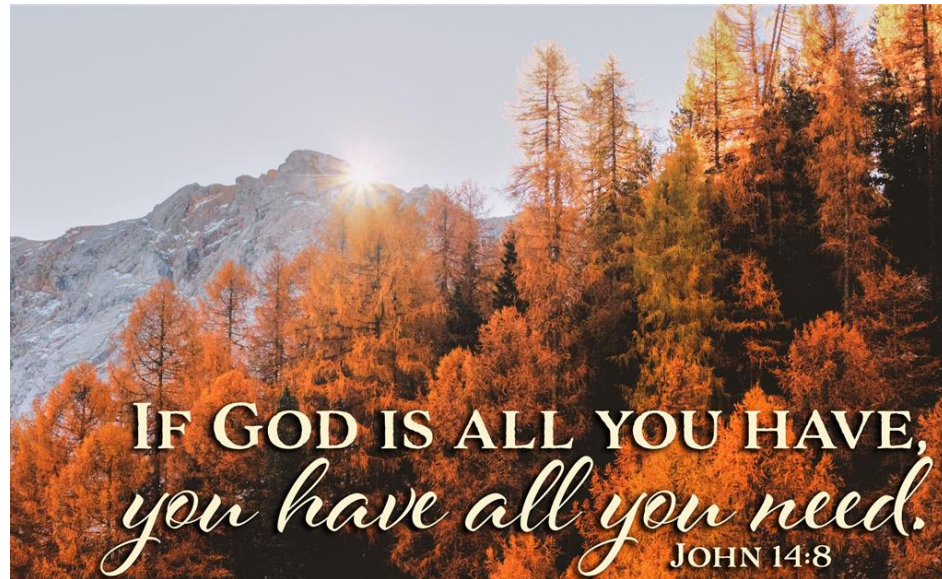


“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here”



**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 4, 2026**

## **WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY**

## **LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

**PRELUDE** Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty/arr. Lloyd Larson

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

**People:** We too proclaim what God has done in our lives.

**Leader:** Come, the banquet of hope and joy is ready.

**People:** We come on your invitation, seeking to be fed.

**Leader:** Here we find nourishment and hope.

**People:** May we learn lessons of courage and peace.

**Leader:** Voices of praise shout to the ends of the earth.

**People:** May we join the chorus, as we sing of God’s great and abiding love.

## **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

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER**

**God of grace, you invite us to live in harmony with one another. But too often we have forgotten your ways. Forgive us for acting in ways which allow jealousy and deceit to flourish. Help us to live in ways that foster health and wholeness for all. May we live lives that proclaim your love and grace to the world. 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**

2 Corinthians 5:16 - 20

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

Call to Offering

Offertory

Hymn of Grateful Praise/arr. Joel Raney

## **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, creator of all, we give you thanks for all you have entrusted to us. We now bring you these gifts and ask that you use them to help your children around the world. As we bring our gifts, we also offer our lives, praying that you will use us to bear good fruit for all people. Amen.**

## **CELEBRATING OUR PASTOR EMERITUS**

**(see insert)**

## **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

### **Invitation**

**Leader:** This is the table of unity and love.

**People:** This is the table of mercy and grace.

**Leader:** All are welcome; be of one mind and one heart.

**People:** We come with joy, with the mind of love.

**Leader:** Come, all things are ready.

**People:** And all are welcome here.

### **Great Thanksgiving**

### **Sanctus**

**(Sung)**

### **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, this special communion reminds us of being members of a global community. We have feasted at your table. As you have nourished us, may we go into your world to bring a feast of peace and hope to others, listening with loving ears and acting with loving hearts, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## HYMN\*

#595 Be Thou My Vision

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

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:8–12, 15-17

Choral Response

## SERMON

Put me In, Coach

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Choral Response

## HYMN\*

#526 The Gift of Love

## BENEDICTION\* - spoken and sung

## POSTLUDE

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling/arr. Joel Raney

*\*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

### **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

[www.nmchurch.org](http://www.nmchurch.org) | [church@nmchurch.org](mailto:church@nmchurch.org)

Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi | [revmarieb@nmchurch.org](mailto:revmarieb@nmchurch.org) | 732-874-0528

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**Imagine**  
Together



Your continued support for the church is appreciated.

**SERVICE OF RECOGNITION FOR**  
**Rev. Michael Moran as Pastor Emeritus**  
of First Congregational Church of New Milford,  
United Church of Christ

**INTRODUCTION**

Dan Martin, Chair of Church Council

Rev. Michael Moran, First Congregational Church of New Milford, United Church of Christ would like to honor you today for the many years of service here. You have been a distinguished leader and a faithful shepherd; our congregation has grown in our faith in Jesus Christ because of your ministry. The life of our Church is richer and fuller because we have had you living and working among us.

On February 23, 2026, the Church Council voted unanimously, and the congregation on May 3, 2026, agreed, to honor you with the title of Pastor Emeritus.

(Resolution is read.)

**PRESENTATION AND THE ACCEPTANCE**

Would you please come forward?

Rev. Michael Moran, do you now accept this recognition to which you have been elected by First Congregational Church of New Milford, United Church of Christ and will you now receive the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus?

**THE RESPONSE BY THE PASTOR**

I do, with utmost gratitude and with the grace of God.

## **THE RESPONSE OF THE CONGREGATION**

Debbie Poole, Head Deacon

**We, the members and friends of First Congregational Church, rejoice in your acceptance of the title, Pastor Emeritus. We hold in high regard this special honor you have received. We pledge to you our continuing love, our constant care, and our sustaining prayers through all of the days before us.**

## **THE MEANING OF THIS RECOGNITION**

The conferring of this honor on you is a way of recognizing your distinguished service and also saying, We love you! You are indeed our beloved former pastor. The recognition carries with it no professional responsibilities, and nothing is to be required of you or expected of you by virtue of this honor. Rather, it is a visible and symbolic way of declaring to you, to the community, and the wider church this church's esteem and honor.

## **PRAYER**

Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi

Almighty God, you have brought us to this holy moment of thanksgiving and praise. We give you heartfelt thanks for the long and fruitful ministry of your servant, Rev. Michael Moran. For the lessons we have learned from his faithful teaching, for the caring and sharing, and for the living and loving by which he has enriched so many lives over the years, we are most grateful. Continue to bless both him and Eileen as they continue in their retirement. Amen.



## THANK YOU

**Ruth Gaumond** - Deacon on Duty  
**Deacons** – Ushers

**Evelyn Johnson** - Acolyte  
**Joan Vill** - Scripture Reader

## LOOKING AHEAD

November 1: **Remembrance Sunday**  
November 8: **Stewardship Sunday**  
November 15: **Congregational Meeting**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***All Are Welcome Here:*** For your comfort, listening devices are available by the front doors of the church. Large print bulletins are available at both entrances. 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 a reception in honor of Rev. Moran.

**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 the Chapel Mondays at 1:00 PM.

**Lunch and Learn** is this Wednesday, October 7 at 12:30 in the Taylor Room. We will welcome the Farmland Preservation group to speak about the Barn Quilt Tour.

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

**A New Member class** will be held on Sunday, October 18 following worship. Please speak with Rev. Marie for more information.

**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.

**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.

We will be hosting the **homeless shelter** during the month of October.

A **friendly reminder** that groups or individuals wanting to use a room in the church or parish house should contact Carole in the office at: [czeigler@nmchurch.org](mailto:czeigler@nmchurch.org) about availability before planning on using the space.



 **CANDY** and small Halloween items **NEEDED!**

Please help support our trunk for the New Milford Trunk or Treat!

**Collecting items through 10/25.**

You can leave items outside the sanctuary or drop them off at the office during office hours.

Thank you for helping make it a spooktacular event! ♥

FAITH • COMMUNITY • A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

# Who was this patriot who lived in New Milford for 18 years?

*Thomas Jefferson* said  
“...a man who never said a foolish thing in his life.”

*John Adams* called him  
“One of the most sensible men in the world.”

**He was the only person to sign all four of the most important documents in American history:**

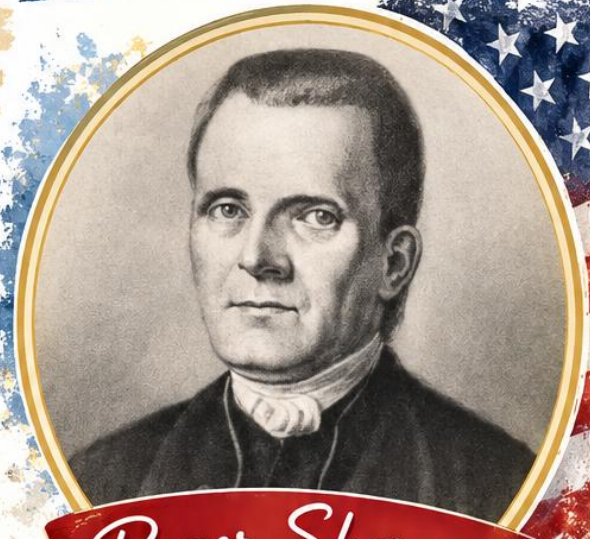
- ★ The Continental Association
- ★ The Declaration of Independence
- ★ Articles of Confederation
- ★ The United States Constitution

He held almost every important position in the lay leadership of the First Congregational Church of New Milford — Deacon, Clerk, and Treasurer of the Building Committee for the new meetinghouse in 1754.

*His contributions were incredibly valuable to the young nation. His personal life was just as fascinating!*

**Come hear his remarkable story!**

Join our storyteller, John Cilio, as he dives into the life of this true American hero — a man dedicated to serving his country and improving the lives of his fellow citizens!



*Roger Sherman*

NEW MILFORD'S  
VERY OWN!



Date:  
**October 4th**



Time:  
**3:30 – 4:30**



Location:  
**First Congregational  
Church of New Milford  
36 Main Street,  
New Milford CT 06776**

*We should all know more about this amazing man!*

**BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS!**

Finish the year of America's 250th Anniversary with some fascinating insight!

HISTORY ★ COMMUNITY ★ INSPIRATION

