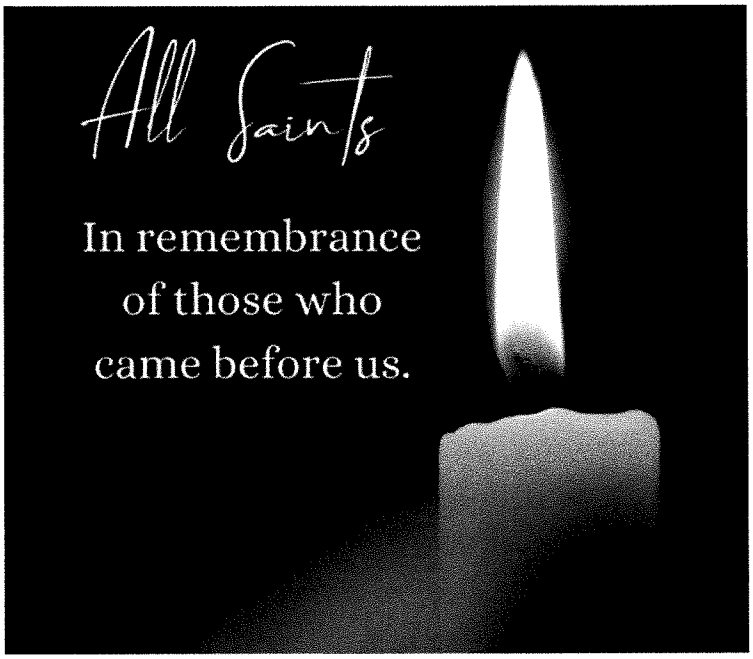
"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"



Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 1, 2026

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE Christus, der ist mein Leben/Johann Gottfried Walther

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Bless the Lord at all times.
People: Praise God's holy name.
Leader: Magnify the Lord with hearts full of devotion.
People: Sing of God's glory with tongues full of song.
Leader: Seek the Lord of love.
People: We will worship the living God.

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* #637 For All the Saints

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

We yearn to be counted among the saints of old, but the journey is long and difficult. We long to love others as we should, even when they ignore or tolerate us. We seek to forgive those who wrong us, even when it means swallowing our pride. We strive for the openness of spirit to pray for those who persecute us, even when we want to hold onto our wounds. Guide us on this journey of discipleship, that we may grow as your children and live as saints of your love, 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

Choral Response

SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 7:9-17

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory How Lovely Are the Messengers/Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

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

Jesus Christ, we remember you here, as we remember all your saints. Help us to remember you not just in this sanctuary, but in our homes and schools, our cars and offices, to remember that every part of our life is filled with your grace, and that we are never alone but surrounded by a cloud of witnesses united by your love. Amen.

CHERUB CHOIR There's a Little Wheel a'Turning. Trad. Spiritual

HYMN* I Sing a Song of the Saints of God **(see insert)**

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

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:1-12
Choral Response

SERMON A Blessing for All

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Choral Response

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE **(see insert)**

HYMN* #635 Faith of Our Fathers

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee/arr. Joel Raney

All are invited to stand in body or spirit

Today's liturgy has been adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual. The Communion liturgy is adapted from Deep Well Worship.

THANK YOU

Corey Johnson - Deacon on Duty
Sophie Ryan - Acolyte
Deacons - Ushers
Hannah Albright- Scripture Reader
To everyone who chose our hymns today.

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.

A heartfelt thank you **to our congregation** for your generous candy donations for Trunk or Treat! It was a wonderful evening filled with fun, smiles, and community spirit. Your generosity helped us spread joy and show our community how much our church cares! Love, Katie Johnson and Family, and the CE Team!

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.	

481 I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Lesbia Scott, 1898- , alt.

GRAND ISLE *Irregular*
John H. Hopkins, 1861-1945

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

One: Into the peace of God we commend our loved ones who have departed this life. Grateful for their lives and confident of their eternal rest in God, let us pause in silence to remember the fullness of their devotion.

Reading of the Names **(See Insert)**

One: In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

All: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of the winter, we remember them.

One: In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

All: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of the summer, we remember them.

One: In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

All: In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

One: When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

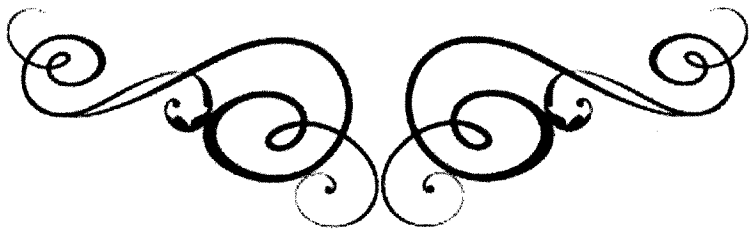
All: When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

One: When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

All: So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

One: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

All: Looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfector of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE **November 2026**

In Memory Of:	**Given By:**
Rick Carlson	Barbara McGiver
Clifford C. Chapin	Sally Rinehart
Rosemary & Carl DallaRiva	Barbara McGiver
Ray & Mimi Detwiler	Ross & Sharon Detwiler
Larry Edwards	Ross & Sharon Detwiler
Josephine Fowler	James & Judy York
Richard Fowler	James & Judy York
Stephen Fowler	James & Judy York
Friends that did not come home from the war	Ross & Sharon Detwiler
Robert & Eldora Holdsworth	Ruth & Charles Gaumond
Barbara Holsten	Susan & Gary Murphy
John & Patricia Horrigan	Alice Horrigan
Kermit Jackson	Bill Jackson
Priscilla Jackson	Bill Jackson
LouEllen MacDonald Kelso	Elaine Kelso Donahue
Charlie Kirk	Barbara McGiver
Agnes & Sam Knowles	Barbara McGiver
Ethel Kranepool	Barbara McGiver
Bonnie Laurence	Peggy King
Loved Ones	Janet & John Wittmann
Irene Lukacs	George & Laraine Selivonchik

Jerry McGiver	Barbara McGiver
Emma McKittrick	Barbara McGiver
Our church family and friends that have passed	Ross & Sharon Detwiler
John E. Strain	Barbara McGiver
John H. Strain	Barbara McGiver
Lillian Strain	Barbara McGiver
Guadalupe Taldo	Cristina Jackson
Evelyn York	James & Judy York
Fran York	James & Judy York
Gerald York	James & Judy York

In Honor Of:	**Given By:**
Rev. Michael J. Moran, Pastor Emeritus	Ellen & Christopher Smith

A.RUSSELL AYRE SCHOLARSHIP **November 2026**

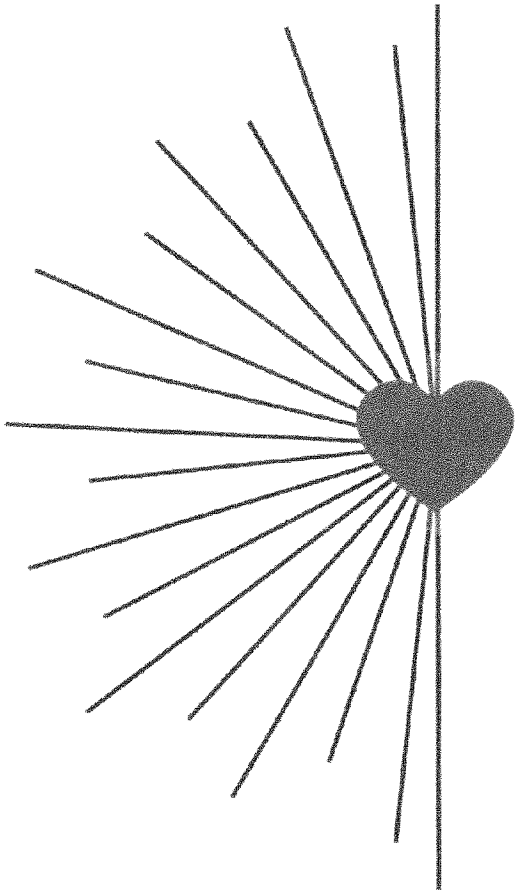
In Memory Of:	**Given By:**
Linda Tucker	Tom Tucker
Toky VanAsch VanWyck	Maurits & Martin VanAsch VanWyck
The Wells Family	Fred & Marion Warman

Calendar

Weekly
Sundays - Worship 10:00 AM
Coffee Hour 11:00 AM
Mondays - Woman of the Bible Study Group 1:00 PM in Room 3 in the Parish House
November
Nov. 4 - Lunch & Learn - New Milford Community Ambulance
Nov. 8 - Stewardship Sunday Chapel Stitchers
Nov. 15 - Congregational Meeting - Following Worship
Nov. 20 - TDOR 7:00 PM
Nov. 21 - Men's Breakfast
Nov. 28 - Holiday Craft Fair Living Nativity - Following Tree Lighting Ceremony
December
Dec. 2 - Lunch & Learn
Dec. 5- Bags & Crafts 2:00 PM
Dec. 6 - Advent Brunch
Dec. 13 - Chapel Stitchers 11:30 AM Christmas Concert 4:00 PM
Dec. 19 - Men's Breakfast
Dec. 20 - Christmas Pageant
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve services 4:00 PM & 8:00 PM

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 | church@nmchurch.org
Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi | revmarieb@nmchurch.org | 732-874-0528

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
OF NEW MILFORD
Holiday
CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, November 28th
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
LOCAL CRAFTERS
Candles • Crocheted Items
Lotions • Wood Work
Jewelry • And More!
36 Main St
New Milford, CT 06776



THERE OUR HEARTS WILL BE

"Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."
– Matthew 6:21

In Matthew 6, Jesus calls us to a way of living that resists the temptation of "showy religion." He cautions against practicing faith merely to be seen, warning that such attention-seeking empties the act of its power. Instead, he points us toward the "secret place," the quiet intimacy where trust in God shapes our hearts and where generosity takes root.

This invitation is not a rejection of religious practice but a re-orientation of it. Jesus expects his followers to give, pray, and fast: not if, but when. These are regular, disciplined acts of faith. What matters is the intent: whether these practices reflect genuine trust in God or simply seek human approval.

Like the Puerto Rican yagrumo leaf that turns toward the heavens before the rain, our generosity turns us toward the Source of all life. The tree's silver side catches the light, not to boast of its brilliance, but to signal expectancy: a quiet trust that nourishment is coming.

In the same way, **our hidden acts of generosity and prayer reflect God's light, not our own.**

Jesus' words also challenge our understanding of value and reward. We often want recognition, but Jesus urges us to trust God with the timing of the reveal — or whether it is revealed at all. In God's economy, the real reward of generosity is transformation, not applause. "Where your treasure is," Jesus says, "there your heart will be also."

Our giving, praying, and fasting are ways of training our hearts to desire what God desires. Generosity, then, becomes both inward and outward, rooted in the secret life with God, yet shining in compassion and justice. It is the overflow of love, not the performance of piety.

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!**