



**First Church of Christ in Mansfield
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250
860.423.9008 + www.myfcc.info

Ministers: All the Members of the Church
The Rev. Charles Ericson, Bridge Minister
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**November 10, 2024 ~ The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday**

Welcome to Our Guests!

*We're delighted you have joined us for worship; the members are the ministers of this church...
if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us!*

Playing the Chimes and Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Centering in the Spirit

For some of us, the future of our country has been heavily on our minds this week.

For some of us, the selfless service of veterans occupies our thoughts today.

For some of us, pressing personal matters are being held tenderly in our hearts.

For some of us, plans are being shaped for the approaching holidays.

For all of us, God's Spirit of Love and Peace is moving among us, drawing us together.

May God's warm embrace unite us as the hour of worship now unfolds.

***Opening Hymn**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

CH85

Prayer for Transformation (*inspired by Psalm 127*)

Loving God, the Psalmist writes that "unless you build the house, those who build it labor in vain." Likewise, we have learned that unless we allow you to guide our steps, we risk stumbling and becoming lost; and unless we invite you to inspire our speech, our words can be hurtful and self-serving; and unless our souls are filled with your peace, our lives can feel unsettled and empty. In these next few moments of silent reflection and confession, may our steps be steadied, our words soften, and our souls swell up with your peace, as we share with you our yearnings to be transformed. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Happy are we when we approach our God in truth and humility, unburdening our hearts of the regrets and anxieties we have been carrying around. For God is gracious and merciful, forever ready to receive us, forgive us, redeem us and offer us new life. And when God blesses us in this way, we are freed to walk...speak...and live confidently and joyfully. Amen.

A Moment for Stewardship

*Song of Praise

Glory to God

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has
end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out
4 par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it was in the be-ginning, is
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.
8 now and ev - er shall be, A - men World with-out men!

Epistle

Hebrews 9:24-28

²⁴For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Gospel

Mark 12:38-44

³⁸As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Reflection

"Eagerly Waiting"

Hymn

Sweet Hour of Prayer

CH570

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.

Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is comfortable for you. The following are offered as examples...

**Our Father/Mother/Creator,
 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 debts/sins/trespases,
 as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity

*Your financial offerings may be placed in the collection plates as they come around,
 or mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC, PO Box 36, Mansfield Center, CT 06250,
 or given online at: www.myfcc.info*

Musical Offering

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be low; Praise

God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

*Prayer of Dedication

God of generosity and giver of gifts, receive our offerings as a reflection of our gratitude and trust in your sovereignty. Like the widow who gave all she had, may our gifts come from a deep well of devotion and faithfulness. May we witness the miracle of your provision through our generosity and for your glory. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Open My Eyes, That I May See

CH586

*Benediction

Now may God bless you and keep you;

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
May God's countenance be lifted up upon you and give you peace. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

Postlude

The Week Ahead:

Monday, November 11	7 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal
Wednesday, November 13	1 p.m. Book Group
Thursday, November 14	6 p.m. Governing Board (via Zoom) 7 p.m. Choir
Friday, November 15	6 p.m. Lasagna Dinner & Silent Auction

YOU MAY DROP OFF YOUR AUCTION ITEMS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL:

- Sunday until noon.
 - Wednesday afternoon (during Book Group meeting time)
 - Thursday evening (during Choir rehearsal time)
 - Friday morning between 10 a.m. and noon.
-

WAIM's 32nd Walk for Warmth will be held November 24, 2024.

The church service/registration will be held at First Congregational Church at 199 Valley Street in Willimantic and will start at 12:15 p.m. with the actual walk beginning at 2:15 p.m.

Please join First Church's team for a 2-mile walk. You can sponsor our team by donating online at <https://www.runreg.com/456788> or by seeing Sharon or Ava. Your donation will help keep our neighbors warmer.