



## WEEKLY EMAIL

**First Congregational Church of Hanover, Massachusetts**

**From Pastor Terry**

johnterry@fcchanover.org

**August 23, 2020**

## WORSHIP INFORMATION

### **Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 138)

I will give the Lord thanks with my whole heart. Before all the gods of this world I will sing God's praise. I will bow down toward God's holy temple and give thanks to his name for his steadfast love and faithfulness.

When I call upon the Lord, he answers me. He answers my call and strengthens my soul. Though I walk in the midst of trouble God preserves me against the anger of my enemies. God stretches out his hand and delivers me. His purpose for me he will fulfill; his steadfast love endures forever. Let all of God's people call upon his name and rejoice and be glad in him.

### **Invocation:**

Almighty God, you have taught us that all our deeds without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the very bond of peace and of all goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup> And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup> He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

### **Hymn:** *Jesus Shall Reign, Where'er The Sun*

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run,  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

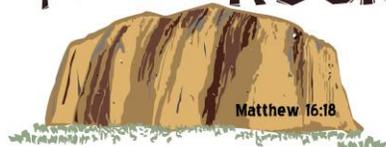
*For him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head.  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.*

*People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.*

*Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoner leaps to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest, and all the sons of want are blest.*

*Let every creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our King,  
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.*

## Upon This **ROCK**



## **I Will Build My Church**

**Sermon:** *The Church Militant*

**Hymn:** *Rock of Ages*

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood, from Thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure.*

*Not the labor of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.*

*Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.*

*While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyes shall close in death,  
When I rise to worlds unknown, and behold Thee on Thy throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.*

### **Announcements**

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE** continues this Sunday, August 24. Safety protocols will be practiced, such as wearing face masks. And bring your own chair. Enjoy the informal atmosphere of the pine grove. So far we have had good weather every Sunday since we began worship outdoors.

We will continue to record worship each week and that will be available on our website.

**THRIFT SHOP YARD SALE & CLOTHING DRIVE, SATURDAY AUGUST 22:** A yard sale and clothing drive is planned for Saturday, August 22 from 9:00 to 2:00. The clothing will be

given away for free. Bring your drop-offs to Riley Hall on the three days prior, August 19 & 20 from 10:00 to 2:00, and Friday, August 21 from 12:00-4:00. Measures will be taken to ensure that all guidelines are followed so shoppers and yard sale personnel may be safe from spreading or catching the Covid virus. Hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, and social distancing will be required. The parking lot will be mapped in such a way to maintain the social distancing between customers.

**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE ENDS AUGUST 23:** The Social Matters Committee would encourage you to support the fundraising program of School on Wheels (SOWMA). 24,000 children that will start school this Fall are homeless. Regardless of where students will study this fall - school or home - they will need supplies. Choose from a variety of donations at [sowma.bluschoolsupplies.com](http://sowma.bluschoolsupplies.com). After you Add to Cart, please Add a Note before you hit Check Out that the donation is from the UCC Hanover. If you are interested in stuffing backpacks for the kids at the SOWMA office, contact Ken Cheo at [kcheo@oursalescoach.com](mailto:kcheo@oursalescoach.com) or 508-735-5399.

**THE SEPTEMBER CABINET MEETING** will be held by Zoom on Thursday, September 10, 7-9 pm.

**VIEW THE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL** on-line at:  
<http://www.upperroom.org/standingorderchurches>.

### Church Calendar

**SUNDAY:** The virtual coffee hour is at 11:30.

**MONDAY BIBLE STUDY** via ZOOM will not meet August 24, but will resume on August 31.

**WEDNESDAY:** Search Committee will NOT meet this week.

**WEDNESDAY HOUR OF FELLOWSHIP AT 2 PM** Join  
<https://zoom.us/j/5848654652?pwd=WHIDSnlhWkIwc2FGS0c3VWgwNmMzZz09;>  
**Meeting ID:** 584 865 4652; **Password:** 531416

**EVERYDAY** – if you miss seeing someone from church give them a call!

### CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

*Please email your celebrations and concerns to John Terry or to the church office.*



*Wayne and Cindy Shaw enjoy new fire pit with grandchildren Max, Josh and Eloise*

Please pray for:

- Mary Bare, sister-in-law of Rev. John Terry, at Cape Cod Hospital
- Barbara Winsloe, mother of Deborah Springhetti, in failing health
- Peter Gluckler, brother-in-law of Carolyn Frattalone, who passed away suddenly Aug 2.
- Desmon Silva, RN, nursing colleague of Jessie Berry
- Jaycee Hall, Ruth Hall's daughter-in-law, with remitting auto immune disease
- 6 month old Lucca who has an inoperable tumor
- For John Demoura, grandnephew of Don and Lynn White, in Good Samaritan Brockton NICU

### **ATTACHMENT OF THE WEEK**

*Two weeks ago, I included words from Rev. Don Remick who coordinates disaster relief from the Conference. Last week it was a message from the Pension Board of the United Church of Christ about their socially responsible investing. This week it is again from Don about the Conference decision to keep the Conference offices closed this rest of this calendar year. Susan and Don have mostly been working remotely and will continue to do so for the time being.*

We continue to monitor the current uptick in COVID-19 cases and deaths both in our region and around the country and globe. And we have been consulting with our colleagues across the country and our interfaith partners within our region. We continue to see the risk of people gathering indoors over an extended period of time. As a result, we have decided that the offices of the Southern New England Conference will remain closed until at least January 1, 2021.

Our staff have done extraordinarily well at adapting to remote work. And we are continuing to learn, innovate and adapt all along the way. We are also monitoring the condition of our offices to keep them safe and to prepare them for the eventual time when we can open again.

Along with the decision regarding our offices, we have directed all of our staff to continue to work remotely and refrain from any in-person gatherings that could put them and their loved ones at risk. Most of our Conference programming for the fall has already been shifted to an online platform.

While there is some sadness and frustration in not having in-person connections, we are learning a lot and discovering new creativity in this pandemic world. Much of that creativity comes from listening to the insights that we are all gaining and sharing. For that we are grateful.

Your staff continues to listen to the needs and grief and excitement and innovation, and questions and discoveries from all of you. Even in this extended time of exhaustion the Spirit of God is moving within and among you: perhaps because of this extended time.

Thank you

Your Bridge Conference Minister, Rev. Don Remick