

WEEKLY GOOD NEWS EMAIL
First Congregational Church of Hanover, Massachusetts
And Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ



From Pastor Terry
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September 13, 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 103)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Invocation:

God of mercy: Help us to forgive, as you have forgiven us. Help us to trust you, even when hope is failing. Help us to take up our cross daily and follow you in your redeeming work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' 22 Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.' 23 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." 29 Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" 34 And in anger his lord

handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Hymn: *I Love to Tell the Story*

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

*I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
of Jesus and His love.*

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden fancies of all my golden dreams.

I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.



Sermon: *Payback*

Hymn: *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Lots of Good News

THIS SUNDAY we begin intergenerational worshipping in Riley Hall. Parents and children should sit together. Children will be dismissed during the sermon hymn for an activity.

This is **RALLY SUNDAY**, the opening of church activities for the fall. There will be registration, stories, and a craft (and socially distanced of course)!

HELP WITH FACEBOOK LIVE: We have returned to our custom of recording the Sunday service and putting a link to that on the church website. We would also like to do Facebook Live. This will be a real-time recording with some opportunity for a live interchange. We are looking for volunteers to help. Please let Don White or me know if you are interested in helping.

SEPTEMBER FOOD DRIVE: During the month of September, the Social Matters Committee will be collecting food for the Hanover Food Pantry. Here is why:

Pre Covid 19, it was estimated that one in eleven or 9% of residents Massachusetts households faced hunger. Earlier this summer it was estimated that up to 18% of households in the state are now food insecure with 1 in 5 of households with children not getting enough to eat. People of color are disproportionately impacted.

The Hanover Food Pantry is open to any Hanover resident as well as any member of a Hanover church congregation. At this time the Pantry is preparing for children returning to school. A few suggested donations items include: Cereal bars, pudding cups, Jell-O cups, fruit cups, juice boxes, cookies/cracker/chip/pretzel snack packs, and cereal.

Donations bins are available throughout September at our Sunday worship services, as well as, during the week on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10-2 at Riley Hall. Thank you for your support. We are all in this together.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE will be held **September 26 online**. Visit the Annual Meeting page at sneucc.org/2020AM for details, delegate materials and online registration.

THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE CHURCH PROFILE MEETINGS: The last, and perhaps most important, question we need to answer for the church profile is: “**Who is God calling us to become?**” Plan now to attend an in-person meeting immediately after church services tentatively scheduled on September 27 and October 4. In addition, there will be on-line Zoom meeting participation at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 6, and Thursday, October 8.

READ 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 AT 7 PM Join in at

<https://zoom.us/j/93375349480pwd=OWlkcjRmV2llaEt0M202RUhKRTA4UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 7534 9480; **Password:** 006430

WEDNESDAY: Search Committee.

WEDNESDAY HOUR OF FELLOWSHIP AT 2 PM Join in at

<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.

Please pray for:

- Jessica Sperdelozzi, sister-in-law of Nicole Conti, on the recent passing of her father, Robert Dragone, on August 29
- Bill O'Donnell, Susan Vetterlein's brother-in-law, with metastatic prostate cancer
- Barbara Winsloe, mother of Deborah Springhetti, in failing health
- Desmon Silva, RN, nursing colleague of Jessie Berry, now at rehab facility
- Jaycee Hall, Ruth Hall's daughter-in-law, with remitting auto immune disease

Thank you: Dear Revered Terry, My husband Peter Gluckler and I both grew up on our "little" town of Hanover. My husband's burial took place at the Hanover Center Cemetery on August 15. Karen Tripp was able to make restrooms available to our family who attended the services, many of whom were elderly and traveled a long way to attend. Many thanks, ~Rosemary Gluckler

ONE REASON THIS CHURCH GIVES TO HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Growing up in Guatemala, Rosalinda admired the jewel-toned fibers her mother and grandmother created with cochineal dye and other organic coloring. When Rosalinda joined Heifer, she received training and became an expert in cochineal production. Then, she organized local women and sought training for them.

Heifer helped Rosalinda and her group create a marketing plan and branded labels to give their products added presence in the marketplace, develop new designs and patterns, tap into the growing tourist market, and negotiate fair and competitive prices to ensure a good income.

Because of Heifer supporters like you, women like Rosalinda gain confidence and skills, save core heritage values, and build thriving business enterprises — so they can hire others and help more families grow in self-esteem and leadership.



This is Rosalinda at the shop displaying fabric arts

Attachment of the week

We continue to get lists of things canceled: concerts, school openings, movie premieres, indoor dining, etc., etc., etc. This is a list of things not canceled.

Sunrises - not canceled.

Reading - not canceled.

Family - not canceled.

Love - not canceled.

Music - not canceled.

Singing - not canceled.

Laughing - not canceled.

Hope - not canceled.

Sunsets - not canceled.