

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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October 11, 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 106)

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise? Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them; that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage.

Invocation:

Merciful God, in Jesus Christ you do not call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Draw us away from the easy road that leads to destruction, and guide us into paths that lead to life abundant, that in seeking your truth, and obeying your will, we may know the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14

22Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.’

Hymn: *The Church’s One Foundation*

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;

she is his new creation by water and the Word: from heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth; one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore; till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.



Sermon: *Showing Up*

Hymn: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

The Lord's Prayer from the Anglican Church in New Zealand.

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and all that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by people of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hopes and come on earth. With bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. May it be so. Amen.

LOTS OF GOOD NEWS

THE OUTREACH AND SERVICE COMMITTEE met this past Sunday and discussed our outreach to the wider community during this time of COVID. The Committee voted to give to the following:

\$1000 to the medical relief fund of the Southern New England United Church of Christ

\$500 each to Mainspring, the Carolina Hill Shelter and to Magic Moon

\$500 to the Hanover Food Pantry

\$200 each to the Rockland Food Pantry, the Pembroke Food Pantry, the Marshfield Food Pantry, the Hanson Food Pantry, and the Whitman Food Pantry

MAINSRING HOUSE: On the first Saturday of the month we have been bringing the makings of a meal to feed 150 at Father Bill's & MainSpring homeless shelter. We need volunteers to buy the preparations for a meal for November and December. Please contact Karen Tripp at trippklt@aol.com to make arrangements.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CLEAN UP BUCKETS: Each year our Youth Fellowship partners with Outreach & Service to support the work of Church World Services by making Cleanup buckets that are sent to areas both in the United States and abroad to help those impacted by natural disaster. The Cleanup buckets are filled with cleaning supplies, gloves, masks, bug spray, heavy duty trash bags and other much needed items.

This year because of Covid restrictions we were not able to gather to assemble the buckets, nor was the local drop off depot accepting them. Instead, this September O&S took part in the CWS "3-in-1 Cleanup Bucket" challenge. There is usually a \$75 per bucket donation required, but during this challenge the cost was \$25 per bucket. The cost of these items adds up quickly. In past years even with donations of goods from Lowes and frugal shopping, the cost for us to assemble each bucket usually averaged \$50 plus the small shipping cost for each bucket.

This year's \$500 donation to Church World Services will be used to assemble 20 buckets full of cleaning supplies. With heightened need and our cash donation going further, this was a great opportunity to continue our support of CWS Cleanup buckets until we can be together again!

THE SOCIAL MATTERS COMMITTEE would like to thank everyone who contributed to the food drive for the Hanover Food Pantry. During the month of September we were able to help stock their shelves, as well as make a generous monetary donation of \$400. This money will be utilized to purchase grocery store gift cards for local families in need. We were excited to do this as a tribute to our congregation member, Barbara Itz, who recently retired from the Hanover Food Pantry after decades of service.

This past week the Boston Globe stated that the number of people who are experiencing food insecurity has risen 53% since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic. The need will continue to be great in the coming months.

Thank you, FCC Hanover, for stepping up and helping our neighbors out.

SILVER STREET THRIFT SHOP reopens on Saturday, October 17. There will be items for sale both inside and outside. The Thrift Shop resumes its usual hours of 10-2 on Wednesday and Saturday.

ALTAR FLOWERS: You are invited to bring flowers or a plant to beautify the Sunday services at Riley Hall. Please call Cindy Shaw at 781-864-3632 to arrange a date.

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: We will observe the holiday on October 12 and meet again on October 19.

TUESDAY FINANCE COMMITTEE AT 7 PM: October 13 at 7PM via Zoom.

SEARCH COMMITTEE discussions on who God is calling us to be Tuesday and Thursday at 6-8 pm via ZOOM

WEDNESDAY HOUR OF FELLOWSHIP AT 2 PM Join in

at:<https://zoom.us/j/5848654652?pwd=WHIDSnlhWkIwc2FGS0c3VWgwNmMzZz09>; **Meeting ID:** 584 865 4652; **Password:** 531416

WEDNESDAY: Search Committee

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:

- The family of Thomas Cadorette, father of Jayce Hall, who passed October 7
- The family of Nancy Bezanson, who passed September 29
- Terry Milley with eye issues
- Lincoln Demoura, Lynn White's brother in law, in hospice/no more treatments
- Bill O'Donnell, Susan Vetterlein's brother-in-law, effects from chemo
- Barbara Winsloe, mother of Deborah Springhetti, in failing health
- Jayce Hall, Ruth Hall's daughter-in-law, with remitting auto immune disease

ATTACHMENT OF THE WEEK

As we enter a time less than a month from the presidential election, we continue to find our nation badly divided and in need of healing. On Sunday I read the words below from a ministry colleague of mine from the Cape. She put these words in her monthly newsletter: In Luke's gospel, Jesus quoted Isaiah, saying 'The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners...'

In his second inaugural address in 1865, President Abraham Lincoln ended his speech saying, 'With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.'

The days following the 2020 presidential election may become the most divisive period in modern U.S. history—no matter who wins. People on the losing side will have a wide range of emotions ranging from intense disappointment to grief, rage, and despair. The temptation will be to avoid, ostracize, or attack people on the winning side. People on the winning side will feel vindicated. The temptation will be to act triumphantly towards those on the other side. Both sides will worry about how people on the other side will treat them.

Let us, as Christian people who follow the healing Jesus, lead by example and prepare to model and witness Christian love and kindness as this important day arrives. Join us as we strive for peace by studying and perhaps signing this pledge: 'Regardless of how the election turns out, I will not hold hate, disdain, or ridicule for those who voted differently from me. Whether I am pleased or upset about the outcome, I will seek to understand the concerns and aspirations of those who voted differently and will look for opportunities to work with people with whom I disagree.'