



First Congregational Church of Hanover

United Church of Christ

We Strive to Be a Church that Welcomes All and Empowers All in
Christ to Share Their God Given Talents.



February 22, 2026 9:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

*Please stand, as you are able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We enter the wilderness, not alone, but with the One who has gone before us.

People: In the dry places, God's Spirit sustains us.

Leader: We face trials and temptations, yet God's Word is our strength.

People: In the testing, God's promises hold us fast.

Leader: Come, beloved, and worship the One who leads us through the desert into life.

People: We come to follow Christ, to trust in God, and to walk in the way of love with our neighbors

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Blue Hymnal #179

Morning Prayer

God of Grace, we awoke this morning as children of God with the ability to make choices. On this day we choose to bring our hearts into your holy space seeking peace, seeking a time away from the stresses of the world, seeking a moment to sink into the warmth of your love, seeking to thank you for your grace. This is the place where we come to worship the one who binds us all together in a spirit of love. Lord, we invite you into this space, that it may be made holy by your presence. May we be mindful that we do it in love and gratitude for your abundant grace. Amen.

Time for All Ages

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat

of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

***Gloria Patri**

Glorify 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.

Sermon

It's Tempting, But...

Rev. Spratley

***Sermon Hymn**

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days Blue Hymnal #180

Prayer cards will be collected during the singing of the hymn

Mission Moment

Church World Service

Adam Smedberg

Community Engagement Specialist

The Offertory

Invitation to Giving

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

A Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You Blue Hymnal #565

*Benediction

Postlude



Sunday's Servants

The flowers are given by Mary Dunn in memory of her Mom and Dad.

The Lay Reader is Kerstin Barrett.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Adrienne Rafferty.

The Deacon of the month is Al Alexander.

The steeple lighting for February is given by Mary Lou in memory of Mark Gifford.

Our Prayer List

Peace and justice to those living in Minnesota

Those on the 2300 mile Walk for Peace from Texas to DC

The family of Rick Mattes, who passed February 9

The family of Doris (Dot) Matthews, who passed February 9

The family of Virginia May, wife of Gary, who passed recently

Tom and Marlene, friends of Ginny Hunt, upon the passing of their son Michael

Ava Sigsby, recovering from procedure

Friends of Eric Stroshine who are waiting for the results of genetic pregnancy testing

Libby, granddaughter of Sue Jones, at Children's Boston for cancer

Bobby, friend of Glenda Larson, in cancer trial

Sue Conant, at home with the flu

Kevin, Deb Spratley's son-in-law, recovering from health emergency

Kathy Talbot, dealing with hernia

Carolyn Frattalone, at home

Kim, sister of Debbie Patt, with cancer

Bobby Fitzgerald, friend of Ruth Hall, undergoing cancer treatments

Barbara Itz, at BrightView in N. Andover

Lars Donabedian, friend of Ruth Hall, diagnosed with cancer

Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:

Lynn White, at the Pat Roche Hospice Home in Hingham

Kerri, Bill & Patti MacLennan's daughter, brain cancer

Donald, brother-in-law of MaryBeth Tarnauskas, with cancer

Rick, brother of Dennis Falcione

Irene & Wally Reed

Ericka Penney

Easter Is Coming!

Members of the Flower Committee will be in the Vestry during coffee hour on March 22 and 29 accepting orders for Easter lilies.

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 30.

The price is \$15 each.



March 8 Puppet Show

CE Committee has been planning our next **FREE Community Event!** Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals will be performing a fabulous puppet show for all ages on Sunday, March 8th. Get the word out now to your family and friends! Not only will they enjoy comical puppets, refreshments will be served after the show. We'll also show the kids how to make a few simple puppets. What a great way to have fun with your family and friends on a Sunday afternoon! Join us!



FREE

Free Family Event

PUPPET SHOW

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
RILEY HALL
17 SILVER ST
HANOVER MA

Featuring Lindsay & Her Puppet Pals

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 2:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS SERVED

FCC Hanover Cares about Kids!



Blanket the World in Love

We welcome Adam Smedberg, Community Engagement Specialist for Church World Service, who will give a presentation today, **Blanket Sunday**. Drop by the Outreach & Service table in the church vestry to purchase a blanket for just \$10 in support of the Church World Service Blanket ministry. Your \$10 goes a long way in providing much-needed comfort to families facing difficult circumstances. When they receive a CWS Blanket, they are reminded that they are seen, loved, and cared for.

MainSpring

Outreach & Service extends a big thank you to Moonlighters for providing the February meal to MainSpring in Brockton. Residents enjoyed our famous chicken & stuffing casserole with corn, green beans, and cranberry sauce, along with dozens of tasty desserts.

Volunteers are needed for **April, May, and June** - sign-up sheet is in the vestry beside the flower sign-up.

As a reminder, prepared meals, or all the fixings for a meal, can be dropped off on either Saturday or Sunday to MainSpring. They are very flexible with drop off times. O& S can provide financial assistance to anyone providing a meal. Feeding our most vulnerable population is a very rewarding experience! If you are interested in providing a meal or a portion of a meal, please contact Dayna at 617-827-3955 or dscribi23@yahoo.com



Let Your Light Shine for CE

Roses are red; violets are blue;
CE needs some help from you!

We all have gifts from God to share,
Will you help with Nursery/Toddler care?
Helpers at our Puppet Show are in our ask,
Have some fun while stepping up to this task!

Or if baking is fun and a breeze for you,
Will you make cookies, or brownies, too?
Our vestry sign-up sheets have open slots to sign

We greatly thank you for
letting your light shine !

~ See Janet in church or contact her via email at jcook-



A Quick Note Lenten Bible Study Postponed

I am not able to lead a Lenten Bible Study this year, but I look forward to offering something over the summer when schedules are less hectic.

~Mary Lou Gifford



We are grateful that you are with us this morning. We hope you find nurture in our worship and warmth in the fellowship of our congregation.

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please take a brochure from the pew racks and fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate, or hand it to a minister. Please take a moment to meet the ministers following the worship service.

Large print copies of the bulletins are available from the ushers.

We are a praying church. If you would like to lift joys or concerns during the time of prayer, please fill out a prayer card found in the pews. These will be collected during the second hymn, and read by the minister. You may also lift names aloud during the time of prayer.

Restrooms are located on the lower level of the church. There is an elevator behind the door at the front right of the church.

Join us! Following worship, you are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshment downstairs in the Vestry. (Just follow the crowd.)



**First Congregational
Church of Hanover**
United Church of Christ

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