



# 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.



**March 1, 2026 9:30 a.m.**

# *Communion and Second Sunday in Lent*

**\*Please stand, as you are able.**

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Call to Worship**

Leader: Beloved, the journey of grace takes us to still waters, the valley of the shadow of death, even to tables surrounded by our enemies.

**People: We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.**

Leader: The journey of grace points us toward the Light so that we may bear the fruit of the Light in all that we do.

**People: We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may bear the fruit of all that is good and right and true.**

Leader: The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God. We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us to go from this place to work together to do what is pleasing to God.

**People: Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace.**

**All: Come, let us worship God as we journey in grace together! Amen.**

## **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**\*Opening Hymn**                      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*                      Blue Hymnal #16

## **Prayer of Confession**

O Lord, you are our shepherd; and yet we want. We lie down when we could act. We stir the pot, when we could offer peace. We wander tempting paths, instead of following you. We seek courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you. We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them. We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance. We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, so that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.

## **Assurance of Grace**

Leader: Hear the good news: Through Jesus Christ, we are accepted, loved and forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **Anthem**

## **Scripture Readings**

### **Genesis 12:1-4a**

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless

those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

### **John 3:1-17**

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.<sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.”<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.<sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.<sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.<sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?”<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through 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**

**Nick at Night**

Rev. Johnston

### **\*Sermon Hymn**

***My Faith Looks Up to Thee***

Blue Hymnal #576

*Prayer cards will be collected during the singing of the hymn*

### **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

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music is in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics 'Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' are written below the treble clef staff of each system. The first system shows the beginning of the piece, and the second system shows the end, marked with a double bar line.

### 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.**

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

#### \*Communion Hymn

*My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

Blue Hymnal #80

#### The Invitation

#### The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Lift up your hearts

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to God most high.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Minister: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection and for the calling forth of your church for its mission. Therefore, with angels and archangels, we praise your Holy Name by saying:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Prayer of Consecration  
Sharing the Bread and Cup  
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Closing Hymn

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Blue Hymnal #565

\*Benediction

Postlude



## *Sunday's Servants*

The flowers are given in gratitude for plowed roads.

The Lay Reader is Evan Martinez.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Sandy Adami and Ginny Hunt.

The Deacon of the month is Karen Tripp.

The steeple lighting for March is given by Cynthia Woods.

## *Our Prayer List*

Peace and justice to all

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 February 5

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

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

The family of Hanover resident Anastasia  
Ullman, who passed February 18

Matthew, who has mental health issues

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

Bobby, friend of Glenda Larson, in cancer  
trial

### **Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:**

Lynn White, at the Pat Roche Hospice Home  
in Hingham

Barbara Itz, at BrightView in N. Andover

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

### **Joys:**

- Sue Conant celebrates her 61st  
wedding anniversary
- Emmie had successful leukemia  
treatment

## 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

Outreach & Service sincerely appreciates the generous contributions from the congregation to make Blanket Sunday a success. Sixty-six blankets were bought for Church World Service to support our local and global neighbors in need. Thank you!



## MainSpring

**Volunteers** are needed to provide a meal for the MainSpring homeless shelter in Brockton for **April, May, and June** - sign-up sheet is in the vestry beside the flower sign-up.

Feeding our most vulnerable population is a very rewarding experience! O& S can provide financial assistance to anyone providing a meal. Call Dayna at 617-827-3955 or email her at [dscribi23@yahoo.com](mailto: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

## 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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