



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.



April 26, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Good Shepherd Sunday

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

People: **We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

Leader: We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

People: **We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

Leader: We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

People: **We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

Leader: Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

People: **We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn** *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* Blue Hymnal #229

Morning Prayer

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, journey beside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.

Time for All Ages

Rev. Peter

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

John 10:1-10

10 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me^[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

*Gloria Patri

Glory 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

Rev. Johnston

*Sermon Hymn

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Blue Hymnal #358

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

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you
lead me, I can-not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. _____

Fine

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

Jesus Shall Reign

Blue Hymnal #95

*Benediction

Postlude



Sunday's Servants

Welcome to the worship service!

The flowers are given by Ruth Hall in memory of loved ones.

The Lay Reader is Bob Cluett.

Coffee Hour is hosted by the Taylor family.

The Deacon of the month is Priscilla Cedrone.

The Steeple Lighting for April is given by Priscilla Cedrone.

Our Prayer List

The Jones family, friends of Rev. Peter, on the passing of their mother

The McNeil family, whose 9 yr old son passed April 12

The family of Michael Long, father of our bookkeeper Val Fink, who passed March 26

The Patt family on the passing of Debbie's sister, Kim

Tony, recovering from shunt surgery

David Fiske, with COVID

Jennifer, who needs a lung transplant

Pat Merritt, at home

Bonnie, in ICU

Gracie, who is hospitalized

Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:

Barbara Itz, recovering from a fall

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

Sherri, Lynn White's sister, recovering from a stroke

Darius Fiske



- ◆ Elisabeth Meader's grandson Michael, who celebrated his 10th birthday and went camping with friends
- ◆ Sue Conant's granddaughter Sarah, who has officially passed the bar

Please send cards to Barbara Itz at
BrightView
1275 Turnpike St, Apt 419
N. Andover MA 01845



CE Corner

Can You Guide and Scoop?

Our next free Community Event, our Mother's Day Craft and Make Your Own Sundae Night, is fast approaching! We are in need of a few more volunteers to help at the craft tables. All directions and supplies are given to children/parents; you are needed to answer questions and provide a bit of guidance. Ice cream scoopers are also needed for the sundae bar. Two jobs that are sure to be a piece of cake (or a bowl of ice cream)! Please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the vestry. Thank you!



CWS Hygiene Kits Drive Ends Today

We are collecting personal hygiene kits for Church World Service. These essential kits offer a refreshing daily boost for those who are forced to abruptly leave their homes due to emergencies.

Please place your donations in the church narthex or talk to a member of the Outreach & Service Committee to make other arrangements.



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May 8th

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT



6 - 7:30 pm

Not sure what to get your Mother for Mother's Day? We've got you covered!

FREE
event

Kids'
craft

Ice cream
sundae

Bring your kids for a Friday night dessert treat and make a gift to celebrate Mom or Grandma!

First Congregational Church Hanover

Riley Hall
17 Silver St.
Hanover



Little Steps, Big Faith

Thanks to the folks who have signed up to help with Sunday School, we are all set until the end of our church school year! Yay! The Nursery/Toddler Room is still in need of weekly "on call" care until June 4th. Please consider writing your name on the sign-up sheet in the vestry.

Questions about Sunday School or Nursery/Toddler care? Please see Janet or send an email to jcookie4@hotmail.com



Rehome Your Easter Eggs

Need a place to bring your unwanted plastic eggs? CE needs lots and we are accepting donations to use for next year's egg hunt. Please place your donations in the box at the CE bulletin board in the vestry. Donations will continue until Sunday, May 4th.



You Helped the Hanover Food Pantry

The coins and bills from our Lenten Giving Project tubes have been counted. Drum roll, please..... Our collections yielded a whopping \$366.25! What a wonderful gift from our church to present to the Hanover Food Pantry! Thank you to the many who contributed to this collection. You surely *Let Your Light Shine!*

Coming Up —Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Sunday, May 31 during the service.



Grace the Space

Put your name on the Flower calendar in the Vestry. Honor someone special with an arrangement for \$25. You may take the flowers or donate them to be made into small bouquets for fundraising.



Order forms can be placed in the collection or mailed to the Church office. Please include a check payable to FCC Hanover and note Flowers on the memo line.

We all appreciate fresh flowers that beautify the sanctuary!



Five Wishes Advance Directive Workshop Sunday, May 3rd at 10:45

Five Wishes helps families avoid guesswork and ensure that dignity is honored.

Come to learn more about the advanced care planning process, and to understand more about the Five Wishes Advanced Directive.

Blessings on the next chapter of your ministry!

~ Rev. Deb Spratley and

~ Rev. Dr. Laura Delaplain



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
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United Church of Christ

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