



First Congregational Church of Hanover

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the
United Church of Christ

“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here.”



May 03, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Communion Sunday

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: You are never left outside God's house.

People: There is always room for us.

Leader: Jesus himself has prepared a place for each of us.

People: When our time comes, we will be welcomed and made whole in Christ.

Leader: Make your hearts ready to receive the goodness of the Lord.

All: We are ready to step into service for God. Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

The Church's One Foundation

Blue Hymnal #272

Prayer of Confession

Lord of abiding Love and infinite Patience, be with us this day. We have come from times of stress, difficulties, as well as times of hope and joy. We bring to you our concerns and our fears, and you offer your healing mercies. We confess that we haven't thought a whole lot about you this week. We have let events and demands crowd you out of our thoughts and our actions; yet when we come to this, your house, we again kneel in contrition, seeking your forgiveness for our blindness and apathy. Turn our lives around, Lord. Help us look again at the many ways in which you bless and care for us. Help us be people who will reach out to others in loving compassion. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. 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

Psalms 31:1-5, 5-16

¹ In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. ² Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. ³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me; ⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. ⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. ¹⁵ My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. ¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Matthew 7:15-28

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will know them by their fruits. ²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you who behave lawlessly.’ ²⁴ “Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” ²⁸ Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching.

*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

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Blue Hymnal #214

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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Communion Hymn

One Bread, One Body

Blue Hymnal #393

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

My Hope Is Built

Blue Hymnal #537

*Benediction

Postlude



Serving in the House of the Lord

Welcome to the worship service!

The flowers are given by Robert and Adrienne Rafferty.

The Lay Reader is Ginny Hunt.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Elisabeth Meader.

The Deacon of the month is Deborah Spratley.

The Steeple Lighting for May is given by Ken Cheo and Darlene Calcagno.



Our Prayer List

Cassie, whose father passed suddenly

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

Tony, recovering from shunt surgery

David Fiske, with COVID

Jennifer, who needs a lung transplant

Pat Merritt, at home

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

Five Wishes Advance Directive Workshop Today 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

- ~ Rev. Deb Spratley and
- ~ Rev. Dr. Laura Delaplain

CE Corner

This is it! Our last Free Community Event for this church school year! Grab your kids, grab your grandchildren, nieces, nephews.



Invite a friend! Join us at Riley Hall on Friday, May 8 at 6:00 where kids will have a chance to make a creative craft for Mom, Grandma, or that special someone in their lives. Celebrate Mother's Day and the beginning of the weekend by enjoying a sweet treat sundae complete with all the toppings.

If you sign up in the vestry to help with this event, you'll be eligible to enter your name for a door prize!

All are welcome! Please join us!

Bibles for Kenya



Do you have Bibles that belonged to a family member or that you no longer have use for? Bibles4Kenya may be your answer! This is a faith-based initiative that collects new or used Bibles in any condition or any translation to be distributed to rural and underserved regions of Kenya. If you have a Bible that you would like to donate, please place it in the collection box in the vestry through May 17th. Please contact Dayna if you have any questions at 617-827-3955.

We Thank the Labyrinth Clean Up Crew





May 10: One Great Hour of Sharing

OGHS is a special mission offering, which supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. In On May 10 there will be special envelopes in the bulletins. We ask you to prayerfully consider a gift so that our local church can help people in need around the world.



Little Steps, Big Faith

The Nursery/Toddler Room is still in need of weekly "on call" care until June 4th. Please write 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



Vacation Bible Camp August 17-20

Christian Education Committee is very excited to announce we will be offering VACATION BIBLE CAMP this year! The dates are August 17-20 from 9-12. Our absolutely fun program will be offered to children ages 4 -10. Mark your calendars now! Share the news with your families and friends! Further details and publication announcements will be given in the coming weeks.



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!



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

Rev. Peter D. Johnston, Senior Pastor
Rev.Peter@fcchanover.org

Chad Weirick, Minister of Music
Cweirick@aol.com

Janet Cook, Director of Education
jcookie4@hotmail.com

Pete Jansky, Sexton
office@fcchanover.org

Susan Vetterlein, Administrator
office@fcchanover.org

Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper
firstconghanover@gmail.com

Church Building: 547 Hanover Street, Hanover, Mass. 02339
Offices: 17 Silver Street, Suite 201, Hanover, Mass. 02339
(781) 826-4762 ❖ www.FCCHanover.org ❖ Office@FCCHanover.org