



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.”



July 26, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us gather in the presence of the Lord, whose word brings light into our darkness.

People: Teach us your ways, O God, and guide our steps.

Leader: Let our praise be a freewill offering of thanksgiving for all You have done.

People: Your truth is the joy of our hearts, now and forever.

Leader: Let us pray together:

ALL: Gracious God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we worship You today, open our eyes to see your guidance, open our ears to hear your truth, and incline our hearts to keep your statutes always. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Blue hymnal #100

Morning Prayer

As a new day begins, we pause to rest in your presence, remembering how Jesus invited His followers to "come away to a quiet place and rest awhile." Before our schedules fill and the needs around us feel overwhelming, we fix our eyes on You. Abide with us. Fill us with your Spirit so that we may see others with Christ's compassion. Teach us to trust that in Your hands, even our smallest offerings are more than enough. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Special Music

Jesus says, "Go Out!"

A Hoedown

Jesus says, go out, Jesus says, go out, and bring God's love to the nations.

Jesus says, go out, Jesus says, go out, and I will be with you there!

Scripture Readings

Psalms 119:105-112

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. ¹⁰⁷ I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word. ¹⁰⁸ Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances. ¹⁰⁹ I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. ¹¹¹ Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. ¹¹² I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Mark 6:31-44

³¹ He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." ³⁷ But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled, ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

***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. Peter Johnston

***Sermon Hymn**

Feed Us, Lord

see next page

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

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on 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 *God Be with You till We Meet Again* Blue hymnal #434

*Benediction

Postlude

Feed Us, Lord



1 Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the bro - ken bread,
2 Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord. On this thirst - y ground,
3 Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord, with the bread and wine
4 Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord, nour-ished here by Christ,



be re - vealed a - gain. Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.
may your love flow down. Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.
of the ris - en Christ. Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.
giv - en strength for life. Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

Serving in the House of the Lord

Welcome to the worship service!

The flowers are given by the Itz family.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Don and Christine Nelson.

The Deacon of the month is Hal Thomas.

The Steeple Lighting for July is given by Sandy and Ted Adami.

Our Prayer List

Victims of natural disasters

The leadership of our country

The family of Barbara Itz, who passed July 12.

The family of Leonard Holmes, friend of Dave Fiske, who passed July 1

Deb Jackman, recovering from broken pelvis

Joyce Purslow, recovering from surgery

Great niece of Sandy Adami recovering from a virus

Charles Duco, friend of Dick Harris

John McCann, friend of the Fiskes, with health issues

Kathy Talbot, at Beth Israel Milton

Alison, daughter of Ann Allaire, with bell's palsy

Jennifer, recovering from a double lung transplant (Hal Thomas)

Deb Springhetti, at home after successful knee surgery

Tony, son-in-law of Louise Jackson, complications from shunt surgery

Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:

Lynn White, at the Pat Roche Hospice Home

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

Gloria, Amy Kelly's mother-in-law, at Allerton House assisted living

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

Rick, brother of Dennis Falcione

Irene & Wally Reed

Ericka Penney

Darius Fiske



JOYS

John Fox: their wedding anniversary and son's birthday

Rev. Jim Olson will be the interim minister at the Rockport church as of August 1.



Pan-Mass Bike Ride to Benefit Dana Farber

John Matson will
be riding in his
18th Pan-Mass

Challenge on Aug 1 and 2. This 168 mile bike ride is the largest fundraiser for Dana Farber Cancer Institute and this year aims to raise \$79 million. John's goal is to raise \$7,000. One hundred percent of rider raised funds goes directly to Dana Farber to continue their work on improving treatments, extending life and in some cases, curing cancer.

To donate, go to:

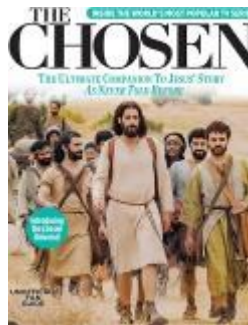
donate.pmc.org/jm0043

or mail a check made out to "Pan Mass Challenge" to John Matson, 4 Topping Ave, Rockland, MA 02370

Thank you!

**"COME AND
SEE"**

The Chosen



Thursdays starting August 13th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Location to be determined. Sign up sheet in the vestry.

Contact MaryLou Gifford at 857-499-2300 with questions or to sign up.

Mary.gifford23@comcast.net.



Come to Evening Vespers by the Sea

Sundays at 7:00 p.m. through August 30
Brant Rock Union Chapel
327 Ocean Street, Marshfield
All are welcome.

Dear friends,

You are warmly invited to Evening Vespers at the historic Brant Rock Union Chapel, a quiet and welcoming hour of worship by the ocean, held every Sunday evening this summer at 7:00 p.m.

Built in 1895, the little shingled chapel with the clock tower has gathered summer families for well over a century. Services are non-denominational, unhurried, and open to everyone, whatever your church or background. Come as you are, stay about an hour, and enjoy the sea air and the setting sun.

I will be leading worship on August 16 and 23, and I would love to see you there. Bring along a friend or a neighbor if you like.

Hope to see you beneath the tower,

Rev. Peter

Flyers for sharing are available in the vestry.

A horizontal banner image featuring a variety of domestic and wild animals. On the left, a golden retriever sits next to a small green parrot. In the center, there's a mix of smaller animals including a rabbit, a Chihuahua, a duck, a chicken, and several cats of different breeds. On the right, a large Great Dane stands prominently with a colorful parrot perched on its back. The background is white with stylized yellow sun rays emanating from behind the animals.

17 Silver Street, Hanover
781-826-4762



**First
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of Hanover



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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