



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.*



Sunday, September 6, 2026

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: Come, all who seek God's presence.

People: We come to pray, to listen, and to be renewed.

Leader: God meets us in our joy and in our need.

People: We worship the One who hears every prayer.

Leader: God is our provider, our strength and our heart.

All: Let us worship God, giver of all, with voices raised on high.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Openng Hymn

Sing Praise to God

Blue Hymnal No.6

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, we confess that we have not honored you with our whole hearts. You are the source of every blessing, yet we have chased after lesser things and forgotten the love of your Name. Forgive us, Lord, for our barrenness and divided hearts. Invite us anew into your grace, nourish our spirits with your mercy, and cultivate in us the life that reflects your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able*

Scripture Readings

Psalm 149

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their Sovereign. Let them praise God's name with dancing, making melody to the Lord with tambourine and lyre.

For the Lord takes pleasure in God's people; God adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their rulers with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron, to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all God's faithful ones. Praise the Lord!

Romans 13: 8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Gloria Patri (Sung)

Blue Hymnal No. 35

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

Just As I Am

Blue Hymnal No. 339

The Offertory

Call to Offering

Offertory

George Olson, organ, and Laura Delaplain, flute

Gabriel's Oboe

Enrico Morricone

*Doxology (Sung)

Blue Hymnal No. 46

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures, here, below.

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer



1. Sure-ly the pres-ence of the Lord is in this place, I can
feel His might-y pow-er and His grace. I can
hear the brush of ang-els' wings. I see glo - ry on each face.
Sure - ly the pres-ence of the Lord is in this place.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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

Feed Us, Lord

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. The melody consists of two staves. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the second line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G/B, Asus, A, D, G/B, Asus, A, G, and D/F# for the first staff; and G, A, B, Em, D/F#, G, and D for the second staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with four-part harmony indicated by numbers 1 through 4.

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.

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God most high.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: 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.

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Blue Hymnal No. 2

*Benediction

Postlude

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Our Prayer List

The people of Nepal

The families of Dolly Parton and Tim Curry

The owner of Barca's barbershop

The family of Mindy Smith, friend of Ann Allaire, who passed away at age 56

The Nelsons and others on the passing of the pastor of their former church

Tony, son-in-law of Louise Jackson, ongoing health concerns

Gail Clark, friend of Marilyn Melchin, recovering from surgery

Diane's daughter

Amy, friend of the Jackson family, diagnosed with cancer

Kathy Talbot, in rehab

Andrew Talbot, biopsy on lymph nodes

We Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:

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

Darius Fiske

Serving In the House of the Lord

Thank you to our George Olson and Laura Delaplain for sharing their gifts of music today.



The flowers which grace the chancel are given by Ann Allair and Dick Harris, in memory of loved ones.

The Steeple Lighting for September is given by Ann Allair and Dick Harris.

The Deacon of the Month is Rev. Deb Spratley.

Sunday School: Seeds of Faith



CE is excited to say our Sunday School program is ready to go! We'll need help each week at Riley

Hall to deliver our lessons about Growing Seeds of Faith. Sunday School is a wonderful opportunity for you to talk to our children about the seeds of your faith. Please sign up in the vestry after church today to help with this very important part of our church's ministry. Contact Janet with any questions.



Youth Group

At First Congregational Church of Hanover we cherish our young people. We seek ways to support our youth as they discover their gifts and strengthen their call to make a difference in the world. Our welcoming program creates opportunities for youth to experience God, while being mindful that young people grow in their faith in different ways.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jenn Bunar at 617-653-2270 or Nicole Conti at 617-823-0465.



The start of a new church school year means the start of our call for help in our Nursery/Toddler Room. We will need two adults each Sunday to provide on-call care. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestry with Sunday dates. Please consider writing your name next to a few. Parents who did take advantage of our Nursery/Toddler room last year were very appreciative of the loving babysitting provided.

Fall's First Sunday, September 13 Who Wants Breakfast?



Fall's First Sunday is fast approaching!

We so enjoyed our light breakfast of yummy quiches last year; we'll do it again this year!

Please take a look at the sign-up sheet in the vestry and write your name next to a needed food item. Thank you!

September 15 First Meeting of the Moonlighters



The first meeting of Moonlighters will be **Tuesday**, September 15 from 2-4PM downstairs in Riley Hall. **We have changed the day of the week and times for future meetings.** Play a game and win prizes while making items for the Church Fair!

If you would like to be included in Moonlighters emails please let Glenda Larson or Linda Gilardi know.

"Come and See" **THE CHOSEN**



Rev. Dr. Mary Lou Gifford is hosting a showing of the TV series *The Chosen* each Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in Riley Hall. Contact Mary Lou at

857-499-2300 with questions or to sign up.

Pot-Luck Supper Third Friday in September



On Friday evening, September 18, a pot luck supper is planned to start at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to join us in the vestry and experience good fellowship. Bring a favorite dish to share. See Ginny Hunt (hesterbp2@comcast.net) for particulars.

Minister's Tea Wednesday, September 9 at 3 pm

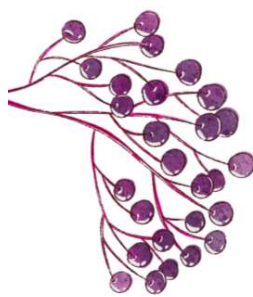


You are invited to tea with Rev. Peter

Johnston on Wednesday, September 09. The Tea takes place in the vestry (under the sanctuary) from 3:00-4:30 p.m. This is a time when members of the church can relax while enjoying delicious treats with good company. Please plan on joining in, and feel free to bring a neighbor!



First Congregational Church Hanover



FALL'S FIRST SUNDAY



**JOIN US! SEPTEMBER 13
WORSHIP SERVICE
9:30 AM**



**Sunday School Registration
Backpack Blessing
God's Back to School
Survival Kit
Enjoy a light breakfast
Games for kids!**



**Growing seeds of faith
and friendship**



Questions?? Contact CE Director
Janet jcookie4@hotmail.com





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HANOVER

REGISTER FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Sunday School (Ages 4-11)

Bible stories, Fun crafts, Songs,
Make new friends

Nursery/Toddler Care (Infants- Age 3)

Providing loving care during
worship service



Youth Group (Middle-High School)

Group activities, Service and
Mission Projects, Bring a friend!



Register with QR code
or in-person on September 13
at 9:30 AM worship.
Contact 781-826-4762 with questions



September Worship Highlights



Cabinet Meeting Thursday, September 24

Welcome to the 2026-2027 program year of the church. Here is the schedule for September worship:

Sunday, September 6

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Johnston, preaching

Sunday, September 13

Fall's First Sunday

Welcome Back, Choir

Sunday School Registration

Rev. Johnston, Preaching

Sunday, September 20

Neutral Pulpit

Celebration of Susan's Ministry

Sunday, September 27

Rev. Johnston at Annual Meeting

Rev. Spratley, preaching

Attention all members of the Church Cabinet: Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the September Cabinet meeting on **Thursday, September 24, at 7:00 pm in the church Vestry.**

If you are unable to attend please send a substitute from your board or committee. From all should be submitted via email by September 18, in order that they may be read by others before the meeting. Your input is important.

Hope to see you on Thursday, September 24, **7:00pm.**

~ Ava Sigsby, Moderator

Fall Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Welcome, Kim Booker, Church Administrator!

Welcome

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.

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

Your Children are invited to go to Sunday School, following the Time for All Ages; go to the PrayStation at the front of the church; or remain in worship with their parents. Nursery care is available in the nursery. Please ask an usher or deacon if you need assistance.

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.

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



First Congregational Church of Hanover

United Church of Christ

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