



First Congregational Church of Hanover

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the
United Church of Christ

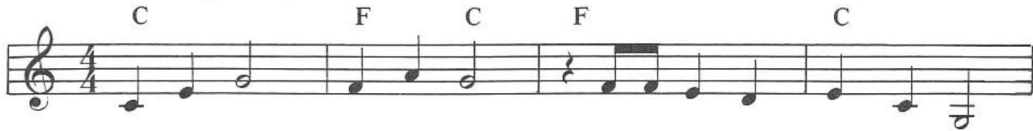
*No matter who you are, or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here.*



Sunday, September 13, 2026

The Garden Song

Words and Music by David Mallett



1. Inch by inch, row by row, Gon-na make this 'gar - den grow.
2. Pull - in' weeds, pick - in' stones, We are made of dreams and bones.
3. Make your rows, straight and long, Tem-per them with warmth and song.



All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fer - tile ground.
 I feel a need to grow my own for the time is near at hand.
 Mo-ther earth will make you strong if you give her love and care.



Inch by inch, row by row, Some-one bless these seeds I sow,
 Grain for grain, sun and rain, Find my way through na - tures chain.
 See that crow, watch-ing hun-gri-ly, From its perch on yon - der tree.



Some-one warm them from be - low till the rain comes tum-bl-ing down.
 As I tune my body and brain to the mu - sic of - the land.
 In my gar - den I'm as free as that fea-thered thief - up there.

4. Inch by inch row by row, Gonna make this garden grow.
 All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground.
 Inch by inch, row by row, Someone bless these seeds I sow,
 Someone warm them from below till the rain comes tumbling down.

**First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ**

Fall's First Sunday

September 13, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome back to a new season of learning, growing, and walking together.

People: We come bringing all that we are—the seeds of hope, curiosity, and love.

Leader: The Creator provides the soil, the Son brings the light, and the Spirit sends the living water.

People: May our roots grow deep, and may our branches reach wide to offer shelter and grace to others.

Leader: Let us celebrate the good work God is sprouting in our midst.

All: Come, let us plant our lives in God's truth and worship the Lord together!

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn

The Garden Song

Facing Page

Morning Prayer

God of the harvest and the seedling, thank You for bringing us together for this new season of fellowship and faith formation. Break open our hardened ground, water us with Your grace, and nurture the small seeds of faith within each of us. Grow our love into action, our questions into understanding, and our community into a living testament of Your grace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**Please stand as you are able*

Anthem

Time for All Ages

Scripture Readings

Wisdom of Solomon 7:26–8:1

For wisdom is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of divine goodness. Although wisdom is but one, wisdom can do all things, and while remaining unchanged, renews all things; in every generation passing into holy souls, making them friends of God and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom. Wisdom is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light, wisdom is found to be superior, for day is succeeded by night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail. Wisdom reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and orders all things well.

I Corinthians 3:6-9

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

*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

For the Fruit of All Creation

Blue Hymnal No. 714

Offering Our Gifts

Call to Offering

Offertory

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication

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

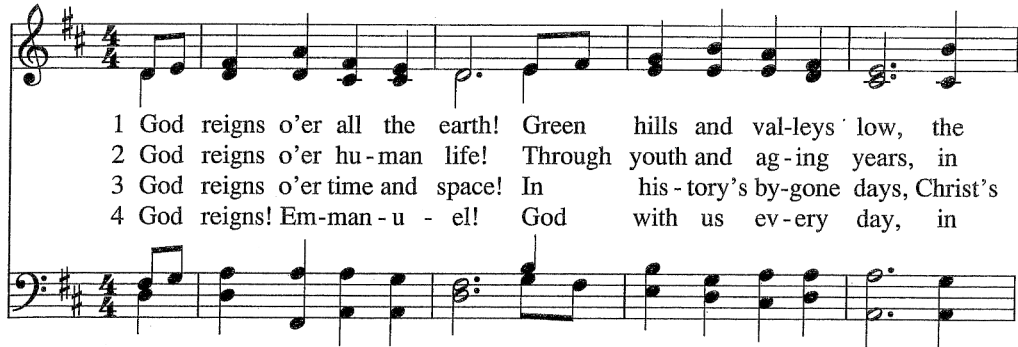
The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

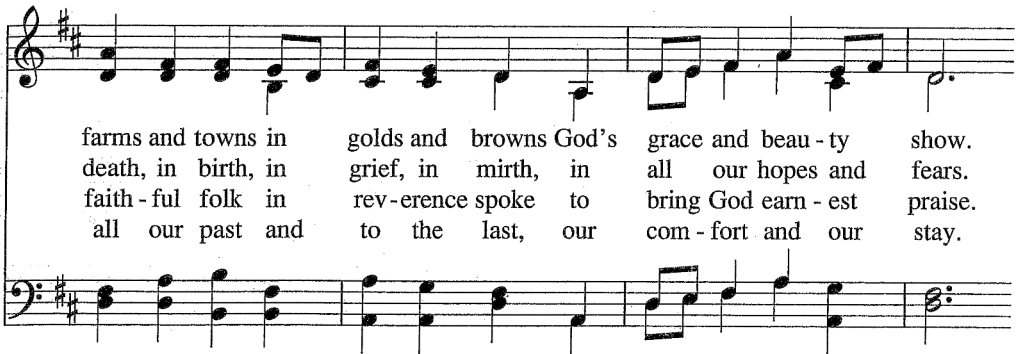
God Reigns O'er All the Earth

Words: Ruth Duck

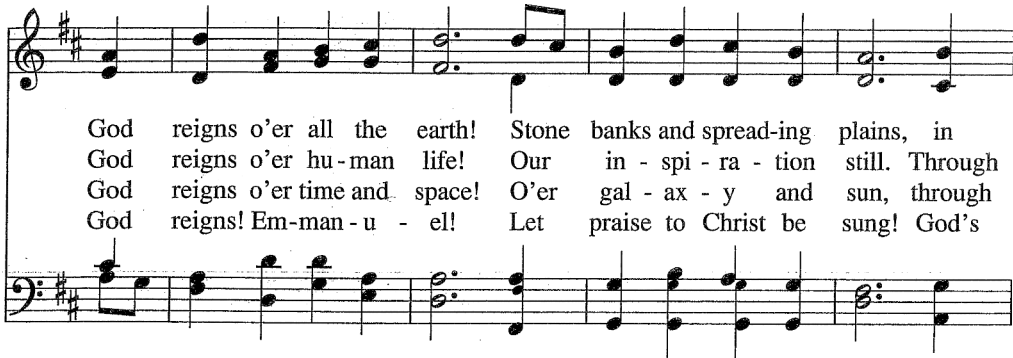
Tune: Terra Beata



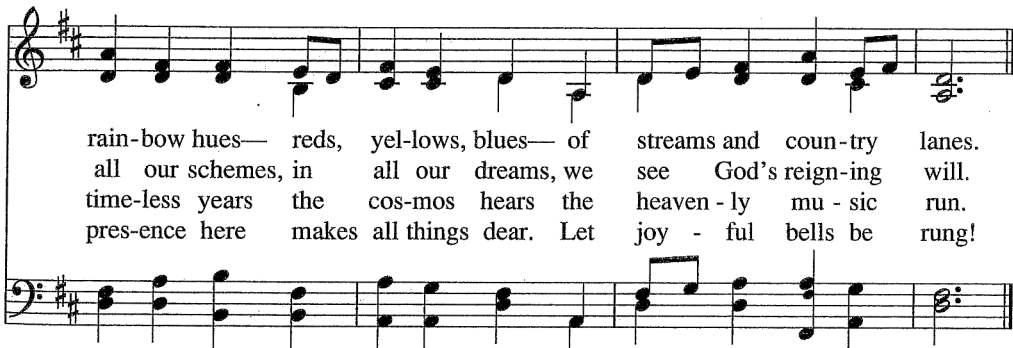
1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the
2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in
3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his-tory's by-gone days, Christ's
4 God reigns! Em-man-u-el! God with us ev-ery day, in



farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau-ty show.
death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
faith-ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn-est praise.
all our past and to the last, our com-fort and our stay.



God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in
God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in-spi-ra-tion still, Through
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal-ax-y and sun, through
God reigns! Em-man-u-el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's



rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.
all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.
time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven-ly mu-sic run.
pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy-ful bells be rung!

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

The people of Nepal
Children, teachers, administrators and staff on the return to school
Sandy Vaughn, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
Tina Donovan, hospitalized with a stroke
Christine MacKinnon, sister-in-law of Ruth Hall, diagnosed with breast cancer
Andy Menning, friend of Hal Thomas, having surgery after a fall
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, home from rehab
Andrew Talbot, biopsy on lymph nodes

Joys

We celebrate Sandy Adami's birthday
John Fox's grandson turned two
Denise Schell's daughter Amanda had a baby girl
From Susan Conant - Bob celebrated a birthday and her grandson, Max turned 20.

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

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.



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.

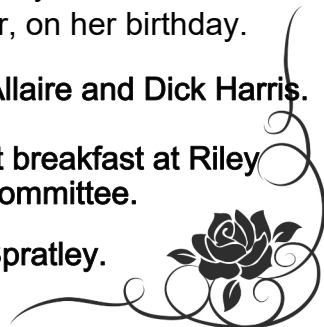
Today In the House of the Lord

The flowers which grace the chancel are given by David Fiske in memory of Shirley Day Fiske, David's mother, on her birthday.

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

Following today's service, you are invited to a light breakfast at Riley Hall, served by the Christian Education Committee.

The Decon of the Month is Rev. Deb Spratley.



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.

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)



ORGAN DEDICATION SERVICE

Join us at
THE HOUGHS NECK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
310 Manet Avenue, Quincy, MA 02169

**Sunday, September 13, 2026,
at 2:00 p.m.**

DEDICATION OF THE ALLEN ORGAN
A generous gift from the Wollaston Congregational Church,

A musical celebration to showcase the instrument's capabilities, with light refreshments downstairs in M. Alicia Corea Fellowship Hall following to service.

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY:
Rev. Peter Johnston • Ian MacLean Alice Xu • Kevin DiLorenzo



September

Worship

Highlights

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



Cabinet Meeting

Thursday, September 24

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!



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



Father Bill's & MainSpring
NOBODY SHOULD BE HOMELESS

Dayna and Michael Scribi
provided the September
MainSpring meal.

Residents enjoyed lasagna
and Italian bread, along
with brownies and cookies for
dessert!

Main Spring is currently feeding
180 people.

Reminder that the months
of NOVEMBER and DECEMBER
are available for meal donations.

Meals can be dropped off on
either the first Saturday or Sunday
of the month.

Mainspring is very flexible with the
drop offs. It is a very rewarding
experience! Sign-ups are in the
vestry next to the flower sign-up
sheet.

Questions? Don't hesitate to
contact Dayna for more
information: 617-827-3955.

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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