



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.



Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Second Sunday in Lent

Our Worship Service

*Please stand as you are able.

Prelude

Please enter a quiet time of reflection when the prelude music begins.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome this day to the second step on our Lenten Journey.

People: We come with great hope and expectation as we walk the way of Christ.

Leader Today's journey will demand much of us.

People: Lord, make us ready to offer ourselves to you.

Leader Come, let us begin again the wondrous excursion.

People: Let us place our lives in God's abiding love. AMEN

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Processional Hymn**

Be Thou My Vision

Red Hymnal #391

Morning Prayer

Lord of presence and power, be with us on this second step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Help us to make a commitment of our lives, our spirits, our hearts to ministry in your name. AMEN

Time for All Ages

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Psalm 22:23-31

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! ²⁴ For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him. ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Mark 8:31-38

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

***Gloria Patri (sung)**

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**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Red Hymnal #348

The Deacons will collect the prayer cards during this 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. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

A Time of Prayer

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

Be Still My Soul

Red Hymnal #77

***Benediction**

Postlude

Serving in the House of the Lord

The chancel flowers are given by Adrienne and Robert Rafferty.

The lay reader is Al Alexander.

The Deacon of the Month is Tina Donovan

Coffee Hour is hosted by Ginny Hunt.

Our Prayer List

The wars in Israel and Ukraine

Westfield UCC

Elsa Marshall, taking care of brother Bruce
and his wife in Chicago

Twins Lyman and Luke in NICU

The family of Marion Rose, mother of Mary
Beth Tarnauskas, who passed Feb 12

Mary Lou Hill, health concerns

Cynthia Ness, recovering from a fall

Cathy Churchill, Lynn White's friend

The Conforto family

Mark Gifford, with pneumonia

Marianne, who is in hospice

Judy, with health issues

Josephine, Adrienne Rafferty's mother-in-
law, hip replacement

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

Those with COVID

Cynthia Ness, with cancer

Michael, Glenda Larson's brother-in-law,
with CJD, a fatal disease

Laura Delaplain's sister Cathy, with multiple
myeloma

Lori Bruni's stepson, with paraplegia

Lynn White, new cancer treatment

Marjorie, mother-in-law of Susan Conant,
with health issues

Elsa Marshall's brother Bruce, cancer

Ericka, Ginny Hunt's daughter, under treat-
ment at Dana Farber

John, friend of Glenda Larson, with Parkin-
son's

Rick and Alberta, brother and sister-in- law
of Dennis Falcione

Tom Evans, cousin of Marilyn Melchin, with
liver cancer

Joe, friend of Janet Hamilton, with terminal
blood and lung issues and his wife Cathy
and daughter Kaitlin

Karen, Flo McNeilly's friend, with bone
marrow cancer

Carol Brew, mother of Kim Blanton, living
with dialysis and heart failure

The husband of Dolly's caregiver, with kid-
ney failure



JOYS

Anniversary celebrations: Susan and Bob Conant, 59 years
Sandy and Dave Vaughn, 56 years
Birthday Celebration: Tina Donovan's father-in-law, 81

Thank You!

A huge thank you for all the prayers, cards, notes, food and well wishes from those in the congregation after my pace maker surgery in January. It is good to be on the mend and in church once again. Again, many thanks for all your support. ~ Warmly, Ruth Hall



Last Day to Blanket the World in Love ♥

So far, Outreach & Service has collected donations from the congregation to purchase 61 blankets for Church World Service! Today will be the final day to purchase a blanket in the church vestry. Thank you to the congregation for their warm, generous donations ♥!

Flower Fundraiser

The Flower Committee will be making mini-bouquets from the altar flowers each Sunday and selling them for \$5 during coffee hour in the vestry as a fundraiser aimed at lowering the church's deficit.



Minister's Tea, Wednesday, March 13



On Wednesday, March 13, you are all invited to a special time to gather with Rev. Peter and members of the church. The event takes place in the vestry (under the sanctuary) from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Enjoy getting to know each informally while also enjoying special treats.

Church Yard Sale, Saturday, April 13

Let your family and friends know that we are planning for a yard sale on the second Saturday in April. We're accepting gently used household items and clothing. ** No electronics or heavy furniture.** Drop off upstairs in Riley Hall Tue/Thu 9-1 or Wed/Sat 10-2. We're looking for volunteers to help and bakers to bake! Sign up at coffee hour or contact Adrienne Rafferty at adrraf@verizon.net.





Do You Chair a Committee?

A friendly reminder that all committees should have elected their chairpersons for 2024. Please let Susan in the office know as soon as possible who they are so she can update her records.

The next Cabinet meeting will be Thursday, March 14, 2024. This is a change to the second Thursday of the month. The remaining Cabinet meetings in 2024 will follow the traditional first Thursday schedule for June 6, September 5 and December 5.

Behavioral Covenant In the Works

What should govern our own behavior?

Church leadership is reviewing what is meant by “holy manners”. If you would like to contribute your thoughts on ways to have helpful and safe conversations no matter what the topic, please contact a member of the Diaconate or the church office. Over the next few months your ideas will be discussed with those of others as we craft a behavioral covenant. The final result should be ready for congregational review in the fall.



Thrift Shop Needs Jewelry and Buttons

Our jewelry table has a lot of empty space on it and many requests for pins, earrings, bracelets, etc. are coming in. So if members could clean out any old, unused jewelry and bring it to coffee hour, that would be great. Also buttons! We have requests for old buttons so bring in those boxes and jars of odd buttons as well. These be turned in to either Priscilla Cedrone or Glenda Larson at coffee hours.

Build a Shed Fundraiser

Do you (or your neighbor) need a new shed this spring/summer? Members of our church are willing to build a timber frame shed with some of the proceeds benefiting the church. The cost will include custom design, materials, delivery, and installation. An example of a 10x12 shed being used by our Thrift Shop can be seen at Riley Hall. For additional design ideas visit Hanover Timber Frame Sheds on Facebook. Please contact Bob Meader (781) 871-5649 to make arrangements or for more information.



Faith Formation for All Ages



In Mark 8:31-38 it is jarring to hear Jesus declaring that he will be ashamed of anyone, especially those he called to follow him so closely. Unlike the internal reflection of conviction or repentance, shame does not typically facilitate restoration or reconciliation in the ways repentance can. Shame rejects transformation and repair.

In this Scripture Peter rebukes Jesus. That is an astonishing moment recorded in this text. Mark does not tell us what Peter said, but it motivates Jesus to say “Get behind me Satan. I wonder if Jesus, who loves his enemies, might be inviting Peter to repent and continue to follow him. This is supported by his declaration to the disciples and the crowd to pick up their cross and follow him. Jesus knows that the glory of God will be accompanied by suffering.

We know the ending of this story and we know that on Golgotha, Jesus did the hardest thing, in full public view. Jesus on his last day was insulted and tortured, and yet in his agony on the cross his primary distress and concern was for the care and well-being of others—the forgiveness of those crucifying him, the reconstruction of the family unit for his mother and friend, and the reconciliation of the repentant thief hanging beside him.

Jesus transforms the cross, the Roman empire’s method of execution, which was designed to carry out a death penalty as shamefully as possible. And Jesus transforms it for God’s glory. Praise be to God!

Questions to Consider:

- How do you distinguish between shame and guilt?
- What has been your experience with shame changing behavior?
Brene Brown, therapist, professor and researcher says, “Shame is an unspoken epidemic.”
- How can shame be overcome or alleviated?

The children will go to Faith Formation during the singing of the Gloria Patri.

Shalom with love always,

Elsa Marshall

Minister of Faith Formation



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.

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

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.

Large print copies of the bulletins and hymnals 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.



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

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

Kim Engle, Field Education Student
Kcpengle@gmail.com

Chad Weirick, Minister of Music
Cweirick@aol.com

Elsa Marshall, Minister of Faith Formation
Elsa.Marshall@gmail.com

Kristyn Falcione, Youth Director
Kfalcione57@gmail.com

Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper
firstconghanover@gmail.com

Susan Vetterlein, Administrator
Office@FCCHanover.org

Jim Millins, Facilities Manager
Facilities@FCCHanover.org

Karen Tripp, Sexton
Trippklt@aol.com

Church Building: 547 Hanover Street, Hanover, Mass. 02339
Offices: 17 Silver Street, Suite 201, Hanover, Mass. 02339
Church Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
(781) 826-4762 ❖ www.FCCHanover.org ❖ Office@FCCHanover.org