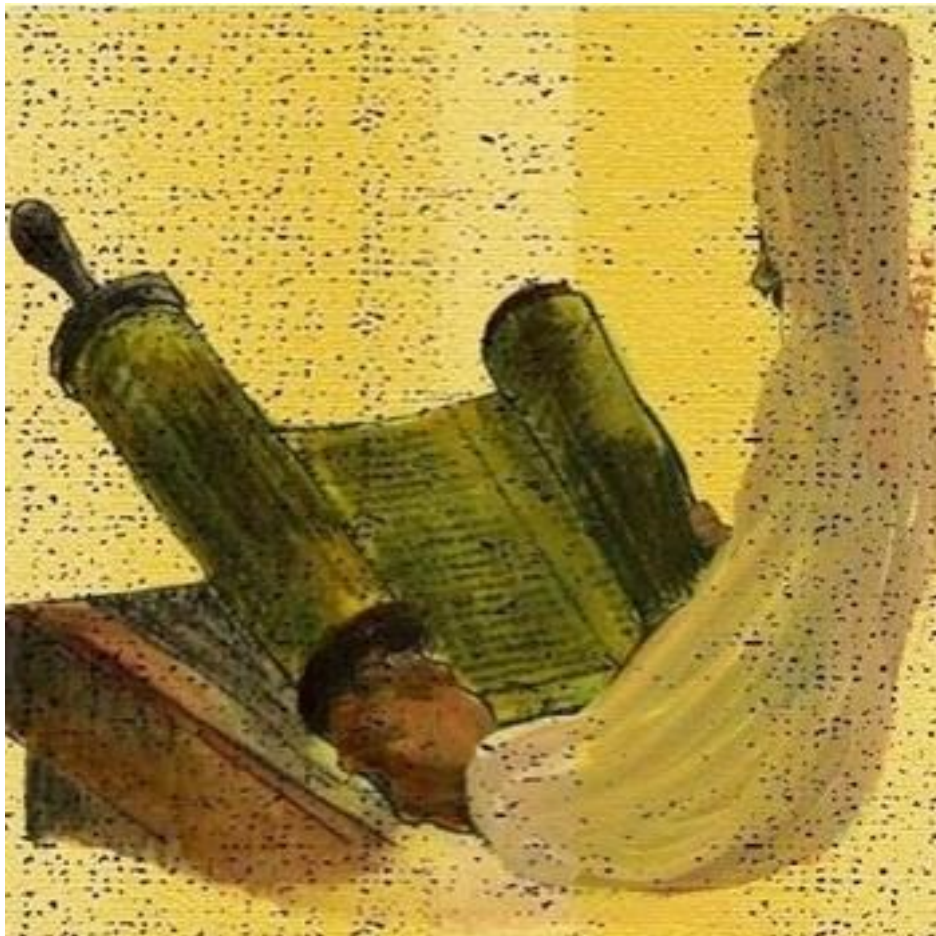




First Congregational Church of Hanover

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, January 26, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Our Worship Service

* Please stand as you are able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Children of God, we gather to worship, to sing and proclaim with joy the good works God is doing in our midst.

People: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

Leader: We also gather today to pray for our families, our community, and our world.

To name the challenges that press in around us, to lament the suffering in our world, to declare our trust in God in the midst of hardship.

People: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

Leader: We, like those in Nazareth, gather to hear and receive the Word of God proclaimed among us. To encounter the life-giving message of God's love redeems us to be bearers of love and freedom in this world.

People: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

Leader: Children of God, listen. Pay attention. Ready your hearts. God is here. Jesus has come among us. The Spirit brings the Word to life in our midst. Are you ready?

People: We gather to worship, as is our custom. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

***Processional Hymn**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

No. 35 Red Hymnal

Morning Prayer

We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people. We have gathered, God of grace and wisdom, because we have heard your call. You have reached out to us in Jesus Christ; you have touched us with your Spirit, and we have turned toward you, seeking to love as we have been loved. We call upon your holy name: empower us to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Time for All Ages

Church World Service

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Psalm 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no

speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat. ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults. ¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Luke 4: 14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

***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.

Call to Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

No. 263 Red Hymnal

Prayer cards will be collected during the singing of the sermon hymn

The Offertory

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

Call to Prayer:

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
I'll be a liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you.

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

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

No. 223 Red Hymnal

*Benediction

Postlude



Serving in the House of the Lord

The chancel flowers are given by the Flower Committee.

Our Lay Reader is Karen Tripp.

The Deacon of the Month is Adrienne Rafferty.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Dean and Glenda Larson.

Our Prayer List

Peace in Israel and Ukraine

The family of Harold Johnson, extended family member of the Berrys, who passed

Tim Bowman, friend of Ken Cheo, recovering from heart transplant

Elisabeth Meader, shoulder injury

Rev. Eric Stroshine's sister Cheryl, fighting cancer.

Mary Lou Hill, recovering from back injury

Sandy Adami, with pneumonia

Ericka Penney, Ginny Hunt's daughter

Adrienne's Uncle Ken, with blood clots

Andrew Talbot, with Covid

Kathy Talbot, in rehab

Flo McNeilly, recovering at home after another fall

Louise Jackson's friend Victoria with cancer and her husband with heart problems

Kevin and Lisa, friends of Louise Jackson, that their baby will make it to term

Linden Ponds community church

Richard, Lynn White's brother in law, with dementia diagnosis

Lynn White, respiratory illness

Mike, brother-in-law of Craig Pettengill

Peter, husband of Adrienne's cousin, recovering from a fall

Robert Frattalone, rehab following surgery

Joyce Purslow, blood clot following surgery

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

Judith Patt, aunt of Steve Patt, on hospice

Cynthia Ness in hospice care at home

Fred, brother of Linda Gilardi, continuing cancer treatments

Mary Lou Hill, health concerns

Laura Delaplain's sister Cathy, with multiple myeloma

Lori Bruni's stepson, with cancer

Lynn White, cancer treatment

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

Rick, brother of Dennis Falcione

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



New Members Class Forming in March

Are you interested in learning more about First Congregational Church? Are you considering joining us officially? Rev. Peter will be holding a series of new covenant member classes starting in March. Please speak to him if you would like to participate.



California Wildfires 2025

The January 7 wildfire activity in Los Angeles County is the largest fire disaster in the county's history. As we continue to pray for and support those who experienced unimaginable loss, we invite you to support the UCC's recovery efforts in the following ways:

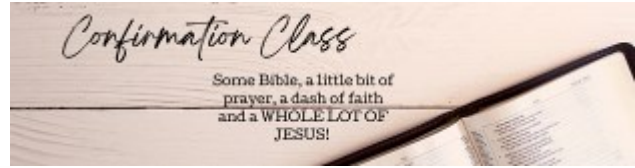
Donate to the UCC's California Wildfires 2025 Appeal (https://support.ucc.org/california-wildfires-2025?inf_). Or, you can mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "**California Wildfires 2025**" in the memo section of your check.



Please Pick Up Your 2025 Offering Envelopes

2025 offering envelopes are in the vestry next to the sign-up sheets. **Find the one with your name and take it!** Extras are available for anyone who would like to use an envelope.

"Freely you shall have received, and freely you shall give"



2025 Confirmation Class Dates

Beginning in February, we will be holding Confirmation classes for our youth. Please mark your calendars:

Sunday, February 9 @ 10:45
What is the Church?

Wednesday, March 5 @ 7
Ash Wednesday Soup & Worship

Sunday, March 9 @ 10:45
Bible Basics for the Everyday Christian

Sunday, April 13 @ 10:45
Rites and Sacraments of the Church

Sunday, April 20 @ 5:45 am
Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, May 18 @ 10:45
Faith Statements

Sunday, June 15 @ 10:45
Pentecost/Confirmation Service

The confirmation service will take place on Pentecost, June 15. Confirmands will be required to develop and present a brief reflection on a scripture passage during the Confirmation service.

Information will be sent out to families at the beginning of February. You can register for Confirmation 2025 here:





Youth Group Movie Night

The Youth Group will meet tonight at 6:30 in Riley Hall for a movie and a hot chocolate bar! For more information, contact Jen Bunar (jenco1234@hotmail.com) or Nicole Conti (nicole2_3@yahoo.com).

ANNUAL MEETING

The church's annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 2,** following worship. At that meeting we will:

Consider and act on reports of the church's Pastors, officers, boards, committees, organizations, and delegates and alternates; take action of the proposed budget for the ensuing year; Elect officers, board members, committee members, and delegates as prescribed in the bylaws; and any other business which may legally come before the church body.

Please plan on attending this vitally important meeting of the church.



Minister's Tea Wednesday, February 5 @ 3

You are invited to tea with Rev. Peter Johnston on Wednesday,

February 5. For this month, it is on the first Wednesday. 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 sit and enjoy delicious treats with good company.

Please plan on joining us, and feel free to bring a neighbor!



Super Bowl Lasagna We're Doing it Again!! Cheese Lasagna - \$30

Join us in "Lasagna-Making Fellowship" on **Saturday morning, February 8** from 9-11 in Riley Hall. Lend a hand in assembling lasagnas!

Pick up is on Saturday February 8 between 11-12 at Riley Hall or on Sunday, February 9 after worship.

~ Adrienne Rafferty (adrraf@verizon.net)



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 and hymnals 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

Megan dePontbriand, Director of Education
mpdepontbriand@gmail.com

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
Church Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
(781) 826-4762 ❖ www.FCCHanover.org ❖ Office@FCCHanover.org