



The Spire

June 2026

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Hanover, United Church of Christ

Rev. Peter Johnston
Senior Pastor

Chad Weirick
Minister of Music

Janet Cook
Director of Education

Susan Vetterlein
Office Administrator

Peter Jansky
Sexton

Valerie Fink
Bookkeeper

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a church that welcomes all and empowers all in Christ to share their God-given talents.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of inclusive love that has no walls or barriers, where all who enter are loved, respected, and accepted for who they are, reaching beyond social class, gender, race and sexual orientation, welcoming all into our circle of love. We are a community of growth and transformation that is not content with the status quo but a community filled with the love and compassion of Christ, and an overwhelming desire to share that love. We are a community committed to not only praying together, on Sunday mornings, but putting our faith into action daily.

Dear Friends,

As we step into the beautiful month of June, we are reminded of the vibrant shifting of seasons—both in the world around us and in the life of our church community. We are moving into a season of transition, celebration, and well-deserved rest.

Reflecting on our recent journey through Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we continue to pray that the Holy Spirit remains actively present among us.

We look forward to gathering with joyful hearts for our upcoming celebration of our children's ministry, which we're calling **Family - Fund-day on Sunday, June 7**. Please note this date change on your calendars; we will also be adjusting our usual Communion schedule to accommodate this special day of fellowship.

The coming months will bring opportunities for renewal and continuing education. I will be away on vacation from June 17 through July 1. During my absence, we are blessed to welcome wonderful guest preachers who will lead us in worship on June 21 and June 28. I know you will extend to them the warm, hospitable welcome that defines our congregation. Looking a bit further ahead, I will also be attending the Craigville Colloquy, a preaching camp, from July 5–10.

Even as the pace shifts, we have a wonderful summer of ministry to look forward to, including our **Outdoor Worship service on July 12**, our **Pet Blessing on August 16**, and **Vacation Bible School (Mission Deep Sea) from August 17–20**.

Also, summer brings another transition: Susan, our intrepid church administrator, will be retiring in July. Plans are underway for a celebration of her decade-long ministry among us and for the recruitment and training of our next administrator. We will have one combined July/August edition of the Spire.

May we continue to listen to one another with open hearts and minds, working together in unity to serve those in need. God grant us the strength to carry out our shared responsibilities with grace, compassion, and dedication.

May the Spirit move us gently into summer.

Peace,

Rev. Peter Johnston, Senior Pastor



Summer Altar Arrangement

The Flower Committee would like to thank the many who have generously funded the weekly Sunday altar arrangements. Many of these arrangements were kindly donated for the Coffee Hour small bouquet sale, which has raised about \$250 so far this year.

For the summer months of July and August our trusty dish garden will again grace the altar.

Please add your name to the Flower Committee calendar in the Vestry for the months of September through December at any time. Forms and envelopes are available on the bulletin board alongside the calendar.

Cabinet Meeting Date Change Monday, June 15

Attention all members of the Church Cabinet:

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the June Cabinet meeting on **Monday, June 15, 7:00 pm in the Church vestry.**

(This is a change from the previous day and date of Wednesday, June 10.)

If you are unable to attend, please send a representative from your board or committee. Reports from all should be submitted via email by **June 12** in order that they may be read by others before the meeting.

At this meeting we will be discussing the ideas presented by Rev. Doug Bixby at his visit to our church several weeks ago. One of our goals will be to set up a Task Force to determine how best to apply what we learned.

Your input is important. Hope to see you on **MONDAY, JUNE 15, 7:00pm.**

~Ava Sigsby



Moonlighters Women's Group Annual Mystery Ride

Moonlighter's annual Mystery Dinner will now be a lunch! We will be meeting at the Riley Hall parking lot to carpool at 1:00 on **Thursday, June 18th.** Janet Cook is planning our mystery location, which is certain to be delightful. Please let her know that you plan to attend.

During the summer we will be working on craft projects for the church fair in November. Bring along your new ideas!

Wednesday, September 16 will be the first meeting of the "new year" for Moonlighters. At this time we will make our plans for the coming year and elect new officers.

Volunteers Hard at Work Refreshing the Labyrinth

Don Springhetti with Dave and Sandy Vaughn



Celebrating Susan Vetterlein: A Huge Thank You As She Retires!

Change is just a natural part of life, but some people leave a truly massive pair of shoes to fill. This month, we are saying a bittersweet farewell to a total cornerstone of our daily lives—our amazing Office Administrator, **Susan Vetterlein**, as she officially steps into retirement.

If you have walked through our front doors, called the church office, had questions about our facilities, or read any of our church publications over the years, chances are Susan was the friendly face and steady hand helping you out. As our Office Administrator, Susan didn't just manage the day-to-day logistics; she kept everything running like a well-oiled machine. She handled everything from schedules and supplies to the countless behind-the-scenes details that keep our community connected.

But even more than her incredible organization skills, it is Susan's warmth, patience, and kindness that have truly defined her time with us. She has a rare gift for making everyone feel completely welcome and supported, always bringing a calm, smiling focus to even the busiest days.

While we are going to miss her terribly around the office, we are so excited for her next chapter. Retirement is a well-deserved reward for years of hard work, and we wish Susan endless days of relaxation, fun hobbies, and wonderful new adventures.



Pentecost Sunday

Celebrating the birthday of the Church with a special cake.

Request from the Trustees

This will be the first year in a long time that we will not be using a contractor to mow the church property grass, trim the edges and take care of the bushes and shrubs.



This was included in the job responsibilities of our Sexton, Pete Jansky. Mowing our lawn has been made possible by the generous contribution by Bob and Ava Sigsby of a wonderful mower. The Trustees discussed adding to Pete's tools by buying a string trimmer and leaf blower. A recommendation was brought forward to ask the congregation if they might have an unused trimmer or leaf blower. Great idea!

If you have either of these yard maintenance tools that you have not used lately or tools that perhaps needs some repairs or adjustments, contact any of the Trustees.

Thank you,
Dean Larson



Vacation Bible Camp

CE is excited to bring Vacation Bible Camp to our church this summer! Our think tank is diving in with planning Bible lessons and fun crafts, practicing songs, creating group games that make waves of laughter, and finding ideas for yummy snacks.

Take the plunge and sign up to help in the vestry to help! You'll be invited to planning sessions during the month of July and we'll chart the course together as we prepare for our Mission Deep Sea Vacation Bible Camp.

Serve our church, connect with children, and help our church make a positive impact in our wider community! Reach out to Janet Cook at jcookie4@hotmail.com with any inquiry.



Serve God With Gladness

First Congregational Church of Hanover has lots of opportunities to participate in the various ministries of the church:

Liturgist: Share God's Word in worship

Greeter: Welcome and provide bulletins to worshippers.

Coffee Hour Host: Make the coffee and provide a snack. Get a friend to help set up and clean up!

Tech Deacon: Learn to operate the cameras and livestream the worship service. Speak with Rev. Peter if you are interested.

Please let us know how you would like to help by filling out a SERVE card, found in the pews, or adding your name to the lists found at coffee hour.



Volunteer Impact

Father Bill's & MainSpring serves three meals a day, 365 days per year. That's 230,000 meals made possible by volunteer power.

Grab a buddy and sign up in the church coat room to volunteer to provide a meal on the first Sunday of the month. You may drop off the meal on either Saturday or Sunday at the shelter in Brockton.

Outreach & Service will reimburse you for a portion or even the total meal. contact Dayna Scribi @ dscribi23@yahoo.com



All are welcome here.

Support the Hanover Food Pantry

You can support the Hanover Food Pantry by donating non-perishable food and household supplies, such as canned chicken broth, beef stew, and chili, canned pineapple and cranberry juice, condiments, crackers, chips, and juice boxes as well as kitchen trash bags and liquid dish soap, toilet tissue, tissues, and paper towels, deodorant, toothbrushes, bar soap.

Drop-Off Box: Sylvester School Building, 495 Hanover Street (Use the right side entrance). For after-hours drop-offs, use the outside shed.

All Families Welcome

P.A.C.E

Parent and Child Enrichment

August 2-8, 2026

Extended stays or early check-in on July 31. Late departure on August 9. Your preference.

All-inclusive – six-night vacation, includes 17 meals. Check in early or extend your vacation with a late departure. Scholarships available. Inquire.

About - All Programs Optional

- Lodging in Craigville's historic & air-conditioned Inn
- Private life guarded beach with a game room and an ocean raft
- Tennis & volleyball courts, ball field, and playground
- Morning program, arts & crafts, music, & skits
- Evening activities: kite flying, outdoor concerts and games
- Tabernacle and outdoor chapel for quiet reflection
- Lots of free time to explore the Cape and its beaches
- Adult Bible Study [optional] with Rev. Ed Deyton, facilitator
- Jeopardy Night with former contestants on each team!

Craigville Family Camp

P.A.C.E yourself this summer and enjoy the warm south shore waters and beach in Cape Cod, MA – Nantucket Sound.

CONTACT • MORE INFO.

Call or text
508-309-0386

familycampvacation@yahoo.com
Craigville.org



FCC HANOVER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION JUNE NEWSLETTER



It's hard to believe the end of 2025-2026 Christian Education program is here. As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun, and fun is what we had! In weekly Sunday School, we listened and learned about many people in the Bible, we role played their stories of faith and love, we grew and celebrated our Christian faith, we sang songs of praise (hand motions a must), and delighted in our creative crafts! During the Christmas season, we told the story of Jesus' birth while decorating our beautiful Christmas tree. We served God, church, and community with our winter mitten and hat drive and our Lenten Giving Project for Hanover Food Pantry. We rejoiced in the resurrection of Jesus, and we let our light shine! Throughout the year, we hosted four awesome Community Events showing just how much our church is committed to children and families.

Our Youth Group also had a great year! The group brought their smiles and energy to our Community Events, collected donations for Scituate Animal Shelter, made Valentine goodie bags for homebound folks, and enjoyed time together with their social activities. Service and fun were themes for Youth Group throughout the year.

Please join us in church on June 7th for our last day of Sunday School before the summer recess. We're celebrating **Family Funday Sunday!** Be a part of the weekly worship service or come for the first time. It doesn't matter if you and your family come to church a little or a lot, you are invited to our Family Funday Sunday! We're looking forward to seeing you!



FAMILY FUNDAY SUNDAY June 7

- Special worship service
- Let Your Light Shine** quilt squares
- Strawberry shortcake and lemonade
- Lawn games and bouncy house!
- Bring the kids and grandkids!
- ALL welcome! Bring a friend!
- Fun for all ages!



Check out some highlights of our great year!

Many thanks to parents, grandparents, our members, and our leaders for supporting the CE program!



First Congregational Church Hanover
17 Silver Street
Hanover, MA

Ages 4-10

Kids need camp for end of summer??
Enroll now with QR code below!

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

August 17-20

9:00-12:00

\$25 per family

Bible stories

Fun Games

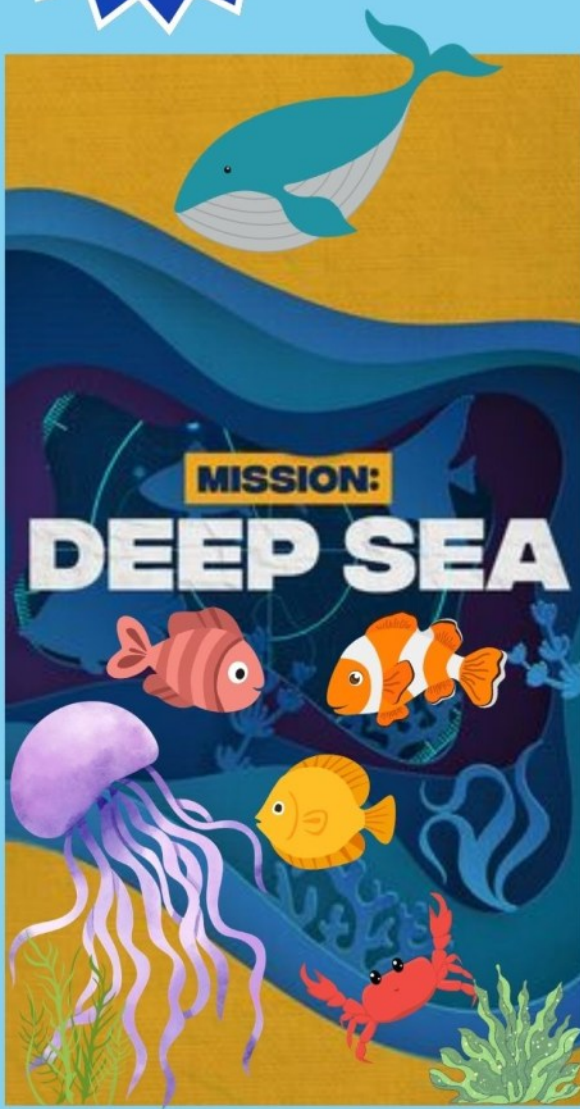
Arts & Crafts

Skits & Songs

snacks

An ocean
of fun and
faith!

All faiths
welcome!



For more info:
Contact Janet
office@fcchanover.org
781-826-4762



Dive in and use the QR code to register in advance or register in person on August 17th. Registration fee by check or cash due on August 17.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:00pm Tai Chi	3 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 6:30pm Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Big Book AA	4 6:00pm AA	5	6 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop
7 9:30am Worship	8	9 6:00pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Trustees	10 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Big Book AA	11 4:00pm - 5:30pm CE/Riley Hal 6:00pm AA	12 7:00am - 9:00am All Pro Dad	13 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 2:00pm - 8:00pm Remick Party
14 Children's Sunday 9:30am Worship	15 7:00pm Cabinet Mtg	16 6:00pm Tai Chi 7:00pm - 8:00pm Diaconate	17 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Big Book AA	18 6:30am Finance 1:00pm Moonlighters Lunch 6:00pm AA	19	20 10:00am HHS Car Wash Keira 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop
21 9:30am Worship	22	23 6:00pm Tai Chi	24 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Big Book AA	25	26	27 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop
28 9:30am Worship	29	30 6:00pm Tai Chi				



To submit items for the church calendar, bulletin or the Spire, please email fully composed articles (and pictures!) to Office@FCCHanover.org



The Spire
First Congregational Church of Hanover
An Open & Affirming Congregation of the
United Church of Christ
17 Silver St., Suite 201
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