United Church of Christ,
Congregational Boxborough

723 Massachusetts Ave., Boxborough, MA 01719
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https://www.boxboroughucc.org

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

July 26, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Prelude *I'd Rather Have Jesus* Shea

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

* Hymn #421 (NCH Black hymnal) *We Gather Together* Baker/Bayer

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
To live in community, seeking God's will.
We come now, as sisters and brothers,
Confessing the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
You call us, O Savior, to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom, to follow or stray,
Empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 19) Lay Leader

One: The heavens herald your Glory, O God, and the skies display your handiwork.
All: Day after day they tell their story, and night after night they reveal the depth of their understanding. Without speech, without even an audible voice, their cry echoes through all the world, and their message reaches the ends of the earth.
One: For in the heavens the sun has pitched a tent. It comes forth with the grandeur of a wedding procession, with the eagerness of an athlete ready to race.
All: It rises at one end of the sky and travels to the other end, and nothing escapes its warmth. For this we come together in thanks. We celebrate God's love in the order of creation and the randomness of our universe. We come together to walk in awe.

Prayer of Transformation Lay Reader

Holy one, there is nothing in this universe that is fully understood by the human race. We are constantly observing, learning, and enjoying the creation around us. May we allow ourselves to be humble in the midst of all things. May we look for our role in the order, may be look for possibilities in the random changes that we experience. May we hold faith in love through it all.

Prayer of Assurance

Hear the Good News! God's love does not depend on us understanding all that is around us. God's love is always there, no matter how we make sense of our lives. God's love calls us to be humble in the process and to love one another. Love is a gift to us to be shared. You are loved. May you hold that in your heart standing in the vastness of this creation. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

One: We take this time in community to share God's peace from one heart to another. The peace of God be with you.

All: And also, with you.

* Song of Celebration *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Scripture Reading Lay Leader

Psalm 19: 7-14 (The Inclusive Bible)

Your law, God, is perfect; it refreshes the soul.
Your rule is to be trusted; it gives wisdom to the naïve.
Your purposes, O God, are right; they gladden the heart.
Your command is clear; it gives light to the eyes.
Holding you in awe, God, is purifying; it endures.
Your decrees are steadfast, and all of them just.
They are more precious than gold, that the purest of gold,
And sweeter than honey, than honey fresh from the comb,
In them your faithful people find instruction; there is great reward in keeping them.
But who can detect one's own failings? Forgive the misdeeds I don't even know about!
Keep your faithful one from presumption as well, so that my faults never control me.
Then I will be blameless and innocent of a grave error.
May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing in your sight, God,
My rock and my redeemer!

Anthem *You Raise Me Up* Løvland

Sung by: Elizabeth Oh

Sermon Pastor Fran Graveson

Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer, and Jesus' Prayer

Creator God, 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.

Offering

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *More Love to You* Doane

*Sung Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

*Dedication of the Offering

Holy One, this is our offering. May our offering change us as much as it changes the world. May we see the things we do, no matter how small or mundane, as the way that we contribute goodness to the world, creating more life, more joy, and more love. Amen.

* Hymn #423 (NCH Black hymnal) *Great Is Your Faithfulness* Chisholm

Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
With you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
All of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed your hand has provided, Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.
Refrain

Benediction

Postlude *It Is Well with My Soul* Bliss/Hayes

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***Denotes times in the service when the congregation will stand in body or spirit.**

The flowers on the altar this morning are presented in loving memory of our Dad, Harold Warren, with love Jim, Carol, Sharon, and Nancy.