

United Church of Christ,
Congregational Boxborough

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

June 7, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Hover

We spend too much time being "driven" rather than "drawn in." We focus on what we "should" do rather than what we feel excited and compelled to do in our lives, in this world. During this series, we will connect with our inherent creativity and nurture this foundational aspect of being human, giving us renewed energy for passionate work, delightful play, and creative problem solving to make this world a better place for all.

Prelude *Arise, My Soul, Arise* Edson

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

Introit *We Gather Here Together* Senior Choir
16th c. madrigal

Call to Worship Lay Leader
One: Hovering God, you are as close as the air we walk through and breathe.
All: Open us to stop and feel your presence this day.
One: Show what you would have us do in the midst of so much to do.
All: Draw us into your quiet patience. Give us the courage to wait for your word.

* Hymn #332 (NCH Black hymnal) *As We Gather at Your Table* Daw

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; Let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.

There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Prayer of Transformation

Holy one, what holds us back from connecting to your presence? Are we afraid of the changes your ever-creating call beckons? Whenever you lead us into new territory, something will be different. We recognize our want to keep our old patterns, and yet we know the brilliance you can bring into this world through your re-creating work in every moment.

-- *Silent meditation –*

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! We can handle changes. Why? Because God is always with us! During our passing of the peace, turn to your neighbor and greet them with this assurance, "You've got this!!" We don't need to know the changes we are each struggling with, we just need to remind each other that we are not alone, "We've got this!!"

* 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 *Let Us Be Drawn In*

In the world of the driven
Let us be drawn in
Let your love be a given
Let us be drawn in
To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem
For the sake of the livin'
Let us be drawn in

A Word for All Ages — Pastor Fran Graveson

Scripture Reading — Lay Leader

Luke 4:14-22 CEB

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I

give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you," and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Anthem *All Night All Day* Senior Choir
Spiritual/Gilpin

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 *A Child of the King* Simone

*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 creative spirit in the world, 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, more love. Amen.

* Hymn #540 (NCH Black hymnal) *We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed* Bryan Mattney

We plant a grain of mustard seed,
and in our faith we find
The proof of God is love, indeed, which blossoms from its kind. (repeat)

Our actions, more than words,
define how love's example feeds
A greater love, for love divine bursts forth from smallest seeds. (repeat)

When stooped to lend a helping hand,
we find a touch that heals,
For love invested will expand to bear the fruit love yields. (repeat)

Make love our purpose, love our aim,
for love endures all things,
And choosing love our lives will claim the peace forgiveness brings. (repeat)

Communion — Pastor Fran

Prayer of Thanksgiving
All: We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of this table and our time sharing in community. May they sustain us in our work together, living in the light and walking the path of love's truth. Amen.

Benediction

Choral Benediction — *With Love We Depart* — Senior Choir
Hardin

Postlude — *People Need the Lord* — McHugh/Nelson

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