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.

October 11, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Prelude *Deep River* Thygerson

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

Introit *Gonna Be a Great Day* African American spiritual

Call to Worship Lay Leader

One: Come, all who carry the weight of fear and uncertainty,
All: for the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.
One: Come, you who have felt forgotten, rejected, or outside the fold,
All: for God's mercy is wide, welcoming, and endlessly deep.
One: May our hearts be opened to the mystery of God's grace,
All: and may our lives trust in the possibilities beyond our knowing.[i]

***** Hymn #588 (NCH Black hymnal) *Let Justice Flow like Streams* Parker Huber

Let Justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,
An everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God plumb line, straight, define our measure true.
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

Prayer of Transformation Lay Reader

God of covenant, you reach to us in love. You offer relationship, growth, peace, and reconciliation. We do not always feel worthy of the invitation. Help us to accept your invitation. Help us to understand the work to be done together. Guide us and show us how to be a blessing.

<moment of silence>

Prayer of Assurance Pastor Fran Graveson

We are loved. We are offered a relationship filled with abundance and acceptance. Even when we find it impossible to believe such an invitation, we are still loved. And what a world we would share if we could all feel worthy of such an invitation. 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.

Story for All Ages Pastor Fran Graveson

Scripture Reading Lay Leader

Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-3

Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

Then God spoke all these words,

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

Anthem *Where True Joy Is Found* Wagner

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 Prayer From the Hills* Southbridge

*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

Loving God, you do not demand sacrifice or give us extra credit for our offerings. We present these gifts as a grateful response to your grace and a commitment to lives reflecting and spreading your transformative love. Bless them, to make the impossible possible in our eyes. Amen.

* Hymn #575 (NCH Black hymnal) *O For A World* Winter

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where good are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives us our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Benediction Pastor Fran Graveson

Choral Benediction *Peace of the Earth* Traditional Guatemalan song

Postlude *The Master Has Called Us* Ritter

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The flowers on the altar this morning were presented by Ralph DeMent in memory of his wife, Diane.

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

NEXT SUNDAY!!!

Join us for our Worship in Action!

We will gather at the Community Center at 9:30 am for a short prayer service and then don our hairnets and get to work!!



The upbeat music! The assembly line! The stylish hair nets! We're excited to bring back Rise Against Hunger. All ages are invited to this Worship in Action service - there are roles for everyone! We'll gather in the Community Center for a short worship service, then work together to assemble meal packets that will be distributed globally to those most in need. Just one way that we put our Faith into Action by caring for the world and demonstrating our love for neighbors, near and far.

Have friends who are equally motivated? Invite them to join!

This event is graciously sponsored by Catherine Michael and her dear friend, Lucia, in honor of their 80th birthdays. They thought "what better way to celebrate our birthdays than to gather with friends and family to package over 10,000 meals to be distributed to those in need." That is an inspiring reflection. See you on October 18th – and, yes, there will be cake! Questions? Please contact Kellie at ktsenghas@gmail.com.

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[i] George Helton, https://thepastorsworkshop.com/liturgy/come-all-who-carry-the-weight-of-fear