United Church of Christ,
Congregational Boxborough

723 Massachusetts Ave., Boxborough, MA 01719
978-263-7387
https://www.boxboroughucc.org

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

January 25, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Community Thanks

Prelude *O Word of God Incarnate* Hegarty

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

Introit *We Gather Here Together* Senior Choir
Valerius

Call to Worship Lay Leader

One: We come together to give thanks for all of the love, support, and hope that has flowed through this community in the past year. We come together to ask for the resolve, tools, and love needed to enter into the work of this coming year.

All: Equip us, God, for the work of ministry. For the work involved with building unity of purpose and vision.

One: We come together to love each other and pray for opportunities to broaden that love into our community.

All: Equip us with saints who will say yes to your will and yes to your way. Equip us, God, to journey with Jesus through life's uncertain paths.

One: We come together in search of purpose, in search of our voice in difficult times.

All: Equip us with maturity that comes from knowing you. Equip us, God, to speak the truth in love even when it's uncomfortable. Equip us, O God, for the work of ministry that you have called us to do. Amen.

* Hymn #84 (NCH Black hymnal) *This Is the Day* Garrett

This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made
We will rejoice we will rejoice, and be glad in it and be glad in it
This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day Jesus rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.

This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it;
This is the day when the Spirit came, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
This is the day, this is the day when the Spirit came.

* 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.

A Word for All Ages — Pastor Fran Graveson

Scripture Reading — Lay Leader
Acts 2: 42-47 NRSVUE
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds[a] to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread from house to house and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Anthem *Where True Joy Is Found* — Senior Choir
Wagner

Sermon — Pastor Fran Graveson

Faith in Action – Our Call in the Community

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.

Ministry Team/Lay Leadership Recognition Pastor Fran Graveson

One: There is a saying that many hands make for light work. There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services through the same Divine Love, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same Holy One who activates all of them in everyone.

ALL: Each of us receives gifts of the Spirit for the common good.

One: As you all stand here in this time of transition, ll who stand with you thank you for the time and talents you have provided to this community in your leadership and team roles.

ALL: We thank you all.

One: We also release you from the responsibilities and the obligations you agreed to fulfill in your position. We trust in God and our own spiritual journeys to continue the work of this community. We bid you rest and time of discernment and peace, as you move into the new year.

ALL: We promise to release you and let you rest.

One: May the next chapter of our journey be filled with joy, love, hope, and peace. Whether that be with new work in the church or with a time of rest. We, as your church community, are here to provide you with support, tools, and love as you continue your growth in this community and in your relationship with the Light that holds us all.

ALL: We wrap you in our love; we walk with you in our relationship with the Divine. Amen.

Offering

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *Offertory on "Converse"* Paxton

* 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, accept our offering of time, talent, and treasure. We give in thanks, grateful for our lives; your grace; and this Beloved community. May these gifts be used to spread justice, love, and peace to all.

*Hymn (insert).	*Our Hearts Proclaim a Living God*	Brown
Benediction		
Choral Benediction	*With Joy We Depart*	Senior Choir Davis/Lee
Postlude	*God's Perfect Peace*	Mountain

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