

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.

July 12, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Rest

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 — *The Good Shepherd* — Simone

Welcome & Announcements — Pastor Fran Graveson

* Hymn #32 (NCH Black hymnal) *God of the Sparrow* — Vajda

God of the sparrow; God of the whale; God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?

God of the earthquake; God of the storm; God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?

God of the rainbow; God of the cross; God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?

God of the hungry; God of the sick; God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor; God of the foe; God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?

God of the ages; God near at hand; God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?

Call to Worship Lay Leader

One: Active and Restful God, your heart is our heart, your rhythm is our rhythm. Open us to the place of rest and celebration in the rhythm of our lives.

All: Draw us into delight. Give us the courage to breathe deeply.

One: When we live in God's dream, we live in the rhythm of God. We live creating and resting.

All: Draw us into delight. Give us the courage to breathe deeply.

Prayer of Transformation Lay Reader

God of Sabbath, Why can't we seem to keep up our creativity? Why do we get so burned out? Sometimes hidden or not-so-hidden expectations, even and especially the ones we put on ourselves, drown out our own gut feeling that it is time to take a break. It is difficult to say yes to play, to rest. We forget to take a moment to give thanks and to focus on our relationship with you, the center of love.

Prayer of Assurance

Hear the Good News! God's love does not depend on your productivity. And your energy for the work of helping to serve the needs of the world is fed when you dare to give yourself what you need as well. You are beloved. Rest and celebrate.

As our greeting and passing of the peace today, I invite you to turn to your neighbors and give them this assurance, "You ARE enough, period."

* 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

Scripture Reading Lay Leader

Matthew 11:28-30;12:1-8

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? How he entered the house of God, and they ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

Anthem *Come, Follow Me* Kupferschmid

Sung by: Gloria Roe, Glynis Hamel, Brian Davis, Duncan Brown

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 *Shall We Gather at the River / Near to the Heart of God* Hayes

*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 #451 (NCH Black hymnal) vs 1-3 *Be Now My Vision* Byrne

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart—
You my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
Ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
Now and forever your child I will be;

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
You, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Benediction

Postlude *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.* Chesterton

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