United Church of Christ, Congregational Boxborough

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978-263-7387
https://www.boxboroughucc.org

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

October 25, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Prelude	*Prelude in C Major*	Bach
Welcome & Announcements		Pastor Fran Graveson
Introit	*Gonna Be a Great Day*	African American spiritual
Call to Worship		Lay Leader

One: We come together in the presence of God.
All: We are called to love with all of our heart and soul.
One: God is present and in relationship with all of us.
All: We are called to love with all our mind and strength.
One: God calls us to turn our hearts toward the light.
All: Let us turn our hearts toward God in our daily actions, thoughts, and commitments. Let us walk in the light together.

* Hymn #73 (NCH Black hymnal) *Enter, Rejoice, and Come In* Ruspini

Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.

Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.

Open your hearts everyone. Open your hearts everyone.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.

Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.

Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice and come in.

Prayer of Transformation Lay Reader

God of covenant, you reach to us in love. You ask us to focus our actions; order our priorities; and enter into our commitments with your love on our hearts. There are many distractions in this life. Wounds of yesterday and fears of tomorrow can cause us not to trust in your covenant, to lose our hope in the light leading us a just kin_dom. Meet us where we are and help us to trust again.

<moment of silence>

Prayer of Assurance Pastor Fran Graveson

We are loved. We are offered a relationship filled with abundance and acceptance. Our hearts are called together for justly purpose, joy, and meaningful lives. Know that God pulls at your heart and says, "Come, walk with me in the light." 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

Deuteronomy 6:4-9;20-25 Inclusive Bible

Hear, O Israel: YHWH, our God, YHWH is One! You are to love YHWH, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Let these words that I command you today be written in your heart. Teach them diligently to your children, and repeat them constantly—when you are at home, when you are walking down a road, when you lie down at night and when you get up in the morning. Tie them on your hand as a reminder; wear them as a circlet on your forehead; write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

When, in times to come, your children ask you, "What is the meaning of the commandments, the statutes and the decrees which YHWH gave us?" say to them, "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and God brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand. God did wonders that struck terror, signs that we could see, against Egypt and Pharaoh and Pharaoh's household. YHWH brought us out of there, leading us into the land promised to our ancestors. Then God commanded us to keep these statutes and to revere YHWH, our

God, for our own everlasting benefit, that we may live, as we do now. For if we are to dwell in the light, we must live in the commandments before God, YHWH, as we were commanded."

Anthem *I Am Gonna Sing* Miller

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 *Dedication* Brahms, Op 39 (Scrivener)

*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 #30 (NCH Black hymnal) *Colorful Creator* Duck

Colorful Creator, God of mystery,
Thank you for the artist teaching us to see
Glimpses of the meaning of the common place,
Visions of the holy in each human face.

Harmony of ages, God of listening ear,
Thank you for composers tuning us to hear
Echoes of the Gospel in the songs we sing,
Sounds of love and longing for the deepest spring.

Author of our journey, God of near and far,
Praise for tale and drama telling who we are,
Stripping to the essence struggles of our day,
Times of change and conflict when we choose our way.

God of truth and beauty, Poet of the Word,
May we be creators by the Spirit stirred,
Open to your presence in our joy and strife,
Vessels of the holy coursing through our life.

Benediction — Pastor Fran Graveson

Choral Benediction — *Peace of the Earth* — Traditional Guatemalan song

Postlude — *All Things Bright and Beautiful* — Paxton

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

JOIN US TODAY at 4pm!! Cuba Benefit Concert

The United Church of Christ of Boxborough is sponsoring a benefit concert for the people of Cuba, featuring the Pan-Latin ensemble, ***Sol y Canto***. The concert will take place on Sunday, October 25th, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, with doors opening at 3:30 PM.

Cuba is facing the worst economic and humanitarian crisis in its modern history because of the severe fuel restrictions along with long standing sanctions. Proceeds from the event will benefit the congregations of the Second Baptist Church in Santiago de Cuba, the Baptist Church of Mariana in Baracoa, and neighboring communities. Tickets are $30 per person, $10 for youth/students, plus a small ticketing fee ($35 at the door).

Purchase Tickets online until 2pm today or at the door.