United Church of Christ,
Congregational Boxborough

723 Massachusetts Ave., Boxborough, MA 01719
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No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you BELONG here.

May 10, 2026 9:30 a.m.
Mothering

Prelude *I'd Rather Have Jesus* Shea

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

Introit *It's Gonna Be A Great Day* Senior Choir
Martin

Call to Worship Lay Leader
One: We gather together, invited by Jesus, to open our hearts to the possibilities of God's love. To understand through our hearts the meaning of our faith.
All: We gather together, to worship and encounter the Holy One.
One: We trust that the infinite love of God will move us beyond our places of doubt and fill our hearts with hope.
All: We gather together, to witness to the possibilities of God's love in the world.

***** Hymn #433 (NCH Black hymnal) *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* Sleeth

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed; and apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Prayer of Transformation

Always creating God, relationships in life are complicated. Help us to understand the essence of love in this world. Help us to live together in peace through understanding and forgiveness. May we treat each other gently knowing the scars on some of our hearts. May we accept love and grace in our lives and accept wholeness of ourselves as we navigate the relationships, we hold so dear.

-- *Silent meditation –*

Assurance of Pardon

You are loved. May love heal the scars of past conflicts. May love guide you through the complexity of relationships today. God builds paths of grace and peace for all of us. May your heart follow love and find wholeness.

* 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

John 17:13-24 NRSVUE

But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

"I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Mother, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent

me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Mother, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Anthem *A Joyful Mozart Canon* Senior Choir
Mozart/Shafferman

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 *Wonderful Peace* Hegarty

*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 #31 (NCH Black Hymnal) *All Things Bright and Beautiful* Alexander

Refrain
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.
Refrain

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.
Refrain

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them everyone.
Refrain

Benediction

Choral Benediction	*Alleluia*	Senior Choir Mozart
Postlude	*How Majestic Is Your Name*	Smith/Hayes

The flowers on the altar are dedicated in loving memory of Berda Treyz from her daughters Linda Gilberti and Cynthia McGinty.

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