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 BELONG here.

September 20, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Prelude *Count Your Blessings*
Excell

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

Introit *Welcome* Miller

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 #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.

Prayer of Transformation Lay Reader

God of Love, you called Abram to leave all that felt familiar and follow you to a new place. You called Abram to wander and learn new things. You called Abram to get unstuck from what was holding him down and trust a new path. Well, it is not always easy to be like Abram. Help us to trust your love even when it sends us into a new land to wander.

<moment of silence>

Prayer of Assurance

We are loved. God will nudge us and challenge us to go beyond our comfort zone. And God will love us no matter the path we choose. God walks with us, offering a hand of trust and love. May we have the courage to be loved and to be changed. 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

Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built

there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Anthem *Welcome to God's Love* 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 *Just Because I Asked* Harris

*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 #562 (NCH Black hymnal) *Take My Gifts* Murray

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter—flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer—gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Choral Benediction Old Irish Blessing Traditional Irish Folk

Benediction

Postlude *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Thygerson

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

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