The Spire

November 2026

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Hanover, United Church of Christ

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OUR VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a church that welcomes all and empowers all in Christ to share their God-given talents.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of inclusive love that has no walls or barriers, where all who enter are loved, respected, and accepted for who they are, reaching beyond social class, gender, race and sexual orientation, welcoming all into our circle of love. We are a community of growth and transformation that is not content with the status quo but a community filled with the love and compassion of Christ, and an overwhelming desire to share that love. We are a community committed to not only praying together, on Sunday mornings, but putting our faith into action daily.

Dear Friends,

As we enter the month of November, the changing season calls us into a time of reflection, community, and abundant gratitude. We invite you to join us each Sunday as we gather to worship, learn, and grow together in faith.

Worship Schedule for November

Sunday, November 1 — All Saints Sunday

We begin the month by honoring the memory and legacy of the faithful saints who have gone before us, giving thanks for the enduring cloud of witnesses that shapes our journey.

(A friendly reminder: Daylight Saving Time ends on November 1—be sure to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night!)

Sunday, November 8 — Veterans Day Observance

We gather in worship to honor and express our deep gratitude to the veterans within our congregation and community, lifting prayers for their service, sacrifice, and the enduring hope of peace.

Sunday, November 15 — The Sacrament of Baptism

Celebrate with us as we welcome new life and commitment into our church family through the waters of baptism.

Sunday, November 21 — Thanksgiving & Stewardship Sunday

Together, we will offer our praise and prayers of thanksgiving, dedicating our gifts and pledges for the coming year as good stewards of all God has provided.

Sunday, November 28 — First Sunday of Advent

We turn our hearts toward the light of hope as we mark the arrival of the Advent season and begin our journey of anticipation toward Christmas.

Please note there is no pastor's tea in November due to the holiday.

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All are invited to worship on these special Sundays as we move into the next season of our church life together

Faithfully,



Rev. Peter Johnston, Senior Pastor

We need some help at the Hanover Food Pantry!

As we all know, food prices have risen and as a result, the Hanover Food Pantry is busier than ever. Along with the bags of food that are distributed every Wednesday and the last Saturday of the month, the Pantry have been blessed by an increase in giving! Just this past week Jannell Ford delivered a pick-up truck full of food for the pantry. The donations were a result of Jannell Ford's month-long food drive.

Our Church volunteers work at the Food Pantry every six weeks. We have a team for Mondays that work from 9:30 am to about 11:00 am and another for Wednesdays, working from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. We could use two more volunteers. Even if you could only help out for an hour at the start of the work schedule it would be a great help.

If you are interested in joining the "Congo Team" you can speak to Dean Larson, Bob Meader, Ruth Hall, or Dayna Scribi for details.



Outreach & Service Committee

As part of our church's Thanksgiving 🦃 tradition, the Outreach & Service committee will be collecting grocery store gift cards (Shaw's, Market Basket, Target…) to be donated to the VNA for distribution to needy area residents. Gift cards will be joyfully accepted November 1-8 in the church vestry or at the Church office in Riley Hall.

** Any amount is greatly appreciated, and please remember to mark the value of the card.*

MainSpring House Meals

MainSpring House is currently 180 people.

Reminder that the months of NOVEMBER DECEMBER are available for meal donations.

Sign-ups are in the vestry next to the flower sign-up sheet.

Questions? Don't hesitate to contact Dayna for more information: 617-827-3955.

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARD DRIVE

Help local families with grocery support

Donate supermarket gift cards in any amount to help neighbors in need.

- Gift cards from any supermarket welcome
- Drop off during Sunday service or at the church office
- Every donation makes a difference



Thank you

for sharing God's love through generosity.

First Congregational Church of Hanover • November 1-8 • Dayna Scribi

CHURCH FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

The **JEWELRY TABLE** at the Fair is in need of all your treasure. Please see Priscilla or Glenda for your donations

The **WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE** is in need of household items and treasures (no computers please)
See Adrianne or ask the Fair Committee if you have any questions
Donations can be dropped off during Office hours or Thrift Shop hours

The **BAKED GOOD TABLE** could use some additional cooks.

The **TOOL TABLE** us in need of new or gently used tools. Please see Steve's Patt for any questions or if you have expensive items to drop off. Tools can be dropped of at Riley Hall during office and thrift store hours.

See the sign up sheets in the Church Vestry!!!

Set up for the fair is on November 6th!!!

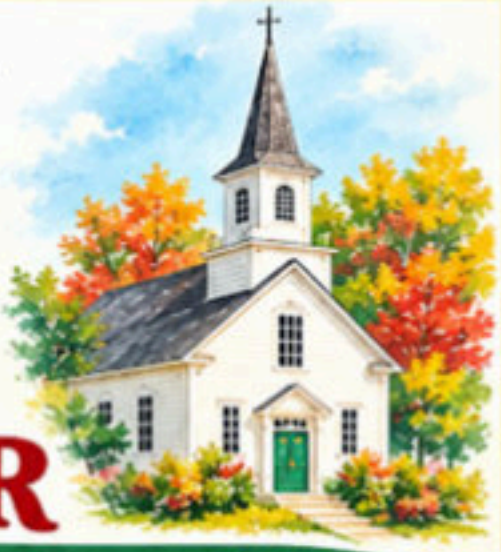


Many hands make light work!!!



Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!!!

First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ



LAURA'S COUNTRY CHURCH FAIR

Saturday, November 7th | 9:30am - 2:00pm

Join in the fun filled fellowship and stop by one of the following tables.



Plant Table



Jams/Jelly and Baked Good Table



White Elephant Table



Tool Table



Progressive Auction



Knitted Table



Bits and Pieces Table



Woodcraft Table



Jewelry Table



Holiday Craft Table



World Famous Cafe

Contact Linda Gilardi 339-933-0224 if you would like to participate
Sign up sheets are in the Church Vestry



White elephant and tool items may be dropped off at the Riley Hall from
Tuesday though **Saturday**
10:00am til **1:30**
Please contact Adrianne or Steve if you are donating a valuable item

FCC Hanover November Christian Education Newsletter



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! Psalm 107:1



NOVEMBER is a wonderful time think about all the things we have to be thankful for. This month, instead of the usual calendar of events, I'm sharing some simple activities you can enjoy with your children or grandchildren at home. Whether it's sharing what you're thankful for, doing something kind for someone else, or taking a few moments to thank God for His many blessings, these little activities can help us grow in faith together as a family. Spread your faith! Share these ideas with a friend!

Wishing you and your family a blessed November filled with gratitude, love, and joy!



Gratitude Seed Jar

Start now! Share with family around your Thanksgiving table!



Place a jar or bowl somewhere everyone can see it. During November, family members add slips of paper naming something they are thankful for. At Thanksgiving, gather together and read them aloud. Remember- Gratitude is like a seed. The more we nurture it, the more it grows.

Share your Bread

Does your child love to bake? Together, bake muffins, bread, cookies or another simple treat. Then choose someone to share it with- a neighbor friend, teacher, family member, or someone who just needs a little love.



We'd love to see you and your child in November whenever you can join us!

Mail a little Gratitude

Have your child make a homemade thank-you card for someone who has made a difference in their lives.- a grandparent, neighbor, friend, teacher, coach. Imagine the smiles your child's note will bring when reading this thoughtful message!



Light a Thankfulness Candle



Here's an idea for your family dinner table. One night a week, turn off the lights and light a candle. Go around the table and have each person share something they are thankful for. Include a family prayer of thanks.

Christmas Poinsettias Beautify the Sanctuary

Please help decorate and beautify the sanctuary for the holiday season! Orders for poinsettias will be taken on two Sundays, December 6th and 13th in the vestry of after church. The cost is just $13 for a beautiful plant. An order form is below. Please complete the order form and send it to the church office along with the $13 payment. Orders must be received by Monday, December 14th.

Christmas Poinsettias

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

How many? _____

_____ I will take on Christmas Eve

_____I will donate my Poinsettia





FLOWER COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the members who have been and continue to order an arrangement to grace our altar with a lovely Sunday arrangement.

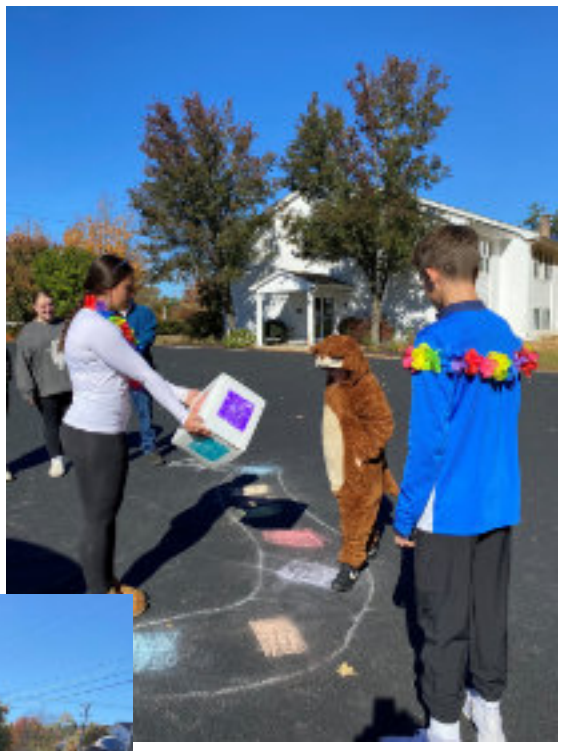
The new 2027 calendar is now attached to our bulletin board in the Vestry. It hangs just under the 2026 calendar. Forms and envelopes are available there and markers for filling in the calendar.

Don't forget to mark if you are taking the arrangement with you "T" or donating the flowers "D" to make small bouquets for sale at coffee hour.

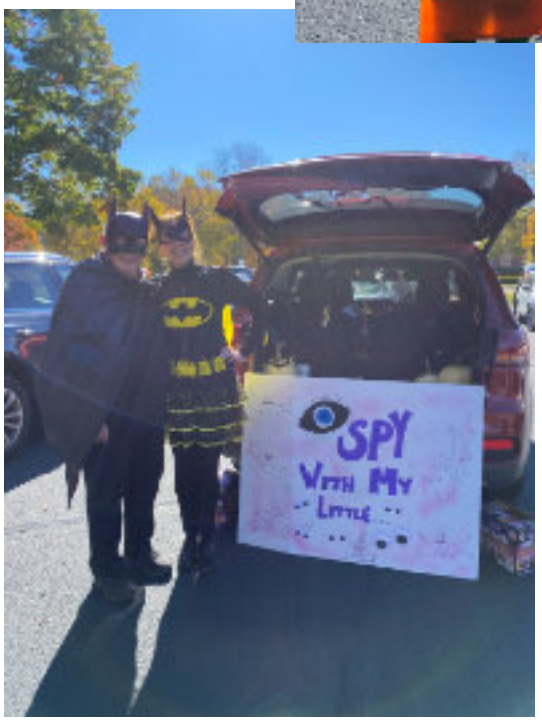
We have raised several hundred dollars for the church this year through your generosity. The arrangements can be in honor of, memory of special people in our lives or celebration or recognition of special events.

Trunk or Treat was Smashing Success!!!











Moonlighters -- Next Meeting November 17th!!!

Please join us on **Tuesday**, **November 17, 2026** at 2 p.m. in Riley Hall.

At this meeting we will be assembling food items for our shut-in bags and signing up for delivery of bags. If you were unable to attend the October meeting please contact Dayna if you would like to contribute a food item. Also, at this meeting there will be a sign up for our Christmas Pot Luck 🎄 in December.

Women of the church are always welcome to join our fun group on the 3rd Tuesday of the month!

If you have any questions regarding baskets, please call Cindy Shaw at 781-864-3632

Potluck

Thank you for everyone who contributed to the potluck! It was a great night of food, music, and fellowship!





Share Your Gifts: Simple Ways to Serve on Sunday Mornings

Sunday worship is something we build together. Whether you are stepping through our doors for the first time or the hundredth, our shared service thrives on the warmth, voices, and hospitality of our congregation.

If you have been looking for an easy, meaningful way to get involved, consider signing up for one of three vital roles:

- **Greeter:** Be the welcoming smile at the door! Hand out bulletins, greet longtime friends and newcomers alike, and help everyone feel at home the moment they arrive.
- **Scripture Reader:** Lend your voice to worship by reading the morning's designated scripture lessons during the service. Readings are provided ahead of time so you can practice comfortably.
- **Coffee Hour Host:** Fellowship doesn't end with the benediction. Hosting coffee hour can be as simple as making a fresh pot of coffee, putting out a light snack, and helping tidy up afterward. Partnering with a friend or family member makes it even easier and more fun!

No prior experience is necessary, and guidance is always happily provided.

How to Sign Up:
Sign-up sheets for the coming weeks are available in the **vestry during Coffee Hour**. Stop by, grab a cup of coffee, and write your name down for the dates that suit your schedule.

YOUTH GROUP!!!



There is a lot going on at Church and we are here to help! We volunteered at the Trunk or Treat, and plan to be volunteers at the Church Fair on November 7th!

Our next adventure is on November 22nd and we will visit the LaSalette Shrine! Save the date!!!

Youth Group meets once a month and welcomes our middle school and high school students and their friends. Please contact leaders Jenn Bunar or Nicole Conti, or CE Director Janet Cook with questions.

Our Nursery/Toddler Care Room is available for parents who bring little ones to church. Although it isn't used every Sunday, having this space available sends an important message: **Children are welcome here!** It also gives parents an opportunity to enjoy a quieter, more meaningful time of worship, knowing their little ones are being safely cared for.

We are looking for volunteers to provide *on-call childcare*. This simply means signing up for a Sunday (or two) when you plan to attend worship and being available to care for the children if needed. Won't you please consider volunteering in this way? Your willingness to help, even if you aren't needed every time, makes a difference in helping our church be a welcoming place for families!





November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship	**2** 6:30pm - 7:30pm Webelos (4th grade) in Pack 37	**3** 6:00pm - 7:00pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Scouts Troop 38	**4** 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 6:30pm - 7:30pm Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Big Book AA	**5** 6:00pm - 7:00pm AA	**6** Fair Set Up (Riley Hall, Kitchen, Fair Set Up)	**7** 10:00am - 2:00pm CHURCH FAIR 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop
8 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship	**9** Rental D 6:00pm - 7:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	**10** 6:00pm - 7:00pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Trustees' Meeting 7:00pm Scouts Troop 38	**11** Rental S 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Big Book AA	**12** 4:00pm CE Mtg Riley Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm AA	**13**	**14** 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 11:00am PPRC
15 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship	**16**	**17** 2:00pm Moonlighters 6:00pm - 7:00pm Tai Chi 7:00pm DIACONATE MEETING 7:00pm Scouts Troop 38	**18** 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Big Book AA 7:00pm Troop 38 Com Mtg Rm1	**19** 6:00pm - 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Finance	**20**	**21** 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 2:00pm - 4:00pm Pack 37 Bear Den Meeting
22 8:00am Stewardship Sunday!!! 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship	**23**	**24** 6:00pm - 7:00pm Tai Chi 7:00pm Scouts Troop 38	**25** 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop 7:00pm Big Book AA	**26** Thanks-giving 6:00pm - 7:00pm AA	**27**	**28** 10:00am - 2:00pm Thrift Shop
29 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship	**30**					

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First Congregational Church of Hanover
An Open & Affirming Congregation of the
United Church of Christ

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