First Congregational Church of Hanover

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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



Sunday, October 25, 2026

First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ

October 25, 2026 **9:30 a.m.**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God.

People: The voice of God calls, "I am the Lord. Love your neighbor as yourself."

Leader: We are called to love with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

People: The Spirit calls us, moving us to acts of justice and compassion.

All: Come, let us worship and serve our God who calls us by name. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Red Hymnal 363

Morning Prayer

Holy God, we come before you to stop and listen for your still small voice. In your word you create for us a picture of full and abundant life; life that can only be had by learning and meditating on your Law and commands, and in knowing you as our Holy Lord. We pray that our delight would be in you, in your truth, in your grace, now and forevermore. Amen.

A Time For All Ages

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Matthew 22:34-46

The Greatest Commandment

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test

him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The Question about David’s Son

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

“If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Psalm 46

God’s Defense of His City and People
To the leader. Of the Korahites. According to Alamoth. A Song.

God is our refuge and strength,
    a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
    though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
    though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
    the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
    God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
    he utters his voice; the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
    the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

Come, behold the works of the Lord;
    see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

*Gloria Patri (Sung) Blue Hymnal No. 35

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Sermon Rev. Peter Johnston

*Sermon Hymn *Be Still, My Soul* Red Hymnal 77

Stewardship Speaker: Rev. Deb Spratley

Offering Our Gifts

Call to Offering
Offertory
*Doxology Blue Hymnal No. 46

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, 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.**

*Closing Hymn *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Red Hymnal 15

*Benediction

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Sue Conant; The flowers are given by Dayna Scribi in memory of her brothers Robert and Graham Bradbury.

The Lay Reader Ken Cheo; The Deacon of the Month is John Fox;

The coffee hour is omitted for TRUNK or TREAT!!!

The Sunday School Volunteer is Glenda Larson.

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

We pray for all those affected by the recent tragedy in Bend, Oregon;
Pat Merritt now at home from her recent hospitalization;
Jamaal Thompson, asks for prayer for a cousin who had a stroke;
Ruth Hall asks for prayers for her grandson's, Matthew's, father-in-law and their family, on his tragic passing;
Tony, son-in-law of Louise Jackson, for additional shunt surgery;
Kathy Talbot as she recovers in rehab at Webster Park;
Rochelle, prayers for her son;
Bobby Kennedy, David Fiske's brother-in-law, continued prayers as he seeks treatment for pulmonary health concerns.

Joys

Chad received a Choral Director's Award from Wellesley High School.

We Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:

Sandy Vaughn, undergoing treatment for cancer;
Bill & Patti MacLennan’s daughter, brain cancer;
Donald, brother-in-law of MaryBeth Tarnauskas, with cancer;
Rick, brother of Dennis Falcione;
Irene & Wally Reed;
Ericka Penney;
Darrus Fiske.

Sunday School: Seeds of Faith

Today is the day!!!

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT
is today after church, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

What a wonderful opportunity to grow seeds of faith by connecting with families in our community and beyond!

Let your spirit of kindness and the kid inside you shine! *Sign up in the vestry today* to decorate your trunk using one of the ideas provided or create your own. Or simply come dressed in any fun costume (not required), greet excited kids and their parents, and hand out a treat! In case of rain, the Trunk or Treat will be held inside Riley Hall. Join us next week for two hours of church-wide fun, creativity, and fellowship as we share our church's welcoming spirit with children and families!

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!

Outreach & Service

Our church provides a meal to MainSpring the first weekend of every month. A sign-up list can be found in the vestry.

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 1-8th** in the church vestry or at the Church office in Riley Hall.

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

CHURCH FAIR

The annual Church Fair needs your help on November 7, 2026 from 9:30-2!



The TOOL TABLE is 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 .

Donations are still needed for the JEWELRY TABLE, the WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE and the BAKED GOOD TABLE.

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

Do you take pictures at a Church event? Please share email them to photos@fcchanover.org

Welcome

We are grateful that you are with us this morning. We hope you find nurture in our worship and warmth in the fellowship of our congregation.

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please take a brochure from the pew racks and fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate, or hand it to a minister. Please take a moment to meet the ministers following the worship service.

Large print copies of the bulletins are available from the ushers.

Restrooms are located on the lower level of the church. Go straight ahead through the front doors and to the left in the Vestry.

The elevator is inside around the corner from the Church's rear door.

Your Children are invited to go to Sunday School, following the Time for All Ages; go to the Pray Station at the front of the church; or remain in worship with their parents. Nursery care is available in the nursery. Please ask an usher or deacon if you need assistance.

We are a praying church. If you would like to lift joys or concerns during the time of prayer, please fill out a prayer card found in the pews. These will be collected during the second hymn and read by the minister. You may also lift names aloud during the time of prayer.

Join us! Following worship, you are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshment downstairs in the Vestry.

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Office Hours 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday