



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 18, 2026

First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ

October 18, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Based on Psalm 99

Leader: The Lord reigns; let the people tremble! God sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake!

People: The Lord is great in Zion; and is exalted over all the peoples.

Leader: Let us praise God's great and awesome name.

People: Moses and Aaron were among the priests, Samuel also among those who called upon God's holy name. They cried to the Lord, and they heard the answer.

Leader: In the pillar of cloud the Lord spoke to them; they kept God's testimonies and the statutes that were given to them. God reigns over all the earth!

All: Let us welcome God into our presence, and praise God's holy name with voices lifted on high.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Blue Hymnal 16

Morning Prayer

You know us by name, and in your mercy, you have granted us favor in your sight. As we begin this new day, we confess that we cannot go forward unless your presence goes with us. Do not send us out into the world alone; let your Spirit lead our steps, guide our words, and steady our hearts.

Lord, show us your ways that we may know you more deeply. When the road ahead is uncertain, be our rest. When we are weary, remind us that it is your presence among us that sets us apart and gives us peace. Make your goodness pass before us, and let us proclaim your holy name in all that we do. We offer this morning, our lives, and our worship into your loving care. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able*

Stewardship Moment: Janet Cook

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Psalm 99

Praise to God for His Holiness

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees and the statutes that he gave them.

O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

Exodus 33:12–23

Moses's Intercession

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

*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

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Blue Hymnal 214

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

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Blue Hymnal 709

*Benediction

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Ruth Hall;

The flowers are given by Priscilla Cedrone in memory of C. Louis Cedrone;

The Lay Reader is Rev. Deb Spratley;

The Deacon of the Month is John Fox; The coffee hour is hosted by the choir;

The Sunday School Volunteer is Linda Gilardi.

Thank you from Sandy Vaughn

Dave and I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from our First Congregational Church of Hanover. A Meal Train was started by our members and I have received several delicious meals while going through cancer treatment.

Thank you all for your support, prayers, cards and Food. We belong to such a kind and exceptional church.

Love, Sandy Vaughn

Dates to note:

October 19th, 20th, and 23rd: Parking lots closed for seal coating and line painting;

October 23rd: Potluck!!!

October 24th: Fellowship Reunion!!!

October 25th: TRUNK OR TREAT!!!

November 7th: Church Fair!!!

November 1st-8th: Outreach & Service supermarket gift card drive!!!

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

October is breast cancer awareness month; we pray for all people affected by this illness;
Prayers to Pope Leo XIV as he recovers from surgery and starts treatment for lung cancer;
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

Nora Barrett healing after hand surgery;
The birth of Lucas, great grandson to Susan Conant;
Carolyn and Robert Frattalone who celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on October 16, 2026;
Best wishes to the "snow birds."

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

Just One Week to Go!

Please plan to join our church's **HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT** next Sunday 10/25 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 JEWELRY TABLE at the fair is in need of all your treasures. Please see Priscilla or Glenda for your donations.        



The WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE is in need of household items and treasures (no computers, please). Donations accepted during Church Office and thrift shop hours!!!



The BAKED GOOD TABLE could use some additional cooks. **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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Rev. Peter Johnston, Senior Pastor
Rev.Peter@FCCHanover.org

Chad Weirick, Minister of Music
CWeirick@AOL.com

Janet Cook, Director of Christian Education
jcookie4@hotmail.com

Kimberly Booker, Church Administrator
Office@FCCHanover.org

Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper
FirstCongHanover@Gmail.com

Pete Jansky, Sexton
Office@FCCHanover.org

Church Building: 547 Hanover St., Hanover, Mass. 02339
Offices: 17 Silver Street, Suite 201 ✧ (781) 826-4762 ✧ FCCHanover.org
Office Hours 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday