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, November 8, 2026

Veteran's Day

First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ

November 8 2026 **9:30 a.m.**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Unison Call to Worship – Psalm 78:1–7

Let us remember the stories of faith and the goodness of God. Let us share with the next generation the wonderful things God has done. May we be faithful in telling the stories, generous in sharing our wisdom, and steadfast in passing on a faith rooted in love, hope, and grace. May all who come after us find reason to trust in God and follow in the way of Christ. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn *God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand* Red Hymnal 433

Recognition of Veterans

Litany for Veteran's Day Worship Service –From: Rev. Tom Williams

Leader: We pause to remember those who have been called to serve this nation in both peacetime and war in our name.

All: We give thanks for courage, for love of country, for those who work to bring peace to our world.

Leader: Keep us mindful, O God, that the goal of any war must be justice and peace.

People: Today, we pause in worship to give thanks to God for veterans from all branches of the service: Army, Navy, Air-force, Marines Coast Guard, and Space Force.

Leader: We seek to acknowledge the residual spiritual and emotional wounds of those who served.

All: Help us to know how to support, how to comfort, and how to

bind up their wounds with respect.

Leader: Remind us, Holy God, that the widow, the orphan, the widower, and the veteran – all know the cost of war.

All: Challenge us to love the warrior but hate the cost of war.

Leader: We pray for a time when peace will reign and swords become plowshares once more, that war be known only in history books.

All: We give thanks, Gracious God, that you remain steadfast as we celebrate the service of all who dared to go forth in our name.

Leader: Remind us that such service is not a movie, an adventure, nor something to be glorified.

All: Remind us that war is a failure by your children to overcome hatred with love, injustice with righteousness, violence with peace.

Leader: We give thanks for those who protect us from such failures.

All: May we truly be Your people and be makers of peace.

All: Amen.

A Time For All Ages

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Psalm 78:1-7

God's Goodness and Israel's Ingratitude

A Maskil of Asaph.

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might and the wonders that he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children,
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope
in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

John 15:10-17

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

*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 *O God of Love, O King of Peace* Red Hymnal 447

Stewardship Speaker: David Fiske, Chair, Trustees

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.

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 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* Blue Hymnal 720

*Benediction

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Mary Lou Gifford and Louise Jackson;

The flowers are given by the flower committee;

The Lay Reader is Adrianne Rafferty; The Deacon of the Month is Al Alexander;

The coffee hour is hosted by Adrianne Rafferty;

The Sunday School Volunteer is Elisabeth Meader;

The nursery volunteers are Cindy and Charles Taylor.

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

On Veteran's Day we pray for all those have served our nation;
Sandy Vaughn, continued prayers for complications from cancer treatments;
Rev. Peter's health;
Jo Ellen Fisher, Katrina Clinton's wife, who had a stroke and is recovering at home;
Carol, Mary Lou Giffford's daughter in law, Sarah's, mother's passing;
Michael Anderson, Jessie Berry's brother who is in the hospital with pneumonia;
Janet Hamilton's family member who is undergoing medical testing;
Shirley Kelsch, Bob Cluett's friend, who had a fall;
Pat Merritt now at home from her recent hospitalization;
Kathy Talbot as she recovers in rehab at Webster Park;
Jamaal Thompson, asks for prayers 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;
Rochelle, prayers for her son;
Bobby Kennedy, David Fiske's brother-in-law, continued prayers as he seeks treatment for pulmonary health concerns.

Joys

Sandy Vaughn thanks the church members for the meal train;
Tina Donovan thanks the fellow members for all the cards, calls, and well wishes during her recent health issue;
Shirley Kelsch thanks the members of the church for the beautiful shawl she received after her recent illness.

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

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.

rooted in FAITH growing for our FUTURE

2027 Stewardship Campaign

We are beginning the season where we plan for the fiscal health of our church for the next year. We have invited speakers each Sunday to attest to the difference we have made to them.

This year the Stewardship Committee has set a goal of $240,000 of pledge income with the help of the Finance Committee.

Achieving this goal will not only provide a solid fiscal ground for Operation, Outreach and Building for us in 2027, but enable us to invest in growth and strengthening our mission.

Please submit your pledges during the month of November if you can. You can mail them into the office, place them in the offering basket during service or email your pledge to the church office.

We will provide updates on the progress during the campaign.

Pledge Sunday is November 22, 2026.

Thank you all and we on the Stewardship Committee are looking forward to a great 2027.

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. Today is the last day we are joyfully collecting gift cards in the church vestry.

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

Sunday School: Seeds of Faith

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!

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
Please have any notices for the bulletin in by Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.