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 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ

November 29, 2026 **9:30 a.m.**

Prelude — Gracie Miller, Organist

Welcome and Announcements
Call to Worship Based on Isaiah 64:1-9

Leader: O God, we come before you with open hearts, longing for your presence among us.

People: Come, O God, and awaken us to the wonder of your love.

Leader: Let us worship the God who is our Creator, our hope, and our refuge.

All: Come, let us worship God with grateful hearts and renewed spirits.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Red Hymnal 110

Morning Prayer

Loving God, as we begin this Advent journey, fill our hearts with hope, our lives with peace, and our spirits with joy. Help us prepare room for Christ by sharing your love, welcoming our neighbors, and bringing light into the world. May we watch, wait, and worship with grateful hearts. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting by Bob Meader and Family from the Diaconate

Leader: Today we begin our journey to Christmas. We light the candle of hope.

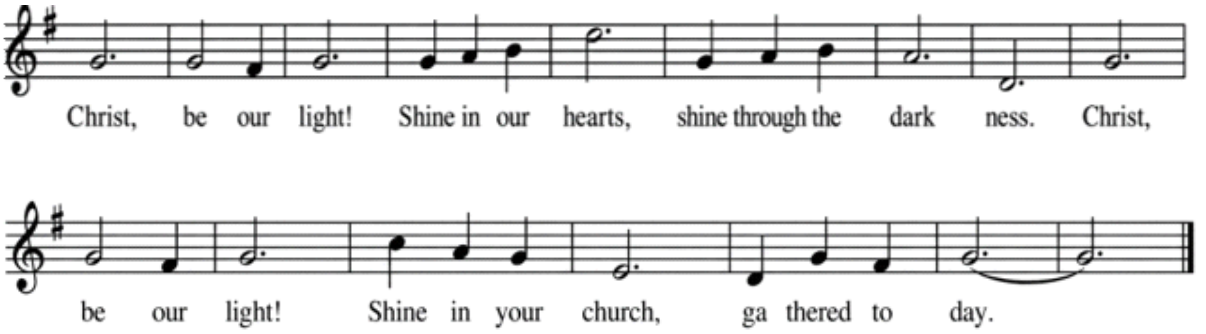
People: We hope for a world filled with kindness, goodness, and love.

Leader: Even a little light can shine in the darkness.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, our hope and our light!

**Please stand as you are able*

Sing:



Scripture Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries,so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Luke 1:26–38 (Annunciation)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be

afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

*Gloria Patri (Sung)

**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

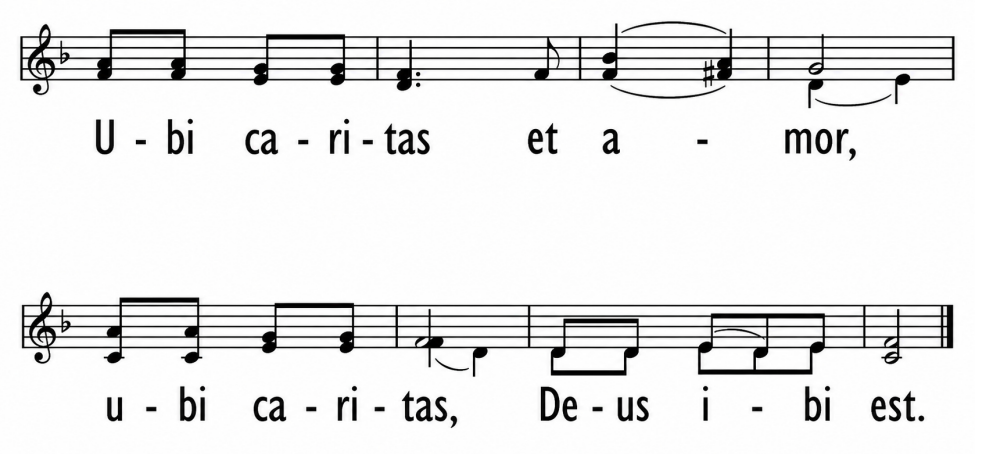
*Sermon Hymn — *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* — Red Hymnal 103

Offering Our Gifts

Call to Offering
Offertory
*Doxology

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

Time of Prayer
Call to Prayer



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 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Red Hymnal 114

*Benediction

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Ted Adami; The Lay Reader is Bob Cluett; The First Sunday Advent candle lighter is Bob Meader and Family from the Diaconate; The flowers are given by the flower committee; The Deacon of the Month is Al Alexander; The coffee hour is hosted by Sandy and Ted Adami; The Sunday School Volunteer is Louise Jackson.

Art and Spirit in Advent

Please join Rev. MaryLou Gifford for Art and Spirit in Advent.
This Art in Advent series begins today, Sunday, November 29, 2026 and continues the following three Sundays, December 6th, 13th and 20th. Rev. Gifford will lead this Art Class after services in Riley Hall at 11:15 a.m.

All supplies will be included!
No Art experience needed!
Come join the fun and make some beautiful art before Christmas!!!

Our Prayers:

Sandy Vaughn, continued prayers for complications from cancer treatments;
Chad Weirick during his hospitalization at Sturdy Memorial Hospital--please send correspondence to his home address;
Rev. Peter's health;
For the family of Michael Anderson, Jessie Berry's brother, who passed away after his recent health battles;
For Jean McAdams Jenkins, Ruth Hall's neighbor, who is dealing with several health issues;
For Becky Day, Dave Fiske's cousin, who has cancer;
Amy Kelly as she recovers at home from surgery;
Carolyn Frattalone, on her recent hospitalization, as she recovers at home;
Ronald Patt, Steve Patt's brother, on his passing;
For Amy, friend of Louise Jackson, who has been diagnosed with cancer;
For Nancy, from Adrianne Rafferty, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer;
For Terry Voekel's family, dear friend of Dayna Scribi, who passed away from Alzheimer;
Jo Ellen Fisher, Katrina Clinton's wife, who had a stroke and is recovering at home;
Rochelle's family member, a veteran, whose remains were found and DNA testing to follow;
Pat Merritt now at home from her recent hospitalization;
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:

Bob Cluett is happy to be a member of the congregation for four years;
Jamaal Thompson will be singing with the Braintree Choral Society on December 13th;
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;

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

Jamaal Thompson, asks for prayers for a cousin who had a stroke;
Bill & Patti MacLennan’s daughter, brain cancer;
Donald, brother-in-law of MaryBeth Tarnauskas, with cancer;
Kathy Talbot recovering in rehab;
Shirley Kelsch
Rick, brother of Dennis Falcione;
Irene & Wally Reed;
Ericka Penney;
Darrus Fiske.

rooted in FAITH growing for our FUTURE

2027 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Stewardship Sunday! This year the Stewardship Committee has set a goal of $240,000 of pledge income with the help of the Finance Committee. It is not to late to submit a pledge!!!

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

Post Church Fair

Did not get your fill of the fair? Join us in the Church Vestry after Church starting Sunday, November 29th for our Post Church Fair!!!

Christian Education

Our Sunday School theme for the month of November is *A Thankful Heart*. It is with my grateful heart that I thank Ginny, Dayna, Louise, Ken, Linda, Glenda, Dean, and Elisabeth for sharing their seeds of faith to assist with Sunday School. Many thanks also go to Cindy, Charles, and Ruth for offering to be on-call care givers in the Nursery/Toddler Room. Their volunteer time has filled the teaching schedule until the end of December, then additional help will be needed beginning with the month of January.

Won't you consider signing your name next to an open week or two? Teaching Sunday School is fun and a gift that keeps on giving! Our children get to know you better, hear about your faith which, in turn, builds their faith, and you get to know them better, too! Just ask the people I've mentioned above about their experiences! The sign-up for 2027 is in the vestry for both Sunday School and Nursery/Toddler room help. Listen carefully as you get in the coffee hour line; it's calling your name! Contact Janet at jcookie4@hotmail.com if you have questions or give her cell phone a ring (781-635-9707).

Braintree Choral Society Concert (including member Jamaal Thompson)

Sunday, December 13th
East Congregational Church Weymouth
1320 Commercial Street
Buy Tickets: https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/winter-concert-27

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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United Church of Christ

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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.