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 22, 2026

Thanksgiving and Stewardship Sunday

First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ

November 22, 2026 **9:30 a.m.**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Peter Johnston

Call to Worship — Rev. Deb Spratley

Leader: We gather with grateful hearts, giving thanks for the many blessings of this life.

All: We come to worship God, the giver of every good gift.

Leader: For the beauty of creation, the abundance of the harvest, and the changing seasons, we give thanks.

All: For family and friends, for neighbors and strangers, and for the love that sustains us, we give thanks.

Leader: Even in uncertain times, we find reasons to be grateful. Even in difficult days, we discover signs of hope.

All: May our gratitude become generosity, our blessings become opportunities to serve, and our worship become an offering of love.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God, whose love endures forever!

All: Let us worship God with grateful hearts!

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* Red Hymnal 461

Morning Prayer

God of bounty and blessing, we come to you this day in gratitude for all that we have been given. We are grateful for the blessings and for the opportunities to be of service to others in your holy Name. Bless each of us here, that we may become truly blessings to others. For we ask this in Jesus's Name. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able*

Scripture Readings

Psalm 65 Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty

To the leader. A Psalm of David. A Song.

Praise is due to you,
O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed,
O you who answer prayer!
To you all flesh shall come.
When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.
Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.
By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.
You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.
Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow;
the hills gird themselves with joy;
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;
the valleys deck themselves with grain;
they shout and sing together for joy.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

*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 — *We Gather Together* — Red Hymnal 21

Stewardship Moment: Dayna Scribi, Outreach and Service Chair

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

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 *Now Thank We All Our God* Red Hymnal 29

*Benediction

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Ruth Hall; The Lay Reader is Al Alexander;
The flowers are given by Mary and Stephen Dunn
in memory of Ruth and Henry Dowse;
The Deacon of the Month is Al Alexander;
The coffee hour is hosted by Al Alexander;
The Sunday School Volunteer are Ginny Hunt and Linda Gilardi;
The nursery volunteers are Cindy and Charles Taylor.

Art and Spirit in Advent

Please join Rev. MaryLou Gifford for Art and Spirit in Advent.
This Art in Advent series begins 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!!!

Missing: The Heifer for the Heifer Project is missing. If you see it contact Ruth Hall.

Please note the thrift shop is closed Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Our Prayers

Sandy Vaughn, continued prayers for complications from cancer treatments;
Rev. Peter's health;
For the family of Michael Anderson, Jessie Berry's brother, who passed away after his recent health battles;
Chad Weirick during his hospitalization at Sturdy Memorial Hospital;
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;
For Kerri, from Patti and Bill MacLennan, whose cancer struggle continues, but who says every day is a gift;
William O'Neil, the Braintree community member, who was missing and subsequently died;
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

The baptism of Sydney Jade Mahoney on November 15, 2026 and the return of Juli Mahoney (née Courtney) who grew up attending FCC Hanover;
Alexander Thompson turned 12;
Jamaal Thompson took part in a community concert in Braintree for Veteran's Day;
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

Today is Stewardship Sunday! This year the Stewardship Committee has set a goal of $240,000 of pledge income with the help of the Finance Committee. Please submit your pledges today!!!

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

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

Outreach & Service

If anyone is interested in providing a future meal or portion of a meal please contact Dayna @ 617-827-3955. O & S can always provide financial assistance so please take a look at our calendar in the church vestry if interested.

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).

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