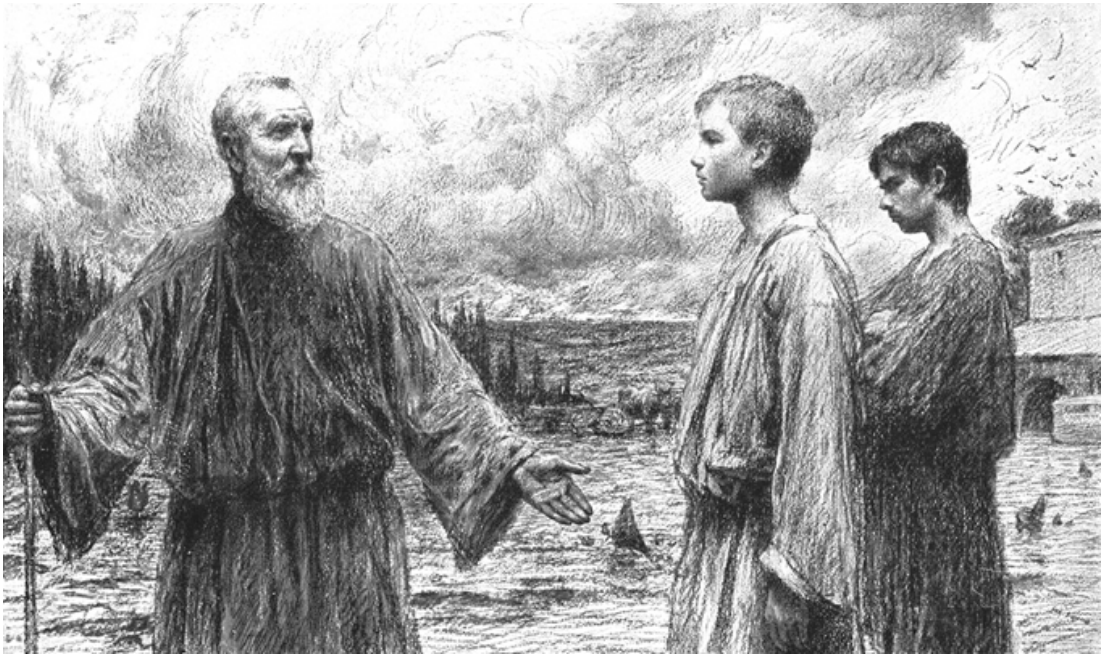




First Congregational Church of Hanover

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, September 27, 2026

**First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ**

September 27, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Come into this time of worship, beloved of God, for the Spirit is already here, stirring among us.

People: We come with open hearts, and open minds, ready to be renewed.

Leader: The Creator calls us to see the beauty in the changing seasons, to feel the power of transformation and the hope in each new day.

People: We lift our eyes to the One who can transform us, the One who makes all things new.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord with joy, gratitude, and wonder.

All: We will worship God — in spirit, in truth, in faith and hope and in love!

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

Blue Hymnal 700

Morning Prayer

Holy One, we inhabit a world that blends the wondrous with the mundane, the exhilarating with the debilitating. Our emotions dance in tune with the events that touch our lives. We hear your call to be the change the world needs to experience in order that your Kingdom might be experienced here on earth. We want to be part of that change. We want to say “Yes, Lord!” to your call, but we question our gifts. Strengthen our resolve to hold fast to our journey in faith, to trust your will, and to be the change this world needs to see. Amen

**Please stand as you are able*

Time for All Ages

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Psalm 78:1-4

¹ My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.² I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
³ things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us.⁴ We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.

Matthew 21:23-32 The Parable of the Two Sons

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

*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

The Beginning of the End

Rev. Deborah Spratley

*Sermon Hymn

O Jesus I Have Promised

Blue Hymnal No. 612

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

1. Sure-ly the pres-ence of the Lord is in this place, I can
feel His might-y pow-er and His grace. I can
hear the brush of ang-els' wings. I see glo - ry on each face.
Sure - ly the pres-ence 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

O Master Let Me Walk with Thee

Blue Hymnal 602

*Benediction

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Don Nelson.

The flowers are given by the Flower Committee.

The Lay Reader is Al Alexander.

The Deacon of the Month is Rev. Deb Spratley.

The Steeple Lighting for September is given by Ann Allaire and Dick Harris.

The coffee hour is hosted by Don and Chris Nelson.

The Nursery room volunteer is Ruth Hall.

The Sunday School Volunteer is Ken Cheo.

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

The people around the world effected by natural disasters;
The family of Vicki Marie Ekstrom, sister-in-law of Sandy Adami, who passed
September 16;
Sandy Vaughn, undergoing treatment for cancer;
Tina Donovan, recovering at home from a stroke;
Christine MacKinnon, sister-in-law of Ruth Hall, diagnosed with breast cancer;
Andy Menning, friend of Hal Thomas, having surgery after a fall;
The owner of Barca's barbershop;
The Nelsons and others on the passing of the pastor of their former church;
Tony, son-in-law of Louise Jackson, ongoing health concerns;
Gail Clark, friend of Marilyn Melchin, recovering from surgery;
Diane's daughter.

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

Kerri, 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;
Darius Fiske.

Sunday School: Seeds of Faith



Christian Education (CE) is excited to say our Sunday School program is ready to go!

We'll need help each week at Riley Hall to deliver our lessons about Growing Seeds of Faith.

Sunday School is a wonderful opportunity for you to talk to our children about the seeds of your faith. Please sign up in the vestry after church today to help with this very important part of our church's ministry.

Contact Janet with any questions.

Please note:

**Fall Church Office Hours:
Tuesdays, Thursdays,
and Fridays 8:30 a.m.
until 2:00 p.m.**



The start of a new church school year means the start of our call for help in our Nursery/Toddler Room. We will need two adults each Sunday to provide on-call care. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestry with Sunday dates. Please consider writing your name next to a few. Parents who did take advantage of our Nursery/Toddler room last year were very appreciative of the loving babysitting provided.

Pot-Luck Supper Now October 23rd



On Friday evening, October 23, a pot luck supper is planned to start at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to join us in the vestry and experience good fellowship. Bring a favorite dish to share. See Ginny Hunt (hesterbp2@comcast.net) for particulars.

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. **There is an elevator** behind the door at the front right of the church

Your Children are invited to go to Sunday School, following the Time for All Ages; go to the PrayStation 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.



First Congregational Church of Hanover

United Church of Christ

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