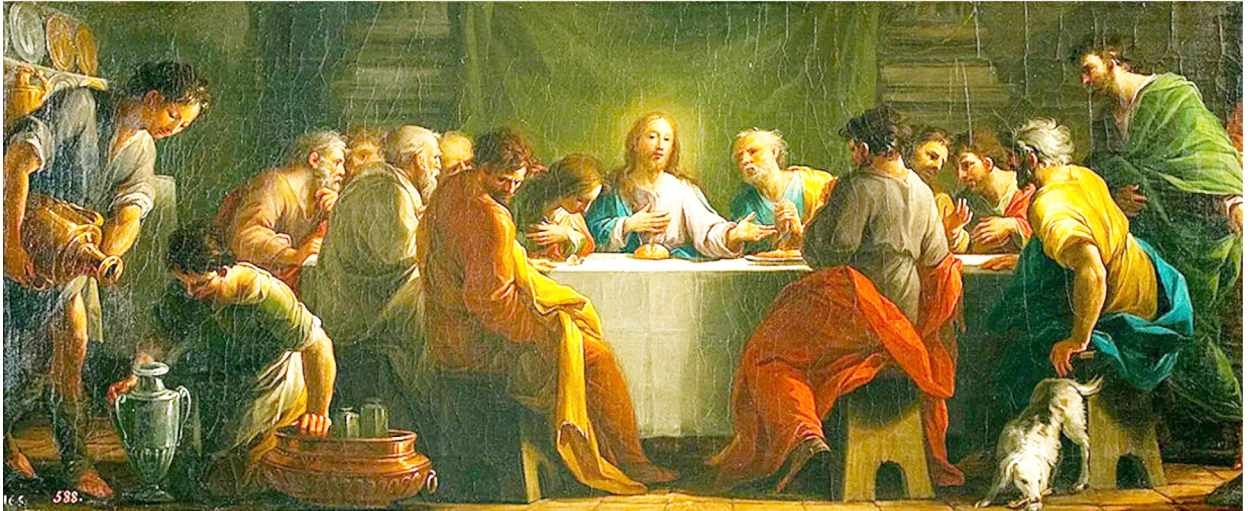




First Congregational Church of Hanover

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 4, 2026

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

October 4, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: From the east and the west, from the north and the south, God gathers us in.

People: We come with all our differences, joined by one faith, one hope, and one Lord.

Leader: Today we pull up our chairs to an open table that stretches across oceans, borders, and languages.

People: Around this table, strangers become neighbors, and neighbors become sisters and brothers in Christ.

Leader: We remember that bread broken across the world feeds the same hunger, and the cup poured out offers the same grace.

People: In our brokenness, God offers healing; in our division, Christ brings peace.

Leader: Let us lift our hearts alongside voices singing in every corner of the earth.

People: Let us worship God together as one body in Christ.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

Blue Hymnal 272

Morning Prayer

Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, present and near, You are beyond our words and our understanding. You gather Your children from every corner of the earth around one common table. Help us to remember that You are at once infinite, boundless, timeless, and eternal, yet intimately entwined with our lives and our global family. You are with us no matter where we find ourselves.

**Please stand as you are able*

We confess that we often forget You, dividing what You have made whole. When we build walls instead of setting a table, when we fail to speak words of love across our differences, when we neglect the needs of our brothers and sisters near and far, Lord, have mercy. Loving God, present and near, forgive our divisions and open our hearts to the breadth of Your world. Help us to recognize Your presence and nearness with us as we break bread and worship together as one body. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

L: Hear the good news: Through Jesus Christ, we are accepted, loved and forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Time for All Ages

Anthem

Scripture Readings:

Psalms 95

A Call to Worship and Obedience. O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture

and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways." Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

I Corinthians 10:14-22

Therefore, my beloved, flee from the worship of idols. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: Are not those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar? What do I imply, then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what they sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

*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

A Shared Table in a Divided World

Rev. Peter Johnston

*Sermon Hymn

How Great Thou Art

Blue Hymnal No. 33

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

**Surley 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.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Communion Hymn**

One Bread, One Body

Blue Hymnal No. 393

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God most high.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection and for the calling forth of your church for its mission. Therefore, with angels and archangels, we praise your Holy Name by saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Closing Hymn**

My Hope Is Built

Blue Hymnal 537

***Benediction**

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Sue Conant. The flowers are given by the Flower Committee.

The Lay Reader is John Fox. The Deacon of the Month is Hal Thomas.

The coffee hour is hosted by Don and Chris Nelson.

The Sunday School Volunteer is Ken Cheo.

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

The people around the world effected by natural disasters;

The friends of Nancy Cavallero, who passed on September 23, 2026;

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;

Joys

Carolyn Frattalone granddaughter, Grace Frattalone, passed her Nurse
Practitioner exam.

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) needs help each week at Riley Hall to deliver our lessons about Growing Seeds of 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.

CHURCH FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

The annual Church Fair will be on November 7, 2026 in Riley Hall from 9:30-2! We need volunteers to help make this a successful event! The sign up sheet will be in the vestry during the month of October!!!

Please note:

Fall Church Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 8:30-- 2:00



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 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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