



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 20, 2026

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

September 20, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

People: Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Leader: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

People: The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Leader: The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

People: All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you.

Leader: The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.

People: The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

All: My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Blue Hymnal 709

Morning Prayer

Anthem

Time for All Ages

**Please stand as you are able*

Scripture Readings

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

Matthew 20:1-16

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to

us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

*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

At the Eleventh Hour

*Sermon Hymn

There Is a Wideness In God's Mercy

Blue Hymnal No. 73

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Blue Hymnal 86

*Benediction

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

Greeting you today are Kimmarie and Bill Blanton.

The flowers which grace the chancel are given by the Flower Committee.

The Worship Leader is Rev. Peter Johnston.

The Deacon of the Month is Rev. Deb Spratley.

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

Following today's service, you are invited to a special
coffee hour in Riley Hall hosted by the Hospitality Team.

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

The people around the world effected by natural disasters including Hurricane Lowell in Hawaii

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

Joys

Rev. Peter officiated Thursday at the wedding of Kim and Jason

Bob Cluett introduced us to his niece Debbie who is visiting with him

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



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.**

**Cabinet Meeting
Thursday September 24
in the Church Vestry at 7:00 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.



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