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 1, 2026

All Saints' Day

First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ

November 1, 2026 **9:30 a.m.**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Come and worship all who entered with weary spirits seeking rest.

People: Come and worship all who are hurting and tired and afraid.

Leader: Come and worship all who entered with hope in your hearts.

People: Come and worship all who have joy in their hearts.

Leader: Come and worship all whose faith is strong and all whose faith wavers.

All: Come and worship all who are questioning and seeking.

Leader: Come all of you who entered this space with a sense of homecoming.

All: We invite all to come here to find peace for your spirit. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, we bid you welcome. Lord, we come before you, just as we are, embraced by your love. Be with us today in spirit and in truth in Jesus's holy name. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* Blue Hymnal 277

MORNING PRAYER/PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Lord, we confess our inclination to feel we are alone in our faith. We neglect the history of the struggles of those who have gone before us. We take for granted their steadfast perseverance. We believe we don't need their wisdom that would lead to life. Forgive us, O Lord. Remind us of the thousands of mothers and fathers in the faith, the Godly saints, who ran the race before us. Let us draw strength from their examples as we lean towards our 300th year as a gathered church community. Hear now the silent confessions of our heart (silence)… We pray in Jesus Holy name, Amen.

**Please stand as you are able*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Lord is gracious and merciful; The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Beloved of God, believe the good news, your sins are forgiven.

Time for All Ages

Anthem

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 34:1-9,18 (*Psalms in Common Meter* by D. Scott Foote)

[1]I will forever thank the Lord, and bless His holy name;
His praises will be on my lips, His glory I'll proclaim.
[2]My soul will boast upon the Lord, and tell about His might;
So those afflicted and oppressed, will hear and take delight.
[3]O join with me and praise the Lord so He is glorified;
Together let us lift His name with praises far and wide.
[4]When I was down and sought the Lord, He heard me through my tears;
Then by His hand delivered me from all my deepest fears.
[5]For those who look upon the Lord will feel his warm embrace;
Their faces will be radiant and never know disgrace.
[6]When suffering, I begged the Lord to listen to my plea;
Then from my troubles and distress, his hand delivered me.
[7]The angels of the Lord abide with those who fear His name;
And He will surely rescue them and keep their lives from shame.
[8]So taste and see the Lord is good, and hope in Him alone;
For happy those who trust his grace and mercies he has known.
[9]And you, His saints, exalt the Lord, and live in awe of Him;
For those who honor and obey, have joy that will not dim…
[18]O, how I want to praise Your name in front of all the saints;
And gather with your people, Lord, to give you all my thanks.

Revelation 7:9-17 (The Message)

9-12 I looked again. I saw a huge crowd, too huge to count. Everyone was there—all nations and tribes, all races and languages. And they were *standing*, dressed in white robes and waving palm branches, standing before the Throne and the Lamb and heartily singing: Salvation to our God on his Throne! Salvation to the Lamb! All who were standing around the Throne—Angels, Elders, Animals—fell on their faces before the Throne and worshiped God, singing: Oh, Yes! The blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving, The honor and power and strength, To our God forever and ever and ever! Oh, Yes! 13-14 Just then one of the Elders addressed me: “Who are these dressed in white robes, and where did they come from?” Taken aback, I said, “O Sir, I have no idea—but you must know.” 14-17 Then he told me, “These are those who come from the great tribulation, and they’ve washed their robes, scrubbed them clean in the blood of the Lamb. That’s why they’re standing before God’s Throne. They serve him day and night in his Temple. The One on the Throne will pitch his tent there for them: no more hunger, no more thirst, no more scorching heat. The Lamb on the Throne will shepherd them, will lead them to spring waters of Life. And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes.”

*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 Rev. Deborah Spratley

*Sermon Hymn *Rejoice, the Lord Is King* Blue Hymnal No. 699

Stewardship Moment: Doug Anderson, Moderator of the Pilgrim Association

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

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.

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

All Saints Remembrance

At the instruction of the minister, you are invited to come forward, drop a stone in the water, in memory of those who have gone to the heavenly places, and then return to your seats.

*Closing Hymn *For All the Saints* Blue Hymnal 637

*Benediction

Postlude

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

On All Saints' Day we remember all who have passed before us;
Sandy Vaughn, continued prayers for complications from cancer treatments;
Rev. Peter as he recovers at home from a recent illness;
Shirley Kelsch, Bob Cluett's friend, who had a fall;
Pat Merritt now at home from her recent hospitalization;
Jamaal Thompson, asks for prayers for a cousin who had a stroke;
Ruth Hall asks for prayers for her grandson's, Matthew's, father-in-law and their family, on his tragic passing;
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

Ava and Bob Sigsby reported the fellowship reunion was a great night;
Tina Donovan thanks the fellow members for all the cards, calls, and well wishes during her recent health issue;
Sandy Vaughn thanks the church members for the meal train;
Priscilla Cedrone celebrated her 96th birthday.

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

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;
Darrus Fiske.

Outreach & Service

Our church provides a meal to Main-Spring the first weekend of every month. A sign-up list can be found in the vestry.

As part of our church's **Thanksgiving** tradition, the Outreach & Service committee will be collecting grocery store gift cards (Shaw's, Market Basket, Target…) to be donated to the VNA for distribution to needy area residents. Gift cards will be joyfully accepted **November 1-8th** in the church vestry or at the Church office in Riley Hall.

** Any amount is greatly appreciated; please remember to mark the value of the card.*

CHURCH FAIR

The annual Church Fair needs your help on November 7, 2026 from 9:30-2!

The TOOL TABLE is in need of new or gently used tools. Please see Steve's Patt for any questions or if you have expensive items to drop off
Tools can be dropped of at Riley Hall during office and thrift store hours .

Donations are still needed for the JEWELRY TABLE, the WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE and the BAKED GOOD TABLE.

See the sign up sheets in the Church Vestry to volunteer!!!!

Sunday School: Seeds of Faith

Many, many thanks from the CE Committee for the time, support, and generosity that made our church's Community Trunk or Treat possible! We had a fabulous event with 14 volunteers who colorfully decorated cars. **Awesome!**

Approximately 100 children attended with their parents from many surrounding communities, enjoying a couple of hours of outdoor fun and games. We so appreciated the donations of trinkets and candy, which we definitely needed to replenish our supplies! Through this outreach, FCC Hanover continues to be a caring presence in our community as we welcome children and families. We are sharing our faith and kindness, one seed at a time!

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Bob and Jessie Berry;

The flowers are given by Patricia Mosher;

The Lay Reader is Ginny Hunt;

The Deacon of the Month is Al Alexander;

The coffee hour is hosted by Jessie and Bob Berry;

The Sunday School Volunteer is Glenda Larson.

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 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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