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 15, 2026

Baptism: Sydney Jade Mahoney

First Congregational Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ

November 15, 2026 **9:30 a.m.**

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
Call to Worship

Leader: To you we lift up our eyes, O God enthroned in the heavens.

People: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, so our eyes look to the Lord our God.

Leader: In a world filled with contempt, distraction, and weariness, we turn our gaze upward.

People: We look to you, waiting for your grace and mercy to sustain us.

Leader: Have mercy on us, Lord, for our souls have had their fill of pride and scorn.

People: Grant us your steadfast love, and ground our hearts in your peace.

Leader: Let us fix our eyes on the Maker of heaven and earth.

People: Come, let us worship and wait upon the Lord together!

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* Red Hymnal 247

Morning Prayer

God of endings and beginnings, we thank you for always starting anew with us. When we find ourselves at our wits' end, at the end of our rope, at the end of our patience, or even at the end of our hope, you are there. You find us and bring us into your new beginning, again and again. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able*

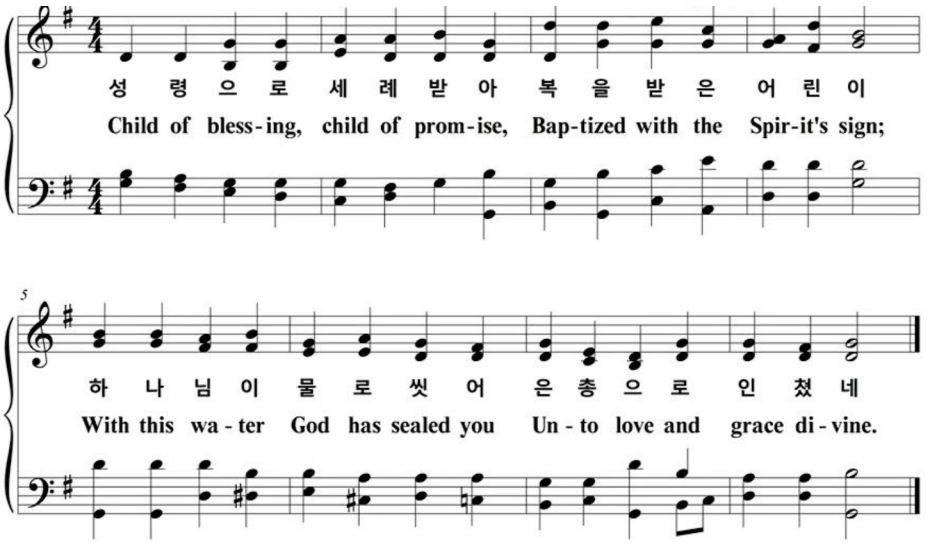
Sacrament of Baptism for Sydney Jade Mahoney

Introduction
Baptismal Vows
Congregational Response

We promise our love, support and care. We accept this child as a member of the family of God and we will endeavor to build a Christian community in which she may mature and grow.

Prayer of Blessing the Water
Baptismal Ceremony

Presentation to the Congregation Sing: *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*



2. Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation found indeed.
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, unto joy and laughter lead.

3. Child of love, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you, live as one who bears Christ's name.

4. Child of God, your loving parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

Presentation of Gifts
Closing Prayer

Scripture Readings

Psalm 123 A Song of Ascents.

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

*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 *Take My Life and Let It Be* Red Hymnal 404

Stewardship Moment: Patti MacLennan, Member in Discernment, Pilgrim Association

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. 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 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Red Hymnal 8

*Benediction

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Steve and Deb Patt; The Lay Reader is Steve Patt;

The flowers are given by Karen Tripp in memory of Dottie Tripp;

The Deacon of the Month is Al Alexander; The coffee hour is hosted by Deb Patt;

The Sunday School Volunteer is Elisabeth Meader;

The nursery volunteers are Cindy and Charles Taylor.

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, Diabetes Awareness Month, and Alzheimer Awareness Month, we pray for anyone affected by these illnesses;
Sandy Vaughn, continued prayers for complications from cancer treatments;
Rev. Peter's health;
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 Michael, Jessie Berry's brother, who is having surgery;
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 wonderful and successful Church Fair-- it was great to reconnect with people while supporting the Church;
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;
Rev. Peter attended a wedding in Scituate and the couple is moving to Hanover.

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

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!!!

2027 Stewardship Campaign

We are beginning the season where we plan for the fiscal health of our church for the next year. We have invited speakers each Sunday to attest to the difference we have made to them.

This year the Stewardship Committee has set a goal of $240,000 of pledge income with the help of the Finance Committee.

Achieving this goal will not only provide a solid fiscal ground for Operation, Outreach and Building for us in 2027, but enable us to invest in growth and strengthening our mission.

Please submit your pledges during the month of November if you can. You can mail them into the office, place them in the offering basket during service or email your pledge to the church office.

We will provide updates on the progress during the campaign.

Pledge Sunday is November 22, 2026.

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

Outreach & Service

* **39,** yes **39** gift cards totaling $**1,110** were donated by our extremely generous congregation to be distributed to needy area residents including seniors and veterans, for the Thanksgiving holiday 🦃.

Elaine Backer, representing the Hanover Community Foundation, continues to be amazed by the generosity of our small but mighty congregation. Many thanks from Outreach & Service!

* Outreach & Service would like to thank **Jill and John Matson** for providing the November MainSpring meal.

Residents enjoyed a tasty meal of American Chop Suey and green beans along with homemade chocolate chip cookies and brownies for dessert!

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.

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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United Church of Christ

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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.