



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 11, 2026

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

October 11, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: The banquet table is prepared; the feast of grace is spread.

People: The King has sent the call into the streets, inviting all to come.

Leader: Lay aside your everyday cares, your excuses, and your hesitations.

People: We come ready to celebrate, cloaked in Christ's righteousness and mercy.

Leader: Let us enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise!

People: Let us worship the Lord our God, who welcomes us to the joy of His kingdom!

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Opening Hymn

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Red Hymnal 39

Morning Prayer

You invite us into your presence not because of our own merit, but because of your boundless love. You throw open the doors to your kingdom and bid us come feast at your table. Clothe us anew this morning in the righteousness of Christ. Shape our hearts to reflect the joy of the Gospel. Send us into the highways and byways of our community, bearing your welcome to the marginalized, the weary, and the forgotten. May our worship today be pleasing in your sight, and may our lives bear witness to the glorious feast of your love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior and Redeemer. Amen.

Time for All Ages *"The Wedding Banquet"* by M. Therese Winter

Rev. Peter Johnston

Anthem

**Please stand as you are able*

Scripture Readings

Psalm 106:1-6

A Confession of Israel's Sins

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord or declare all his praise? Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people; help us when you deliver them, that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that we may glory in your heritage. Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

*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. Peter Johnston

*Sermon Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

Red Hymnal 217

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 Jesus, I Have Promised

Red Hymnal 218

*Benediction

Postlude

Today In the House of the Lord

You were greeted by Susan Conant. The flowers are given by the Ruth Hall.

The Lay Reader is Christine Nelson. The Deacon of the Month is John Fox.

The coffee hour is hosted by Karen Tripp and Susan Conant.

The Sunday School Volunteer is Linda Gilardi.

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 sheets will be in the vestry during
the month of October!!!**

Dates to note:

October 12th, 13th, and 16th
parking lots closed for sealcoating
and line painting;

October 23: Potluck!!!

October 24: Fellowship Reunion!!!

October 25: TRUNK OR TREAT!!!

November 7th: Church Fair!!!

Our Prayer List

Our Prayers

The people around the world effected by natural disasters;
Tony, son-in-law of Louise Jackson, for additional shunt surgery;
Helen (MacKinlay) Miller, Jill Matson's aunt, whose funeral was celebrated last Thursday in Quincy;
Nora Barrett having hand surgery;
Kathy Talbot hospitalized in Milton;
Rochelle, prayers for her son;
Bobby Kennedy, David Fiske's brother-in-law who is undergoing medical tests;
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;
Amy, friend of the Jackson family, undergoing treatment for cancer;
Christine MacKinnon, sister-in-law of Ruth Hall, diagnosed with breast cancer.

Joys

The birth of Lucas, great grandson to Susan Conant;
The celebration of Lee Fiske's 50th High School Reunion;
Carolyn Frattalone granddaughter, Grace Frattalone, passed her Nurse Practitioner exam.

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;
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.

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 Cook with any questions.



Outreach and Service would like to thank Mary Dunn for providing the October meal for MainSpring House!

Residents enjoyed a tasty meal of Chicken Parmesan and pasta with sauce.

Our church provides a meal to MainSpring the first weekend of every month. A sign-up list can be found in the vestry with openings in December and January. As a reminder, donors can either provide a prepared meal or contribute the ingredients for the staff to prepare.

Feeding the homeless is a very gratifying experience!



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 23rd, 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.

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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