



**First Church of Christ in Mansfield
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250
860.423.9008 + www.myfcc.info

Ministers: All the Members of the Church
The Rev. Charles Ericson, Bridge Minister
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 22, 2024

Welcome to Our Guests!

*We're delighted you have joined us for worship; the members are the ministers of this church...
if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us!*

Playing the Chimes and Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Centering in the Spirit

When we draw near to God, we can also feel God drawing near to us.

We have drawn near to God, and to one another, by gathering here to worship.

Now we will begin to experience God coming near to each of us, and to all of us:

Bringing us wisdom as we listen to the sacred words of our tradition...

Lifting us with joy and inspiration as hymns and anthems are sung and played...

**Listening...responding...embracing us with peace and calm as prayers
are shared.**

May all of this, and more, strengthen our faith and enrich our lives...

**As our God lovingly and wondrously comes near to us now as we
worship!**

***Opening Hymn**

God Is Here!

CH280

Prayer for Transformation

Sometimes, in the midst of a busy week, we cannot sense you drawing near to us, Ever-Present God. There are distractions that divert our attention from you, and pressing demands that call us away from you. Please enable us to turn our hearts toward you, during the week as well as Sunday mornings, so that we can truly feel you drawing near at all times...breaking through the distractions and burdens... and transforming our lives.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

The Psalmist proclaims that "God is good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you". As we remember to pause and call to God when life becomes overwhelming, our God will surely draw near with steadfast love and new life. Amen.

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

9 Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar - ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.
Help us, O Lord, to be o - pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is comfortable for you.

The following are offered as examples...

**Our Father/Mother/Creator,
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/sins/trespasses,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity

*Your financial offerings may be placed in the collection plates as they come around,
or mailed to: First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC, PO Box 36, Mansfield Center, CT 06250,
or given online at: www.myfcc.info*

Musical Offering

Bobbi Giardina

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be low; Praise
5 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

*Prayer of Dedication

We bring these gifts to you, Holy One, out of devotion to you and our desire to follow Jesus' example of selflessness and sacrifice. We pray that you would bless our offerings, and use them through our church's ministries and missions to provide food and shelter, promote peace and justice, teach our faith story to all ages, and spread good news in every corner of your glorious creation. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

CH490

***Benediction**

Now may God bless you and keep you;
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
May God's countenance be lifted up upon you and give you peace. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, is with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

Postlude

The Week Ahead....

Monday, September 23

7:00pm Take Note! rehearsal in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 25

1:00pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 29

10:15am Worship and Worship Circle