



**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](http://www.myfcc.info)

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

**November 24, 2024 ~ The Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Thanksgiving Sunday**

**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**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Centering in the Spirit** (*inspired by Psalm 126*)

Throughout the week we hear of the greatness of athletes, celebrities and world leaders.

**This day, we gather to center our hearts on the greatness of our God.**

God's greatness can be seen across the majesty and wonder of Creation.

**God's greatness is revealed in everyday miracles that amaze and bless us.**

God's greatness shines brilliantly in all of us as we love and humbly serve with one another.

**Come, let us center our hearts on our God who has truly done great things for us!**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*We Gather Together*

CH276

**Prayer for Transformation**

**Gracious and Generous God, we have so much to be thankful for, yet it is not uncommon for us to overlook opportunities to offer thanks. Even taking just a brief moment during the day to express thankfulness seems elusive amidst so many daily tasks and responsibilities. We forget to say "thank you" to a helpful neighbor...or for the kindness of a co-worker...or a family member whose unconditional love is constant and abundant. Most importantly, we miss occasions when we could pause to let you know how grateful we are for the unending stream of blessings that you send our way. May this holy hour inspire us to be more thankful...to more people...more often. Amen.**

*moment of silence*

**Words of Grace**

Whether we remember to give thanks to God as often as we should or not, God's promises of grace and new life are always being offered to us in endless abundance. For God fully understands our human condition and knows the intentions of our hearts. All the more reason to give thanks to our God intentionally... and daily. Amen.

**\*Song of Praise***Glory to God*

Paul Vasile

Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has  
end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out  
4 par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free! As it was in the be-ginning, is  
end, A - men. World with-out e - nd, world with-out end, A - men.  
8 now and ev - er shall be, A - men World with-out men!

**Epistle**

I Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**Gospel**

Matthew 6:25-33

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

**Reflection**

“Looking for Hope”

**Hymn***Let All Things Now Living*

CH717

**Call to Prayer**

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price

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](http://www.myfcc.info)*

## Musical Offering

All Good Gifts (from Godspell)  
 offered by Cheryl Chase & Laurel Thurman

Stephen Schwartz

## \*Doxology

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

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**Holy One, the gifts we bring to you today represent one way that we say “thanks” to you.  
 We ask your blessing upon our offerings, and pray that that may bring hope and  
 encouragement to those in need in our church, our local community and indeed the world,  
 through the ministries of our church. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*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**

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**THE WEEK AHEAD...**

**Monday, November 25**

7:00 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal

**Wednesday, November 27**

1:00 p.m. Book Group

**Thursday, November 28**

Happy Thanksgiving!

**Sunday, December 1 (First Sunday of Advent)**

10:15 a.m. - we will continue the tradition of lighting the candles of the Advent Wreath during worship.

6:00 p.m. - Christmas Tree Lighting on the front lawn, carol singing, followed by cookies & cocoa.

**AND BEYOND...**

**Thursdays during Advent – Mid-week Music Meditation**

Thursdays 12:15-12:45

The Sanctuary will be open for a time of contemplation with music offered by Bobbi Giardina.

**December 24th (Christmas Eve)**

7:00 p.m. - Paper Bag Pageant - everyone has the opportunity to participate using a paper bag that contains a costume for one of the parts in the pageant.

**December 29th**

10:15 a.m. - Lessons & Laughter - a creative liturgy for the first Sunday after Christmas using resources by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed and Sanctified Art.