



**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, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**September 28, 2025
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Centering in the Spirit (*inspired by Psalm 91*)

Alex Hewes

One: As we gather here this morning, we rejoice in our God who comes to us in many different ways.

All: When the storms of life seem to overwhelm us, God is our shelter and safe harbor.

One: When things seem to be heating up all around us, God hovers over us like a cool and welcome shade.

All: When we feel exposed and unprotected, God covers us like the strong wings of an eagle.

One: Whenever we may feel alone or vulnerable, God promises to be with us and stand by us.

All: For God sees us at all times and in every situation, and our God will never let us down.

One: Night or day, at home or away, awake or asleep, God's Spirit embraces us always.

All: When we call, God answers; when we are in need, God provides.

One: So let us worship our God together now, and give thanks to our God.

All: Yes, in prayer and in silence, in speaking and in singing, let us praise our God!

***Opening Hymn**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

CH25

Prayer for Transformation

When we pause to praise you, Loving God, we become keenly aware of how many ways your Spirit touches our lives. When we feel weakened, your Spirit rushes in to uplift and enliven us; when we feel confused, your Spirit brings wisdom and direction; when we feel our own spirits have become dulled and uninspired, your Spirit floods our whole selves with renewed energy and vision.

And one of the greatest gifts of all is your Spirit's promise of grace and forgiveness when we have drifted from the high calling of our faith. Please send your Spirit to us now, God, as we silently share with you our personal longings for mercy and new life. Amen.

Words of Grace

Friends in faith, our words have been offered to God in silence, but God has surely heard every one. Yes, God has heard every one, and has begun showering us with forgiveness and grace. Receive and rejoice!

*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
World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it whose love has set me free! As it
end, A - men. World with-out end, world with-out end, A - men.

was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, A - men.

Psalter

Psalms 146

- 146:** 1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
3 Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.
4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.
5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,
6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;
7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;
8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
9 The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
10 The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

Epistle

I Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19

6:6 Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, **7** for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, **8** but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. **9** But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. **11** But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

17 As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. **18** They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, **19** thus storing

up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Reflection

"Who Shall We Trust?"

Rev. Chuck Ericson

Hymn

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

CH489

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



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

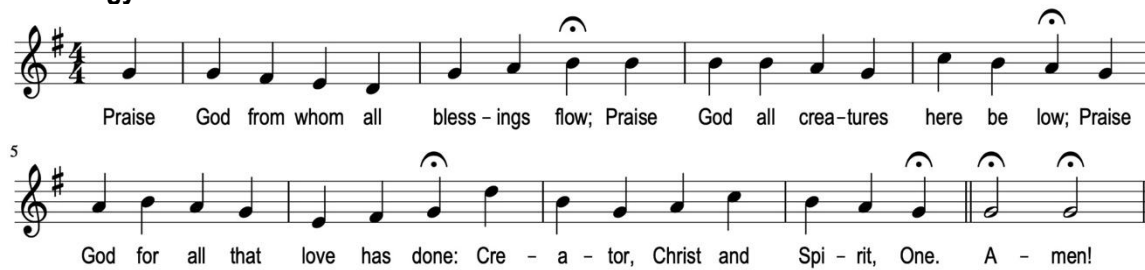
We have neighbors very close to us, and we have neighbors in faraway places, all of whom have hopes that someone will see their needs for food...shelter...healing...freedom...and love. They hold out faith that somehow their hopes will be realized and their needs will be satisfied. Through the ministries and missions of our church, supported by our generous giving, these needs can be met these hopes can blossom into realities. In this spirit of hope and faith, our morning offering will now be received.

*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,*

Musical Offering

Erik Haeger

*Doxology



*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we pray that you would add your blessing to these gifts and offerings, and ask you to guide our church's ministries to people and places where needs are very great and hopes are very high. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

CH618

*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

Sunday, Sept 28	10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle 11:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting 11:30 a.m. Capital Campaign Committee 2:00 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible
Monday, Sept 29	6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal
Wednesday, Oct 1	1:00 p.m. Book Group 5:00 p.m. Meditation Group 5:30 p.m. Search Committee
Thursday, Oct 2	9:30 a.m. Sewing & Service
Sunday, Oct 5	10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle; World Communion Sunday