



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

549 Storrs Rd. P.O. Box 36 Mansfield Center, CT 06250

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church

The Rev. Charles Ericson, Intentional Interim Minister

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

**October 12, 2025
Eighteenth 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!*

This morning, we welcome back the Rev. Don Francois as our guest minister.

Playing the Chimes

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Centering in the Spirit *(based on Psalm 66)*

Dave Litrico

One: We celebrate the Holy One who eases our souls.

Many: Come and see what God has done!

One: We celebrate the Holy One who keeps us from slipping.

Many: Come and see what God has done!

One: We celebrate the Holy One whose steadfast love sustains us.

Many: Come and see what God has done!

***Opening Hymn**

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God

CH64

Prayer for Transformation

Holy One, Creator of All,

As your Spirit nudges people from all experiences and lands into our lives, we often turn the sign from "Come In! We're Open!" to "Sorry, We're Closed." It's easier for us to draw the curtains and remain in the shadows than open ourselves up to the light, to healing, and all the possibilities that God sends our way. May your Spirit swing open our souls to all possibilities of newness. May our unlocked minds notice the ways your presence fills our hearts with expanding love and hope. Amen.

moment of silence

Words of Grace

In each season of our lives, God's grace continuously transforms our hearts. May we return our gratitude and celebrate the glory of God in our Alleluias and Amens.

All: Alleluia and Amen! Thanks be to God!

*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.

Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 18.1-6

18 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” ³ So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶ Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

Hebrew Scripture

Psalms 139. 1-6, 13-18

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

- ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
- ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
- ³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
- ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- ¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

Reflection

“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”

Rev. Don Francois

Hymn

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

CH651

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

God calls us to plant and build, heal and seek the well-being of all. As we share our gifts with the church and community, may we recognize that sharing our talents, treasures, and time benefits all of creation.

*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**

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 Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Divine Crafter of Joy,
Through your great works, we see your glory. Through our work together, we reflect your
glory to a world of pain. May we deliver your dreams and build your Realm here on earth.
Bless the work of our hearts as we move into a future filled with hope and living your
visions. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

Fill the World with Love

CH467

***Benediction**

As we move about God's Realm this week,
May we recognize the Spirit's movement in forging new pathways
May we recognize the Christ's movement in shaping communities of gratitude,
And may we recognize the Divine's movement in fashioning a world in which all have the means to
thrive. Amen!

***Passing the Peace**

May the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you always.

And also with you.

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

Postlude

The source of our liturgy this morning is ***Worship Ways: Service Prayers for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.***

Our Guest Minister: The Rev. Don Francois is a semi-retired pastor of the Tolland Association, UCC. He served as a pastor of the Ellington Congregational Church for twenty-four years, as Bridge Pastor at Enfield and Columbia UCC churches and as Interim Pastor of the Second Congregational Church of Coventry which is now his spiritual home. Don and his wife, Laurie, reside in Ellington.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, October 12

10:15 a.m. Worship and Worship Circle; Guest Minister: Rev. Don Francois (*Note: No Digital Ministry*)
2:00 p.m. Quiet Corner Indivisible

Monday, October 13

6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal

Wednesday, October 15

1:00 p.m. Book Group
5:30 p.m. Pastoral Search
(*Note: No Meditation Group this week*)

The following items are still needed for our Church World Service Health Kits:

- 25 bath-size bar soap (in original packaging)
- 41 travel size deodorant (3.4 oz or less, non-aerosol)
- 40 travel size lotion (3.4 oz or less, new only, fragrance-free)
- 35 travel size shampoo (3.4 oz or less, new only)
- 35 travel size toothpaste (3.4 oz or less, expiration date 1 year or more)
- 36 sturdy wide tooth combs (6" minimum teeth)

These items can be put in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary, near the name tag table.