



**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

Rev. Don Erickson, Pastor

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

Mandy Boukus, Office Assistant

January 11, 2026 – Baptism of the Lord

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

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Erik Haeger

Centering in the Spirit *from H.W. Baker (1821-77)*

Dave Litrico

One: O God of love, sovereign of peace,
Make wars throughout the world to cease;

All: Our greed and violent ways restrain.

Give peace, O God, give peace again.

Remember, Lord, your works of old,
The wonders that your people told;

Remember not our wrong's deep stain.

Give peace, O God, give peace again.

Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord?

Where rest but in you our faithful Word?

None ever called on you in vain.

Give peace, O God, give peace again.

Let us all below and above

Unite our hearts in holy love;

Unite us with the bond of heaven.

Give peace, O God, give peace again.

***Opening Hymn**

Come and Find the Quiet Center

CH 575

Silent Prayer for Transformation (a moment to pause, reflect, and renew)

moment of silence

Words of Grace

Your grace means we're free to start again, O God. May this very moment, pervaded by your presence, be a moment of renewal. You are here, now with us, and all is well. Amen.

*Song of Praise

Glory to God

Paul Vasile



Glory 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.

Psalm

Psalm 103:6-13 (Inclusive Bible)

*How you love justice, Adonai!
You are always on the side of the oppressed.
You revealed your intentions to Moses,
your deeds to Israel.
You are tender and compassionate, Adonai —
slow to anger, and always loving;
your indignation doesn't endure forever,
and your anger lasts only for a short time.
You never treat us as our sins deserve;
you don't repay us in kind for the injustices we do.
For as high as heaven is above the earth,
so great is the love for those who revere you.
As far away as the east is from the west,
that's how far you remove our sins from us!
As tenderly as parents treat their children,
that's how tenderly you treat your worshipers, Adonai!*

Gospel

Luke 15:17-24 (NRSVUE)

"But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Reflection*The Marks of Our Thriving Church: Compassion*

Rev. Don Erickson

Call to Prayer**Hear Us O Lord**

Don Besig and Nancy Price



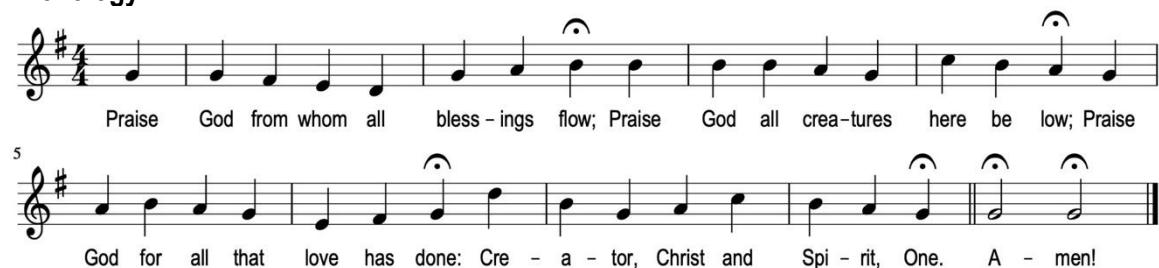
Hear us, O Lord, as we come now in prayer, shar-ing our joys, our trou-bles, and our cares.
Help us, O Lord, to be o-pen to your word, and teach us to put our trust in you.

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus*Please pray the Prayer of Jesus with 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 *help us yield not to/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**Offertory**

Erik Haeger

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be low; Praise God for all that love has done: Cre-a-tor, Christ and Spi-rit, One. Amen!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Faithful and Calling God, continue to draw us into community, into covenant, and into new life through waters of grace and acts of justice. Just as Jesus stepped into the river to stand with us and for us, we bring these gifts today to stand with others—to serve, to uplift, and to proclaim your kingdom. Use these offerings to fulfill your righteousness among us. Help us, your baptized people, to be instruments of healing, hope, and holy change in a world longing for good news. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Closing HymnWhen God Is a Child*

CH 132

***Closing Words**

***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

Our Greeters this morning are Lisa Peterson-Blinn and Deb Richards.

Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman.

The Coffee Hour hosts are David Darnell and Gary Coté.

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Wednesday, January 14 1:00 p.m. Book Group
 5:00 p.m. Meditation Group

Thursday, January 15 10-11 a.m. Coffee with Rev Don at Price Chopper
(in food court above produce section)

Friday, January 16 5:00 p.m. Celebration of the Life of Susan Hewes

Saturday, January 17 12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Sunday, January 18 10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle
 11:15 a.m. 2026 Budget Information Session
 5:00 p.m. PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland

**Please join us in celebrating the life of Susan Hewes,
whose laughter, kindness, and love touched all who knew her.**

**The service will take place on Friday, January 16, at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary,
with refreshments to follow in Fellowship Hall.**

SAVE THESE DATES:

Our January **Congregational Meeting** will take place after worship on Sunday, January 25, 2026. A **Budget Information Session** will be held after worship on Sunday, January 18 in preparation for the meeting.

The Capital Campaign Committee will host a **Visioning Retreat**, led by Mission Interpreter Jill White of the UCC Church Building & Loan Fund on Friday/Saturday, May 1st and 2nd