



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

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Ministers: All the Members of the Church
Rev. Don Erickson, Pastor
Erik Haeger, Organist
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator
Mandy Boukus, Office Assistant

February 1, 2026

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

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

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.

Centering in the Spirit from Mechthild of Magdenburgh (1207-1294 AD)

Dave Litrico

O burning Mountain,
O chosen Sun,
O perfect Moon,
O fathomless Well,
O unattainable Height,
O Clearness beyond measure,
O Wisdom without end,
O Compassion without limit,
O Strength beyond resistance,
O Crown beyond all majesty:
the humble sing your praise.

*Opening Hymn

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

CH 102

Hebrew Bible

Micah 6:1-8

Dave Litrico

Song of PraiseGlory 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.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12 (NCV)

Meditation*The Jesus Way*

Rev. Don Erickson

Contemplative Reflection**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.

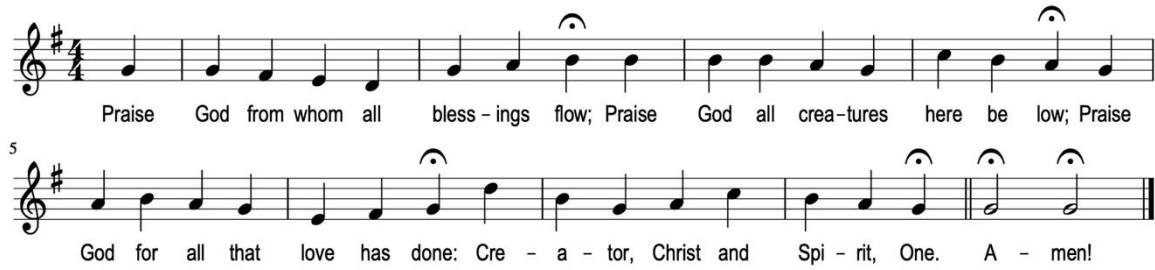
Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

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**



*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Laurel Thurman

God of Justice and Mercy, you do not ask for thousands of offerings or rivers of oil, only that we live with love, humility, and a hunger for what is right. Accept these gifts we bring—not as bargaining chips, but as signs of our desire to follow you. Use them and us to pour out kindness where the world is aching, to walk alongside the weary, and to bring your healing presence into troubled places. May our giving be our “yes” to your call, our response to your grace, and our witness to your hope. Amen.

A Pastoral Word with the Children

~ The Service of Holy Communion ~

Pastoral Introduction

Silent Remembrance (*a time to in our own way remember all that Christ is to us*)

With reverence and faith and love, stay near, O God. Amen.

Communion Litany

“The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body broken for you”

(distribute bread)

One: O God, just as this broken loaf was scattered over the hill as grain, and, having been gathered together, became one; in like fashion, may your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

All: Because yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Life...

In remembrance of our Lord Jesus, Our Way, Truth, and Life

(partake)

“In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant effected by my lifeblood poured out for you.”

(distribute juice)

One: O God, just as this juice comes from a gathering of grapes grown on a vine rooted deep, in like fashion, may we be rooted in the Vine that is Christ, and bear good fruit together as we look to your kingdom.

All: Because yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

The Lifeblood of the New Covenant, the Cup of Wholeness...
In remembrance of our Lord Jesus, Our Way, Truth, and Life

(partake)

***Closing Hymn**

O for a World

CH 683

***Closing Words**

Julie Menard

***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

About Communion at First Church

At the Last Supper, Jesus turned no one away and imposed no restrictions on receiving the bread and the cup. Neither do we here at the First Church of Christ in Mansfield. Christ's table is open at all, and we extend an extravagant welcome to you to join us. The communion elements will be brought to the pews by servers. Plates containing pieces of bread will be distributed first, followed by trays containing individual cups of grape juice. Each time, worshipers are asked to hold the elements until all have been served and an invitation to partake is spoken from the communion table. For those who wish to know, the cup contains non-alcoholic grape juice and the bread is gluten-free.

And about those little plastic cups...

Our shift from receiving Communion by intinction from a common cup to the tradition of passing trays of bread and juice from pew to pew has been made from our concern for health (risk of germ transmission) as well as our hope that it creates a more unified, communal experience whereby worshippers partake of the elements at the same time. However, there have been questions about the use of disposable cups in a green church. The Ministry of Spiritual Life has discussed this and plans to return to the use of our silver Communion-ware at Easter. In the meantime, we will use up the large supply of plastic cups that were purchased during the pandemic.

Our Greeters this morning are Julie Menard and Steve Lane.

Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman.

Communion Servers are Steve Lane, Julie Menard, David Darnell, and Gary Cote.

Our Children's Worship Circle hosts Coffee Hour.

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY	12:30 p.m. private use of Fellowship Hall
Monday, February 2	6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal
Tuesday, February 3	10:30 a.m. MCNR Monthly Service 6:30 p.m. Windham Theatre Guild Chorus
Wednesday, February 4	10 a.m. Coffee with Rev Don (Price Chopper food court) 1 p.m. Book Group 3:30 p.m. Pastoral Support Team 5:00 p.m. Meditation Group
Thursday, February 5	9:30 a.m. Sewing & Service 6:15 p.m. Windham Region Arts Council board meeting
Friday, February 6	10 a.m. private use of Cappella

First Hour Programs During Lent Sundays, 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

*A Lenten spiritual journey of reflection and renewal.
Discovering and discussing the extraordinary in the ordinary.*

Weekly Offerings

- 2/22 - Karen Christianson – The Spirituality of teaching.
- 3/1 - Steve Lane – The Spirituality of refugee resettlement.
- 3/8 - Don Baxter – The Spirituality of cycling.
- 3/15 - Penny Guerin/Barbara Dobrocki – The Spirituality of painting.
- 3/22 - Paul Tanner – The Spirituality of bee keeping & honey harvesting.
- 3/29 - Bill Briggs – The Spirituality of community organizing.

Pop/Rock God-Talk

a Song... a Spiritual Theme... a Short Symposium



**Friday, February 27, 7-8 pm
Lose Yourself**

(Eminem & Selected of God Gospel Choir)

What is Pop/Rock God-Talk? An alternative form of church gathering that is focused on theology and religious contemplation, using popular music to spark and stimulate discuss.

When is it? Fourth Fridays of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Connecticut Environmental Rights Advocacy Event

Maya van Rossum, national leader of the movement for Green Amendments, and the inspiration for our movement for the CT Environmental Rights Amendment is making a speaking tour across Connecticut. Please come and hear her speak, ask your questions in the Q&A, and bring your friends, neighbors, networks - and your legislators!

February 3, 5 pm, Buchanan Room, Mansfield Public Library, 54 Warrenville Road, Mansfield Center, CT

February 10, 6:30 pm, 4th floor, Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

February 11, 5:30 pm, DeKoven Center, 27 Washington St., Middletown, CT

All of these events are free and open to the public. Light food and refreshments will be provided. Photo identification will be required to enter the Stamford Government Center. Key legislators from each part of the state are invited.

Registration is requested:

<https://ctnofa.org/programs/advocacy/ct-environmental-rights-advocacy-events-registration/>