



## 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  
Rev. Don Erickson, Pastor  
Erik Haeger, Organist  
Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator  
Mandy Boukus, Office Assistant

**February 8, 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 Catherine of Siena (1347-80)

Gary Cote

You, O eternal Trinity, are a deep sea,  
a deep sea into which,  
the more we enter, the more we find.

And the more we find, the more we seek.

O abyss,  
O eternal Godhead,  
O sea profound,  
what more could you give us  
than yourself?  
Amen.

#### \*Opening Hymn

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

CH 251

**The Epistles**

I Corinthians 2:10-16 (NRSVUE)

Gary Cote

*God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.*

*Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.*

*"For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?"*

*But we have the mind of Christ.*

**\*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.

**Gospel**

Matthew 5:13-20 (NRSVUE)

*"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.*

*"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell*

*you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

### Contemplative Reflection

#### Meditation

*This Little Light of Mine*

Rev. Don Erickson

#### 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

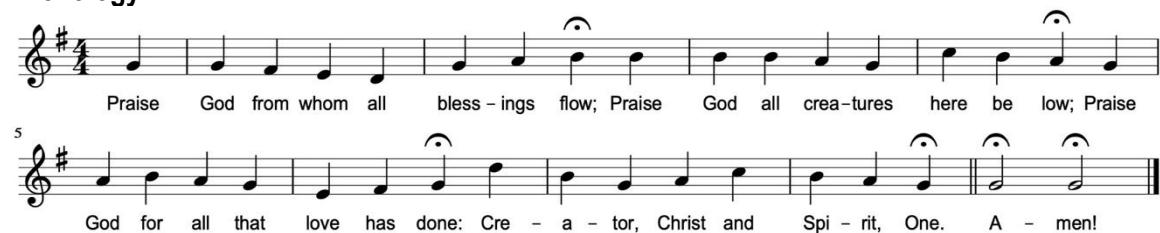
Our Father/Mother/Creator,  
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts/sins/trespasses,  
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.  
And *help us yield 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



5 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 (in unison)

Laurel Thurman

**Liberating God, You ask that our worship be more than words, that our offerings be more than ritual. Receive these gifts as signs of our willingness to share bread with the hungry, to break chains of injustice, to repair what is broken. May our generosity reflect your mercy**

and our living mirror your love. Use us and these gifts, so that light might rise in the darkness and hope take root where despair has reigned. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn**

*Many Are the Lightbeams*

CH 492

**\*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**

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Our greeters are Lisa Peterson-Blinn and Sharon Foster-Chalecki

Today's cantor is Laurel Thurman.

Coffee Hour today is hosted by Cheryl Chase and Laurel Thurman.

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## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH**

**Monday, February 9**

6:30 p.m. Take Note! rehearsal

**Tuesday, February 10**

10 a.m. Coffee with Rev. Don (Price Chopper food court)

**Wednesday, February 11**

1 p.m. Book Group

5 p.m. Meditation Group

**Thursday, February 12**

6 p.m. Governing Board (on Zoom)

**Saturday, February 14**

12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Mark your calendar!

**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.

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**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.