



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 15, 2026 – Transfiguration Sunday

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 Venerable Bede (672-735)

O Christ, our Morning Star,
Splendor of Light Eternal,
shining with the glory of the rainbow,
come and waken us
from the greyness of our apathy,
and renew in us your gift of hope.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness* CH 253

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
The Lord is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.
Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is he!
Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.
Extol the Lord our God;
worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!
Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.
He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
they kept his decrees
and the statutes that he gave them.
O Lord our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
Extol the Lord our God,
and worship at his holy mountain,
for the Lord our God is holy.

***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 17:1-9 (NRSVUE)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Contemplative Reflection

Meditation

Christ's Enlightenment

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

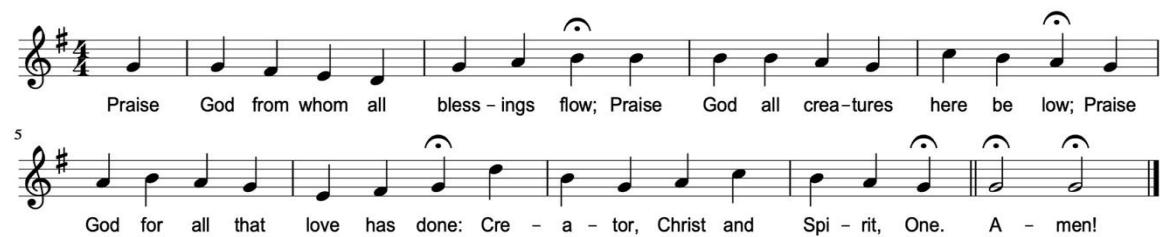
Our Father/Mother/Creator,
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts/sins/trespasses,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.
And *help us yield not to/Lead 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: Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen!

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Laurel Thurman

Radiant God, you meet us in moments of mystery and transformation, calling us to listen, to follow, and to give ourselves in love. As we offer these gifts, we confess our impatience with waiting and our longing for clarity, even when you speak from the cloud. Let these offerings be more than habit; let them reflect the light of Christ we have glimpsed on the

mountaintop and the hope we carry into the valleys below. Use them—and us—to shine your love where shadows linger, until all your beloved children know they are seen, named, and cherished. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

CH 517

***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

THE WEEK AHEAD...

TODAY

5:00 pm PFLAG of Mansfield Tolland

Monday, February 16

6:30 pm Take Note! Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 18 (Ash Wednesday)

8:00 am to 7:00 pm Drop in for "Imposition of Ashes & a Prayerful Poem to Go"

12:00 pm Ministry of Caring

1:00 pm Book Group

5:00 pm Meditation Group



This Lent and Easter season we will once again use the creative ministry resources from A Sanctified Art LLC. The overarching theme for Lent 2026 is **“Tell me something good... Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent.”**

The **“Tell me something good.” Devotional Booklet** may be picked up in the sanctuary. It contains scripture, commentary, poetry, visual art, hymns, and reflection prompts that parallel each week's worship theme.



Our Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18

You're invited to stop by any time between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. for

Imposition of Ashes & a Prayerful Poem to Go

Note: This is a come-and-go opportunity. All are welcome.

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 Beekeeping & Honey Harvesting.
3/29	Rev. Don Erickson – The Spirituality of Writing Poetry

Pop/Rock God-Talk
a Song... a Spiritual Theme... a Short Symposium



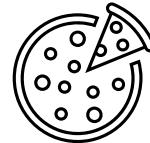
Friday, February 27, 7-8 pm

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.

Come early at 6 p.m. for Pizza before the program!
A sign-up sheet is in the sanctuary.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Palm Sunday - March 29, 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 2, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday - April 3, 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 5, 10:15 a.m.