



**The 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

Erik Haeger, Organist

Olivia Russell, Worship Circle Coordinator

Amanda Boukus, Office Assistant

August 9, 2026 ~ The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Worship Leader: The Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster

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

Call to Worship

Gary Côté

Leader: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we know and love - neighbors and friends, sisters, brothers, and siblings in Christ - a community of kindred spirits.

People: People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know - strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

Leader: People of God, look about and see all the images of God assembled here. In me, in you, in each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.

People: People of God, come. Let us worship God together. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

CH 16

Prayer of Transformation and New Life *(unison)*

Eternal God, we come to you with hungry hearts, waiting to be filled:

Waiting to be filled with a sense of your presence;

Waiting to be filled with the touch of your spirit;

Waiting to be filled with new energy for service.

Come to us, we pray.

Remove the hardness of our hearts and the doubts from our spirits.

Be with us.

Touch us.

Empower us as your people that we might share your hope, mercy, and new life with all those that we encounter today. Amen.

Leader: My friends, these words are faithful and true, even when we aren't really sure: Nothing— absolutely nothing in all of creation, in all of our histories, in all of our actions, and in all of our world— can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: 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.

First Reading

Psalms 13

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain^[a] in my soul

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Second Reading

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan.²

These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad

report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe.^[a] ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, ¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶ "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷ The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²² Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe^[b] that he wore, ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Reflection

Sitting with the sad parts

Rev. Sue Foster

Call to Prayer

Hear Us O Lord

Don Besig and Nancy Price



Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

You are invited to pray in whatever language is most comfortable for you. The following offers 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/trespases,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/trespass against us.
And lead us not into/help us yield not to 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 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 Dedication

Miraculous God, bless these gifts with your miraculous love. Bless our offerings with the mystery of an abundance that expands and grows, so that all may know the truth of your love— a love that cannot be stopped no matter what. Bless us to bring forth your miraculous love in all that we say and do. Amen.

*Closing hymn

O, Jesus, I Have Promised

CH 612

*Benediction

*Passing the Peace

May the peace of Christ Jesus be with you always.
And also with you.
 Let us share with one another a sign of that peace.

Postlude

Our worship service is made available digitally for those who cannot attend in person. Footage from this service may also be used in marketing materials for our community. If you do not wish to have your likeness recorded, streamed, or photographed please inform a Greeter who can seat you appropriately.

Our Greeters today are Janna Pedersen & Deb Richards.
Our Cantor is Laurel Thurman.
Our Digital Minister is Deb Hubbell.
Coffee Hour is hosted by Carol Fineout & Mary Anne Baker.

Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship!

About our visiting minister:

Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster (Sue) is a writer, preacher, retreat leader, counselor, wife, mother, volunteer chaplain, daughter, sister, friend. Sue graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary (MDiv) and Hartford International Seminary (DMin). Her doctoral thesis focused on theologies of hospitality and how to live out the inclusive Spirit of our welcoming God. After serving the East Woodstock Congregational Church (UCC) for 36 years, Sue has stepped away from active parish ministry and is enjoying exploring retirement.

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, August 9

10:15 a.m. Worship & Worship Circle

1:00 p.m. Search Committee

Thursday, August 13

6:00 p.m. Governing Board

Saturday, August 15

12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Worship Leaders for August:

August 16 Rev. Chuck Ericson

August 23 Bobbi Giardina

August 30 Laurel Thurman



Ministry Profile: The Ministry of Caring

Putting our Faith into Action with Church World Service

First Church is dedicated to extending hope and comfort to communities facing difficult times. This week, we are highlighting the impactful work of our **Ministry of Caring** and our congregation's active participation in **Church World Service (CWS)**.

Our community has set a goal to make and fill **50 Kids Kits** (formerly known as School Kits) and **50 Hygiene Kits** this year. Inside every kit are simple, everyday items that bring essential comfort, encouragement, and a powerful reminder that someone cares. Though assembling a kit may seem like a small act, it leaves a lasting impact on someone's life.

Where Do These Kits Go?

These kits journey directly from our local community to vulnerable communities around the world. Your ongoing generosity keeps hope moving exactly where it is needed most.

Our efforts join a massive global network of compassion. In 2025 alone, Church World Service received and distributed a total of:

- **39,300 Kids Kits**
- **71,760 Hygiene Kits**

These supplies were provided entirely by faith communities just like ours, stepping up to help families recover and rebuild.

How You Can Help: This Year's Donation List

To meet our target of 50 Kids Kits, we need to gather specific supplies. Please check the shopping list below and donate what you can. A collection bin is located at the front of the sanctuary, near the Brown's Road door.

- **18** Packages of colored pencils (12 per package)
- **182** #2 unsharpened pencils
- **44** 12-inch rulers (with both inches and centimeters marked)
- **36** 70-page spiral-bound notebooks
- **38** Two-pocket folders
- **27** Packages of crayons (24 per package)
- **38** Glue sticks
- **38** Scissors (with blunt points)
- **27** Pencil sharpeners

Thank you for your open hearts and continued support of the Ministry of Caring. Together, we can make a world of difference for children and families facing adversity.