



GATHERING TIME

Lent is both an individual and a communal time—spend the time before worship in the community of your sisters and brothers in faith.

TIME OF GROUNDING & MUSIC

INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

God our Parent and Guide,
we thank you for your reconciling work,
patiently, lovingly, restoring all creation.
We thank you for Jesus Christ,
reconciler, saviour, midwife of our journey to new birth.
We thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit,
dancing, delighting in the beauty of the earth.
This Lent, deepen us in prayer and new vocation
to your task of reconciliation.
Help us look forward to your Easter mystery;
our hearts are restless till they rest in you.
Amen.

— posted on the Worpleston Parish;

PRAYERS OF JOY AND THANKSGIVING

Psalm 16: 11

You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

*(Time for silent Prayer offering our gratitude to God
and delighting in God's presence)*

MUSIC

PRAYERS OF NEED AND CONCERN

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let
your requests be made known to God.

LETTING GO OF THE WORLD'S CLAIMS

John 14:1-6

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe^[a] in God;
believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many
dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you
that I go to prepare a place for you? ^[b] ³ And if I go and
prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take
you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be
also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am
going.”^[c] ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know
where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus
said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No
one comes to the Father except through me.

BRINGING OUR FULL SELVES BEFORE GOD

Psalm 139: 1-12

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

(Time for silent honesty and fullness)

ASSURANCE

LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING BLESSING

The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be
gracious to you;
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give
you peace.



WELCOME

A place grounded in the love and grace of God...

A diverse and growing Christian community of extravagant welcome...

A church that leans on the Spirit of its history to claim its progressive present reality.

Welcome to the First Congregational Church, UCC, in Stockbridge. Here in our historic New England sanctuary we gather to meet our still-speaking God in new and fresh ways. Our dynamic and relevant worship is the center of our life together. Here we encounter God's grace and love, discover truth and meaning, and seek to apply our faith to the countless decisions we make every day. We value inspired preaching, glorious music, fellowship that fosters our relationships with God and with each other, and learning and service that deepen our connection to Christ, the world, and one another.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation made up of old and young; gay and straight; married, single and partnered; those who have it all figured out and those searching for where to begin; lifelong Christians and some who are still skeptical of faith; those who are riding high on life and those a little down on their luck. We welcome you no matter who you are and where you are on life's journey. While our founding dates back to 1734 and names like John Sergeant and Jonathan Edwards grace the pages of our history, we take seriously the church's call to make the Christian faith our own in this generation. We honor those who have come before while serving those who are in our midst today. We hope that you will learn about us on our website, but even better – come spend time with us at worship, in service or in study!

Sunday Worship—10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available During Worship

Opening the fullness of our lives

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

to the fullness of God's love.

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, MA

stockbridgeucc.org
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