

# *Litany of Remembrance*

2025

One: We gather as people of the story – a story that stretches back to the beginning of time and forward to the fulfillment of all things.

**All: We gather to remember those who have gone before and on whose shoulders we stand.**

One: We remember the Biblical ancestors of the faith – from Abraham and Sarah to Naomi and Ruth to Paul and Peter.

**All: Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.**

One: We remember the faithful forebears of this local church – from John Sergeant and Jonathan Edwards to Marian Knowles and Daniel Williams to Marge Fuller and Michelle Gillett.

**All: Forebears of our church, we remember you.**

One: We remember those from our church family who have died in this past year.

**All: We remember John Allen Miner** *(pause for the lighting of a candle)*

One: We remember Norma Jean Stackhouse *(pause for the lighting of a candle)*

**All: We remember Margory “Gege” Kingston** *(pause for the lighting of a candle)*

One: We remember Hannah Peabody *(pause for the lighting of a candle)*

**All: We give thanks for your presence among us, for the gifts you have left with us, and for your enduring spirit that shines forth through us.**

One: We gather as people of the story – an ongoing story still being written in our own living.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**



Top: John Allen Miner,  
Jean Stackhouse

Bottom: Gege Kingston,  
Hannah Peabody

# Relational Covenant

As followers of Jesus Christ and as part of the First Congregational Church, we seek to build a beloved community within the church by treating one another with compassion, mercy, and love. We recognize that we will sometimes fall short, hurt one another, and find ourselves in disagreement or conflict. We commit to carrying out the mission of our church that is rooted in the love of God and to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all. We aspire to respect one another in the following ways:

## Remember

We will remember the marks of faithful living - approaching one another in genuine love, outdoing one another in showing honor, and practicing humility. (*Romans 12*)

We will remember when we speak to only say what is useful and necessary for building up so that our words come as grace to others. (*Ephesians 4:28*)

## Experience

We will speak from our own experience even as we make room for the experiences of others. (*1 Corinthians 3:16*)

## Support

When someone else has accepted responsibility for completing a task, we will support the process and them in their work. When we discern the movement of the Holy Spirit and make a decision, we will support that outcome. (*1 Corinthians 1:10*)

## Pray

We will proceed with the premise that we are all doing the best we can for our community, we will exercise patience in the midst of conflict, and we will bathe all things in prayer. (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*)

## Empathize

When we encounter disagreement or difference, we will seek out one another and speak face-to-face with openness and empathy. (*Ephesians 4:15*)

## Communicate

We will invite and accept the invitation of another to come to a table of reconciliation and will engage an intermediary if necessary in order to communicate in ways that offer healing and forgiveness. (*Matthew 18:16*)

## Truth telling

We will strive to be instruments of peace, listening with open, curious, and non-judgmental minds, tempering our anger in love, seeking truth where there is misunderstanding, and trying as hard to understand as to be understood. (*The Prayer of St. Francis*)