



*The First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ,
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

November 9, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Children start in worship with an optional activity after Time with Children.
Nursery care is available during worship.

**Prayer requests can be shared verbally during worship. Or you may give a
prayer slip to a Deacon or place it in the offering plate.**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Sean Lewis

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT

Hymn of Thanksgiving (Lorenz)

Bell Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tim Bosworth

written by Rebecca Gaudino, and posted on Ministry Matters

One: Come, sing a new song to God!

All: Remember all the times full of wonder

God has already saved us!

One: Plug in the keyboard; tune up those guitars; try out the drums!

All: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

One: Open the windows!

Listen to the choirs outdoors, feathered and furred!

All: Let the hills sing together for joy!

One: For God is not done doing wonders!

All: God is coming to set everything right. Sing a new song to God!

*HYMN

Sing, Sing a New Song to the Lord God

see pages 4-5

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 98:4

Tim Bosworth

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

CHILDRENS TIME Joyful NOISE!

Lord's Prayer

Our God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Haggai 1:15b-2:9

Ronnie Cunningham

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: "Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say: Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land, and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts, and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts."

SERMON	<i>What are We Building?</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>We Would Be Building</i>	see pages 6-7
CONTEMPORARY READING		Ronnie Cunningham
	<i>Praise Song for the Day</i> , Elizabeth Alexander	see insert

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY	<i>Come, Ye Thankful People, Come</i> (Tucker)	Bell Choir
*DOXOLOGY		<i>Lasst Uns Erfreuen</i>

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN	<i>We All Are One in Mission</i>	see insert
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Brent
POSTLUDE		Sean Lewis

98C Sing, Sing a New Song to the LORD God

G Am Em D E Am G Bm

1 Sing, sing a new song to the LORD God for all the
 2 Shout, make a joy - ful noise be - fore him, O all the
 3 Let all the streams in joy - ous u - nion now clap their

C G D G Am Em

won - ders he has wrought; his right hand and his
 earth, his prais - es sing; with harp and trum - pet
 hands and praise ac - cord; let moun - tains sing in

D E Am G C Esus Em Dsus D G

arm most ho - ly the vic - to - ry to him have brought.
 sound a - dore him, make mu - sic to the LORD, the King.
 glad com - mu - nion and skip for joy be - fore the LORD.

D Em Am C A D G Em Bm

The LORD has shown his great sal - va - tion, to Is - ra - el his
 Let o - ceans roar with all their full - ness, the world and all who
 He comes, he comes to judge the peo - ple, ar - rayed in truth and

C Am G C Em G F

love made known; he has re - vealed to ev - ery
 dwell there - in; pro - claim the power of God with
 eq - ui - ty; he shall re - deem the world from

G D G C Esus Em Dsus D G

na - tion his truth in right - eous - ness a - lone.
 bold - ness, ex - alt him ev - er and a - gain.
 e - vil, and right - eous shall his judg - ment be.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.
Alternate harmonization on p. 756.
 Words: Dewey Westra, 1931; rev. *Psalter Hymnal*, 1987, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources
 Music (RENDEZ À DIEU/GENEVAN 98/118 | 9.8.9.8 D): *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Psalms for All Seasons (2012)



Youth Group News

The next **youth group event** is Sunday, December 7. Youth will join the adults in celebrating the Advent Fair. Come for the potluck lunch and to make a variety of crafts after lunch. Bring a friend and bring some good cheer!

Overnight Retreat at Silver Lake

We are planning to take the youth to the UCC Retreat Camp at Silver Lake in Sharon, CT for an overnight adventure May 2-3, 2026. See Elisabeth Bellows for more information.

Thanksgiving Day

All are welcome to an ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Thursday, November 27, at 10:30am.

Stewardship

If you haven't mailed in your 2026 Pledge Form, please bring to the service on Consecration Sunday, November 16. There will be extra forms on hand this Sunday and the 16th.

Dreaming God's Dream
NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Gary Cilley, Jo Ann Levitt, and Helen McCormick; readers Tim Bosworth and Ronnie Cunningham; greeter Terry Wise, usher Carl Bradford; fellowship Elizabeth Young; storytellers Jeremy Ridenour, Megan Kolano, Cindy Brown, and Hannah Fries. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream. Mari Brennan and Dana Sanchez are in the nursery.

607

We Would Be Building

Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49; 1 Esd. 5:56-7:15

Purd E. Deitz, 1935; alt.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'We Would Be Building'. It features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes three verses of lyrics.

1 We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done o'er crum - bling
2 Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock we set the
3 O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands ne'er fal - ter

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

walls their cross-es scarce-ly lift, wait - ing till love can
 dream that hard-ens in - to deed, ribbed with fine steel, both
 when the dream is in our hearts, when to our ears there

raise the bro - ken stone, and hearts cre - a - tive
 time and change to mock, the un-fail - ing pur - pose
 come di - vine com - mands and all the pride of

bridge the hu - man rift. We would be build - ing,
 of our no - blest creed, Teach us to build; O
 sin - ful will de - parts. We build with you; O

Ar - chi-tect Di - vine, re-veal the shape of life in your de - sign.
 Mak - er, lend us sight to see the tow - ers gleam-ing in the light.
 grant en - dur - ing worth un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

Purd Deitz, pastor of Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church in Philadelphia, wrote this hymn to express the youth conference theme, "Christian Youth Building a New World." Set to one of his favorite tunes, Finlandia, it became popular around the world.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.10.
 Jean Sibelius, 1899
 Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

Advent Sermon Series

Jeremy Ridenour and Rick Floyd are offering a three-week Advent series on Thursdays from 6-7:15 pm on December 4, 11, and 18. Each week we will read a sermon by a preacher or theologian. On Dec 4, John Azer, a Coptic Christian, will present a sermon by an Orthodox theologian and discuss how Orthodox theology thinks about incarnation and Christmas. On Dec 11, the group will reflect on a sermon by Martin Luther who wrote about the humanity and humility of Jesus in the incarnation. For the final meeting, we will discuss an Advent sermon by Fleming Rutledge, a contemporary Episcopal theologian. Please let Jeremy know if you plan to attend: jeremy.ridenour@gmail.com. Readings will be emailed to the group. There will be no book. In-person only.

From the Service League

Holly Fair, Sat., Dec 6, 10am – 1pm

A call for volunteers, elves, and donors

The Children's Room

We need gently used toys, books, and games. Please bring to the church the week of December 1 – 5, leaving in the Nursery.

Baked Goods

Wrapped home-baked goodies, with NO NUTS. Please bring Friday December 5 or Saturday before 10:00am and leave in the kitchen.

Centerpieces

Come to the church on Wed. Dec 3 from 10:am – 1:pm to make centerpieces to sell at the Holly Fair. Bring lunch, garden clippers, and creativity.

Call Anne Hutchinson with questions, (413) 854-7798

Welcome! We are Open and Affirming, which means that we invite persons of every sexual orientation, gender identification and expression, racial and cultural identity, age, physical ability, economic circumstance, faith background and family structure to share fully in the ministry, leadership and fellowship of this congregation's life in Christ.

As followers of Christ and committed to Isaiah's charge to "maintain justice and do what is right," we acknowledge with gratitude and humility that we are learning, speaking, gathering, and worshipping on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

(413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org

All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723107