



Our Mission and Vision Statement:

We are a church where all are welcome to worship together, to share in fellowship and to grow spiritually in our journey with Christ. We value justice, diversity, and freedom of expression. We strive to serve our community and all God's creation and to spread the love of God to all people.

Welcome members, friends, and visitors to our service this morning!

If you are a guest with us in worship, we invite you to sign our guest register and/or fill out a visitor card. Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary for children who are with us in worship. Sunday school is held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Leading in worship today:

Guest Minister Rev. T Colorio

Deacon: Karen Murphy

Reader: Nancy Zurawka

Guest Musician: Stephen Page

Contact Info: First Congregational Church of West Brookfield
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Prayer Requests

Would you like to ask for prayers for someone? ~~There are slips on the rear table and a basket to place them in. A deacon will share them with the pastor.~~ Please see a deacon with any questions.

TODAY! – A Special Open and Affirming Exploration Meeting

Please plan to stay after our service today as our ONA Committee has a special presentation to share. Kathie Carpenter from the ONA Coalition of the UCC will make a presentation on *Open & Affirming What? Why? & How?* Following the presentation there will be open Q & A time. Snacks will be served!

Please plan to stay, learn and support your O & A Exploration Committee!

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield United Church of Christ

*January 19, 2025
10 a.m.*



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Congregational Announcements

Karen Murphy

Prelude and Candle Lighting

Pastoral Greeting

*Words in **bold** are to be spoken in unison.*

**Please stand as you are able.*

Call to Worship:

Nancy Zurawka

Leader: We gather in the presence of the One who breathes life into all Creation.

People: **We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.**

Leader: In Christ, there is neither insider nor outsider,

People: **invited nor shunned,**

Leader: accepted nor rejected.

People: **We are a gathering of nobodies,**

Leader: Yet Jesus claims us as somebodies who all have a place.

ALL: God invites all of us to be a part of his beloved community. In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Nancy Zurawka

Lord, let us know the strength of your promise today: It is no longer our destiny to be called 'Forsaken' and to suffer alone, but in your great love, you have called us to yourself and given us an eternal belonging in Jesus Christ. We have a glorious inheritance - the Lord who delights in us! Until we reach that forever home, help us by your Spirit to walk in faith and teach us to pray. Amen.

Open and Affirming Testimonial

Terry Hall

*Hymn "In Christ There Is No East or West"

#600

Call to Offering and Offertory Music

~ (Offering plates are in the front and rear of the sanctuary for your gifts; you may place them in the plates during the music)

*Doxology

No. 34 (Old 100th)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit
evermore; One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

Blessing of Offering

Youth Message

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 62:1-5

Nancy Zurawka

Response: **Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Stephen Page

Sermon

"Belonging.... to the Lord's Delight"

Pastor T

*Hymn

"For the Healing of the Nations"

#621

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, 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, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn

"We Shall Overcome"

#512

Benediction (please be seated)

Postlude