# The First Congregational Church

# of West Brookfield

# United Church of Christ



**May 18, 2025**

**10 a.m.**

Fifth Sunday in Easter

**Order of Worship**

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

🙫 *Please stand as you are able.*

Congregational Announcements Karen Murphy

**Pastoral Greeting**

Prelude and Candle Lighting

Call to Worship Nancy Zurawka

Come to praise God, all you faithful people!

Come, for God welcomes you and offers to draw close.

**Praise to God, who rules over all the earth.**

**Praise to God, who is as near as our next breath.**

Sun and moon and stars shine in praise to God.

God created them and established for each a place.

**God has a place for us in this world;**

**we have come that God may instruct and equip us.**

Mountains and hills, trees and animals praise God.

Let all the rulers of the earth do so as well.

**God provides abundantly for our needs.**

**God makes of one family all who dwell on earth.**

*from Psalm 148*

Prayer for Transformation and New Life Nancy Zurawka

**We give you thanks and praise, O God: you have made your home in our midst and called us to be your people. In Jesus, we have been loved as you would have us love, and have been shown how to live in your love. When he was crucified, you raised him to new life and, through your Holy Spirit, you have brought us the message by which we are saved. Though we cannot yet go where Christ has gone, you are preparing a new heaven and earth, where there will be no more death, no more mourning or crying or pain. There, all who thirst will be generously satisfied from your spring of the water of life.**

**Therefore, with our hearts lifted high, we offer you thanks and praise at all times through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

🙫 Hymn“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”  **#59**

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 #**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

Scripture Readings Acts 11:1-18 Nancy Zurawka

John 13:31-35

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

Special MusicStephen Page

Sermon  *“The Comeback”*Rev. Dennis TeBeest

🙫 Hymn “When We Are Living” **#415**

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 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” **#358**

*(please remain standing for the benediction)*

Benediction

*(please be seated)*

Postlude

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**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, 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.

**Prayer Requests**  
Would you like to ask for prayers for someone? You may write your request in the red prayer book on the table located in the back of the sanctuary. A deacon will share them with the pastor. Please see a deacon with any questions.

**Asparagus Festival Thanks!**

A giant thank you to all who helped make our 2025 asparagus chowder sales successful. Despite a few showers it was a great day and each volunteer was appreciated!

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