The First Congregational Church

of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ

"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth & rust do not destroy, & where thieves do not break in and steal."

Matthew 6:20

July 27, 2025

10 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*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 Mary Deotte

One: See what love our Creator has given us,
All: That we should be called the children of God.
One: See what love our Sustainer has given us,
All: That we receive the power to live as children of God.
One: See what love our Redeemer has given us,
All: **That our hearts become like children through Christ**
All: Glory to God in the highest.

Prayer for Transformation and New Life Mary Deotte

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of families and our church family. We are grateful for everything that they do for us. Help us all have patience when children are tired and cranky. Give us wisdom when they can't see the way. Grant us strength when they need comforting, and bless us with love at all times, so that through them, we get a little glimpse of how you feel about us. Amen.

Hymn *"God of the Sparrow"* **#29**

Service of Baptism (see insert)

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 Matthew 6:19-25 Megan Frano

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

Special Music Stephen Page

Sermon "Strawberries, Soccer Balls and Economics "
Rev. Beverly Prestwood-Taylor

Hymn *"Surely the Presence of the Lord"* **#131**

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 *"Seek Ye First"* **#349**

(please remain standing for the benediction)

Benediction

(please be seated)

Postlude

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.

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Today we welcome **Rev. Beverly Prestwood-Taylor**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

July 27, 2025

Everleigh Paige Boucher

Date of Birth: September 10, 2024

Parents: Megan Leah Frano &
Zachary Deane Boucher

Godparents: Brandi Shultis
Tina Delaura

Officiant: Rev. Dr. Beverly Prestwood-Taylor

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Pastor: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Baptism family: I do.

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and Godparents: I will with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents and Godparents: We do with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with Everleigh in the Christian faith, to help her to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may affirm her baptism?

Parents and Godparents: We do with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to Everleigh as she lives and grows in Christ?

Congregation: We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

SONG "Baptized in Water, Kissed by the Spirit"
Beverly Prestwood-Taylor adapted from Michael Saward

(to the tune of Morning Has Broken)

Baptized in water, kissed by the Spirit,

Marked by the love of Christ our Grace

Child of salvation, trusting the promise.

Gather us in, your joy to embrace.

Baptized in water, kissed by the Spirit

We are the church, your family in Christ.

Risking and loving, daring together

Seeds of new growth now springing to life.

Baptismal Prayer: We give you thanks, O Holy One, parent of all the faithful, for this, your child, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as children in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

Bless the parents of Everleigh Paige. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for her.

Bless these faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit. Amen.