

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



September 7, 2025

10 a.m.

REFLECT

May God's breath stream within you.

May God's breath renew you.


May God's breath invigorate you.

Walk with confidence into this day. Amen.

--traditional Jewish blessing—

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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

A Call to Worship and Prayer for the Season after Pentecost

Linda Daskowski

Leader: The wind at our backs, we entered Jerusalem.

All: Only to watch him die on the cross.

Leader: It spiraled so quickly.

All: Trial. Torture. Crucifixion. Death.

Leader: But on the third day the breath of God blew new life into our futures.

All: Forty days with the risen Jesus.

Leader: Before he ascended, Jesus reminded us that the Spirit will come.

**All: It was on Pentecost. It was on Pentecost when the wind
breathed into each and every one of us.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: Sacred breath, move through this room. Unlock a song within your people. Breathe
into us your hopes and dreams for a world filled with justice, love, and peace. Amen.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Linda Daskowski

Leader: Let us pray together:

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill us. Come, Holy Breath, live in us. Come, Holy Wind, move
through us..**

*Leader: "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit
you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again." [Rom 8:14-15a]*

**All: Where we are led by other impulses, we become slaves again and our way of being is
guided by fear. Where we are guided by prejudice, fill us with love. Where we are guided
by pessimism, fill us with joy. Where we are guided by misunderstanding, fill us with
peace. Where we are guided by self-interest, fill us with kindness. Where we are guided
by apathy, fill us with goodness. Where we are guided by convenience, fill us with
faithfulness. Come, Holy Spirit, fill us. Come, Holy Breath, live in us. Come, Holy Wind,
Move through us. Amen.**



Hymn

"Gather Us In"

#649

Prayers of the People Sharing Concerns, Joys ~ Pastoral Prayer ~ 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.**

A Reading from the New Testament

Romans 8:14-17

Linda Daskowski

Choir Anthem

A Reading from the Gospel

John 14:8-17

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

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.**

Youth Message

Special Music

Stephen Page

Sermon

"All God's Children"

Rev. Doug Williamson

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Insert

✠ Hymn

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

#596

Benediction (please be seated)

Postlude

~~~~~

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*(Without exception, in our community of faith  
all are welcome to commune at God's table.)*

Pastor: God of life, We gather once more at the table of Jesus, the Living Bread. Breathe your Spirit upon us to guide us in your truth, that we may abide in you and live always in your love.

**All: All glory and power and honor be unto you, heart of Love, Word of Life, Spirit of Peace,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: Holy God, we bless you for Jesus Christ, who comes in your name to heal and reconcile the whole creation, bringing hope out of destruction and new life out of death. We thank you that Jesus invites us to the Table of Love, now as on the night before he was betrayed, when he took bread, gave thanks to you, and said, This is my body, which is given for you."

*Leader: We remember also that he took the cup, gave thanks to you, and said, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." Remembering Jesus' death in love for your whole creation, we offer our praise and thanksgiving and our commitment to care for one another and for all you have created upon the earth.*

**HYMN OF BLESSING** (sung to the hymn tune Buinessan, the tune of *Morning Has Broken*)

**God of creation, life's celebration, Giver of friendship, author of love: Come to our table, bless us, enable Our lives to show fully, your life from above.**

**Moments to treasure, sorrow and pleasure, The gift of each other to nurture and tend; Love never greater, Christ, our example, Life laid down freely to care for a friend.**

**Thank you for guiding. Thanks for providing, Food for the body, strength for the day. Sustain and nourish. Make our souls flourish, Through life together, God, lead the way.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

## **MUSIC FOR MEDITATION**

### **A RESPONSIVE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Pastor: Creator God,

**All: we give you thanks for the grain farmers, the bread bakers, the grape growers, the juice makers.**

Pastor: Redeemer God,

**All: we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal: your birth, your life, your death and resurrection.**

Pastor: Sustaining God,

**All: we give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us, surrounding us and filling us with Divine life.**

Pastor: Holy God, three in one,

**All: May this meal we have shared renew us and inspire us to join more joyfully with you as you work for peace and justice in the world. Amen.**



### **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.

**Today** we are very happy to welcome our new Designated Term Pastor, Rev. Doug Williamson and his wife Karen as he begins his ministry with us here at First Congregational! Please plan to stay after for worship for a special coffee hour to welcome them.

---

***First Congregational Church of West Brookfield***

***36 N. Main Street***

***PO Box 371***

***West Brookfield, MA 01585***

***508-867-7078***

***[FCCWBWorship@gmail.com](mailto:FCCWBWorship@gmail.com)***

***[Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org](http://Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org)***

|                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><i>Rev. Dr. Doug Williamson – 913-387-9947</i></b></p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b><i><u><a href="mailto:djwnscaa@gmail.com">djwnscaa@gmail.com</a></u></i></b></p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|