

*The First Congregational Church
of West Brookfield
United Church of Christ*



October 5, 2025; 10 a.m.

REFLECT


"By all means seek happiness, but do so wisely. ... Seek to be loved and you probably won't be; seek to love, on the other hand, and you probably will be. Look solely for happiness, and I doubt you'll find it. Forget about happiness, seek wisdom and goodness, and probably happiness will find you. Happiness is usually indirect, a side effect or by-product of something else." --M. Scott Peck, in *Abounding Grace:*

An Anthology of Wisdom--

SEVENTEENTH 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

Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 107)

Karen Murphy

Leader: Come! Let's give thanks to God, who is good.

All: God's steadfast love redeems and restores!

Leader: We celebrate God's actions in the past, and God's promises for the future

All: God acts in love for all creation.

Leader: God's steadfast love endures forever!

All: We rejoice in what God does, and delight in God's love!



Hymn

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

#723

A Reading from *Psalms for Praying* (by Nan C. Merrill) Psalm 107:1-22

Stewardship Moment

Shelley Fullam

Prayer Hymn

"Lord, I Want to Be A Christian"

#457

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 Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

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

Call to Offering and Offertory Music

Choir Anthem: *"All Are Welcome at the Table", by Mary McDonald*

(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

"With Grateful Hearts"

Rev. Doug Williamson

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (please turn to insert)

Without exception, in this community of faith all God's children are invited to partake of this holy meal. All are welcome at God's table!

Unison Prayer after Communion

Pastor: Let us join together in prayer.

All: O God, you have bound us together in common life, which we are grateful to have celebrated at your holy table. Help us, in the midst of our quest for justice and truth, to challenge one another in love. Empower us to stand together, to walk together, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect. Teach us to abide always in your love. Amen.

Hymn

"There's A Spirit in the Air"

#133

Benediction (please be seated)

Postlude

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

Pastor: We give you thanks, Abundant God, for sounding the heartbeat of creation, and for breathing life into our dust and ashes. We bless you for the abundance of the earth and for the promise that one day all will share at one table and none will be turned away hungry or thirsty.

Leader: We praise you, Lover of all people, that you labor to restore the earth, bring new life amid destruction. Together with all people and all created things, we sing:

THE SANCTUS (sung through twice together, in English) #793

Pastor: Holy are you, God, and blessed is Christ who has come in your name, living and dying in love and courage, sanctifying the life of this world. We praise you that you have raised Christ to live among us forever, and that you send your Spirit to create and renew your church.

Leader: Thankful for all you do for us, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in the gifts of bread and cup, and in the world you cherish.

All: All praise be yours, God of the ages, through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Through the bread that we break we recognize Christ's presence.
Thanks be to God. (Bread is served; all partake together)

Leader: Through the cup of thanksgiving, we share in Christ's life and death.
Thanks be to God. (Cup is served; all partake together)

[Please return to the main portion of today's bulletin for the prayer after communion and the closing hymn.]



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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