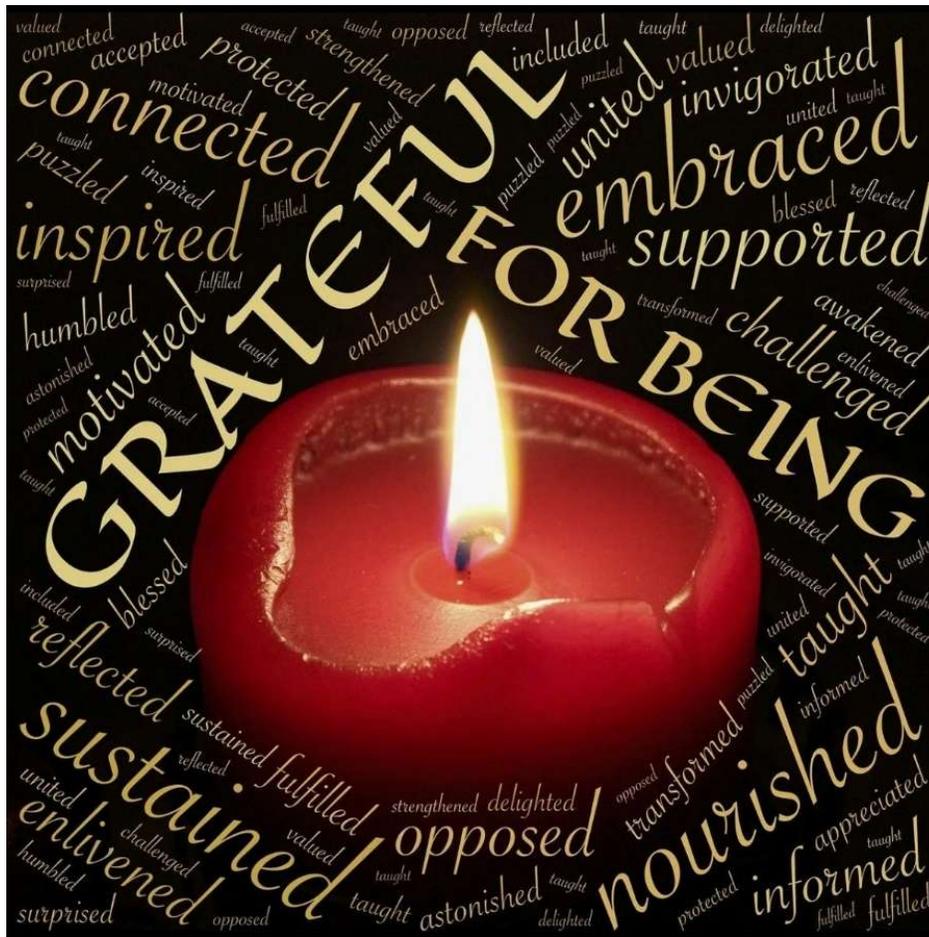


*The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield*

*United Church of Christ*



**November 9 2025; 10 a.m.**

**REFLECT**

*“There are the saints of every day, the ‘hidden saints,’ a sort of ‘middle class of holiness’ ... to which we can all belong.”-- Pope Francis—*

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

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

 *Please stand as you are able.*

Congregational Announcements

**Contemporary Gathering Words**

Pastor: Let us affirm the welcoming spirit we hope to share with all as we worship God together.

**All: Here in this place, there are no foreigners, for all are welcome in God's house. Here in this worship, there is only acceptance, for love is the language of faith. Here in our lives, there are no divisions, for God dwells in each of us.**

**Come, let us worship God in unity and love.**

Prelude and Candle Lighting

Stephen Page

**Aspiring to Be the Saints of God**

Deanna Randall

Leader: In all our weakness and strength, with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies, **All: we come to be your people, O God.** Leader: Strong in faith and eager with questions, singing our praise and whispering our prayers, **All: we come to be your people, O God.**

Leader: Filled with saintly determination, yet mindful of our human limitations, **All: we come to be your people, O God.**

Leader: Made strong in your endless love for us, we know ourselves to be yours and **All: we come to be your people, O God.**  
**May we truly become your people today. Amen.**

 **Hymn**

“Sing A New Church”

**#577**

**A Contemporary Psalm** (based on Hebrews 12:1)

**Giving Thanks for Saints in Our Lives**

Pastor: We lift up to You, O God, the names of those we have lost in the past year from our lives, and all those we have lost who are especially in our thoughts this morning, knowing that they are with Your heart forever. We remember, pray, and give thanks for their lives. (*A moment of silence; names may be spoken aloud.*)

We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God, and lift up many more names in our hearts.

**All: Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and you will not be forgotten.**

Pastor: We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life.

**All: We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ, and know that in our grief and celebration, O God, You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray. Amen.**

 **Hymn** "For All the Saints" #529

**A Reading from the Gospel** Matthew 1:1-17  
Response: **Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks be to God**

**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.***

**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** "Preparing the Way" Rev. Doug Williamson

 **Hymn** "Rise Up, O Saints of God" #590

 **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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