

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ




June 28 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

O God, send forth your Holy Spirit into my heart that I may perceive, into my mind that I may remember, and into my soul that I may meditate. Inspire me to speak with piety, holiness, tenderness and mercy. Teach, guide and direct my thoughts and senses from beginning to end. May your grace ever help and correct me, and may I be strengthened now with wisdom from on high, for the sake of your infinite mercy. Amen. -- A prayer of Saint Anthony of Padua—

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

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

 *Please stand as you are able.*

Congregational Announcements

Pastoral Greeting

Prelude and Candle Lighting

Stephen Page

An Opening Prayer

Linda Daskowski

Leader: Spirit of life

All: Fill our emptiness with your fullness

Leader: Spirit of power

All: Stir our hearts afresh

Leader: Spirit of love

All: Touch us, and through us, our neighbor

Leader: Spirit of Creativity

All: Enable and empower the gifts you have given

Leader: Spirit of Eternity

**All: Draw us ever deeper into your Realm, the Realm of
mercy, love, justice, and peace. Amen.**

 **An Opening Hymn for Independence Day Week** “America, the Beautiful” **#727**

The Psalter (from *Psalms for Praying*, by Nan C. Merrill) **Psalm13**

A Call to Reconciliation and Prayer for Forgiveness

Leader: We struggle daily with that human tendency to yield to powerful temptation to do wrong, say hurtful things, turn our back to others. But God continues to offer us forgiveness and grace when we do so yield. Let us confess to our God, who frees us forever from judgment, as we pray,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

All: In baptism, we are promised new life, God of grace, yet we continue to focus on those old ways which are so comfortable and seductive. We are so good at fooling others that we are convinced we can trick you as well. We have been called to walk with you, and run down those paths paved with foolishness and fears.

Forgive us, God of steadfast love. You have claimed our lives in baptism, so we might be set free from sin and be raised to new life. Just as you save us, so give us the strength to be willing to take up whatever task you give us, and the faith to be willing to lose our lives for others, so we might find life forever with you, through Jesus Christ, our Teacher, Guide, and Savior. *A silence is kept.*

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: This is the good news: God hears our prayers, our cries, our hearts. And, in Christ, we receive new life. We are free, free to walk in the Light of the Sovereign One, Jesus our Christ.

All: So, this is what we will do. We will open our hearts to God's grace; we will live as people who have died to sin and who live for Christ. Amen

A Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

Reader: May God bless our hearing and understanding of this reading from our sacred texts.

All: Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks be to God

Prayer Hymn

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

#327

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)

A Doxology

Tune: # 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

Music for Reflection and Inspiration

Stephen Page

Sermon

“Who Will Welcome Us?”

Rev. Doug Williamson

A Closing Hymn for Independence Day Week

“This Is My Song”

Insert

Benediction (after which, please be seated for the postlude)

Postlude



Our Covenant of Welcome

We, the members of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, are a people of faith, following Jesus and sharing God's abundant love, believing each of us is created in God's image. We seek to demonstrate God's love through respect and care for one another. We celebrate and learn from differences in race, culture, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, economic and political background, and physical and cognitive challenges. We welcome those who have no church home, need strength, want to follow Christ, or are seekers in their spiritual lives. All are invited to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this church as we strive to grow in a safe and nurturing community of faith. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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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CITIZENSHIP

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This Is My Song

Ps. 82:8

Lloyd Stone, 1934

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun - light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.