

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



July 12, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

"The lone, wild bird, in lofty flight,
Is still with thee, nor leaves Thy sight.

And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.

Great Spirit come, and rest in me.

The ends of earth are in Thy hand,

The sea's dark deep and far-off land.

And I am Thine, I rest in Thee!

Great Spirit come, and rest in me."

-- *The Lone, Wild Bird*, by Henry Richard McFadyen—

SEVENTH 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

A Responsive Preparation for Worship

Paul Andersen

Leader: Jesus says: "Come to me, all who are battling on under a heavy load, and I will give you rest." Let any who are feeling at odds with life, come, and find reconciliation.

All: Let any who are sad, come, and find comfort for your aching hearts.

Leader: Let any who feel worn and weary, come, and find rest for your souls.

All: Let any who are afraid, come, and find faith and renewed courage.

Leader: Let any who feel ashamed, come, and find unadulterated forgiveness.

All: Let any who feel unwanted come and find hospitality that is divine.

Leader: Let all who are feeling happy, come and have your happiness blessed.

All: Let all who wish to renew their vows, come and trust the Spirit of truth and joy. Let all who love the Sovereign One come, and let your lover overflow in praise.

 An Opening Hymn

"Gather Us In"

#649

A Reading from the New Testament

Romans 7:15-25a

A Responsive Prayer of the Faithful

Pastor: O God, Loving Parent and Caring Friend,

All: We rejoice that in you there is always incomparable rest for the tired and wounded human spirit.

Pastor: Teach us to come to you without reserve, and to take the will of Christ upon us with joy and gratitude,

All: that we may indeed discover for ourselves that his yoke is easy and his burden is light. In the liberty of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, all praise and glory be to you our God, forever! *Amen!*

A Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 11:25a, 28-30

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

"Come Away from Rush and Hurry"
(please feel free to remain seated)

#655

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

"Belovedness, Part 2: A Biblical Selfie"

Rev. Doug Williamson

 A Closing Hymn of Trust and Assurance

"Amazing Grace"

#422

 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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