

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



August 2, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

***"Each generation must learn anew the efficacy of silence,
the wisdom of turning inward
That your Light might be their guide to holiness,
And your Love nurture them toward wholeness.
Yet, many there are who turn from
You in fear, denying their birthright."***

—from Psalm 145 in *Psalms for Praying*, by Nan C. Merrill—

**TENTH 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 Call to Abundant Living

Al Randall

Leader: To those who are hungry, Jesus says:

All: "Come and eat! There's more than enough for all!"

Leader: To those who are thirsty, Jesus says:

All: "Come and drink! It's free for the taking!"

Leader: Stop wasting your money on food that doesn't satisfy.

All: Come to Me, and you will find everything you need!"

 An Opening Hymn

"Break Now the Bread of Life"

#665

 Affirming our Faith

Pastor: We believe in the debonaire God who clothes the wild flowers dressing them so superbly that they outdo Solomon in all his glory;

**All: who is the true Friend of all creatures great and small
who feeds cockatoos and laughing blue jays, and even doleful ravens and blackbirds.**

Leader: We believe in the God of Christ Jesus

All: the Source of abundance, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: We believe in the extravagant God in Christ

**All: who turns the other cheek, goes the second mile, turns water into the best wine,
brings healing with his every touch, and who welcomes a woman's expression of love as she
fills the house with unforgettable fragrance.**

Leader: We believe in the faith-full God of Jesus Christ,

All: who sweated blood in an Olive Grove, and kept the faith to the very end.

Pastor: We believe in the redeeming God

**All: who spared no cost, forgave even his brutal crucifiers,
had time for a dying thief at his side, and who on the third day
did a thing so prodigious that even his friends were dismayed with joy.**

Leader: We believe in the God of Jesus Christ,

All: the Source of abundance wherever we turn and no matter what we do. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

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

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

"The Bread of Abundance"

Rev. Doug Williamson

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(Without exception, in our community of faith, all are welcome to commune at God's table. Our bread is gluten free, our juice non-alcoholic and unsweetened)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: Let us prepare for this life-giving meal with joy and prayer:

Sovereign One, in this blessed sacrament

You give us life

You give us love

You give us yourself.

You come to us

Dwell with us

Abide with us.

There is nothing more we can ask.

All: Let us give ourselves to you

Our bodies

Our hearts

Our wills

All that we are, all that we hope to be.

Pastor: Accept what we are

Consecrate us

Bless us

Transform us

All: That we may also reveal your presence

And be a sign of your saving love,

That we may live to your glory

And the bringing in of your realm. Amen.

Pastor: We remember now, on the night before he died, Jesus gathered with those he loved for a final meal. One last time, he opened his heart to them, welcoming, healing, strengthening, challenging, offering forgiveness, and giving hope.

Before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, Jesus took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: "Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body which is given in love for you."

All: You, O Christ, are the Bread of life:

Let this bread be life giving

Let this bread be a means of growth

Let this bread be for our strengthening

That receiving this bread, We may be one with you.

Pastor: When supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples and said: "Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. Drink it in memory of me."

All: You, Sovereign One, are the true vine:

Let this fruit of the vine be to us for refreshment

Let this fruit of the vine be to us for renewal

Let this fruit of the vine be to us for joy,

That receiving this cup, We may be one with you.

Pastor: As Jesus did then, so he does now. Jesus gathers with us and opens his heart to us in the mystery of word and sacrament, through the mystery of suffering and death, and by the mystery of rising to new life. So with hearts full of gratitude, we proclaim:

All: Thanks be to God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God forevermore. Here at this table we remember, we celebrate, we believe.

[Bread served first; we all partake together; cups served; we all partake together.]

Pastor: Through the bread that we break we recognize Christ's presence. Thanks be to God.

Through the cup of thanksgiving we share in Christ's life and death, and remember his love for all God's children. Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: Let us join together in prayer.

All: Since, dear God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Christ. Amen.



A Closing Hymn

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

#698



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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