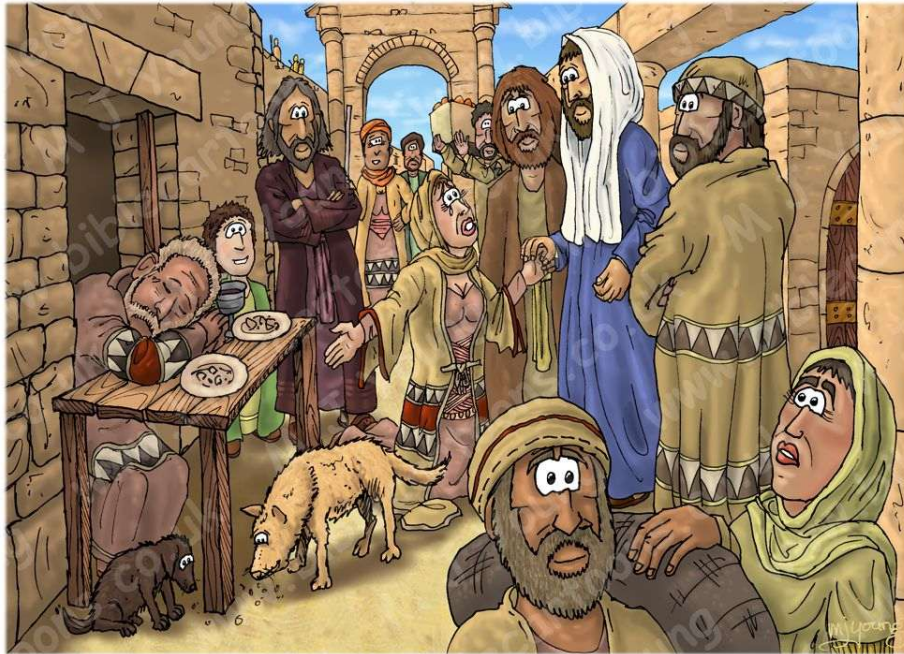


The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



August 16, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ...” -- I Corinthians 12:12-16 --

TWELFTH 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 Worship

Nancy Zurawka

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live
together in unity!

All: It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.

Leader: It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a
mountain, or through a crowded city street.

**All: God meets us here. We have gathered to worship the Maker
of Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls, and the Breath of Our Lives.**

 An Opening Hymn

“O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come”

#638

The Psalter

In Praise of Inclusiveness, Unity, and Harmony

Psalms 133

[Psalm 133 is one of the shortest Psalms in the Bible. The writer, believed by many to have been King David, celebrates the joys of unity and inclusiveness among God’s people. In verse 2 the writer says that such unity, such harmony, is sweet smelling, like the oil used to anoint Moses’ brother Aaron for service as a priest of God. Mount Hermon, mentioned in verse 3, is the highest mountain in Syria and could be seen 120 miles away. Perhaps David could see this mountain as he wrote this psalm. He thought about how refreshing was its dew. Unity is also refreshing. Discord tires, but unity reinvigorates.]

A Responsive Celebration of Our Shared Faith

Pastor: We are a cloth of diverse colors made from many gifts and
graces.

**All: We are the people flowing forth from Creator God,
surprising ourselves with the things which can be done.**

Leader: We are raw material for rewarding relationships as our lives
interweave,

**All: contributing one to the other, holding each other firm when
one is weak or breaking.**

Pastor: We are each worthy of being respected and cared for

**All: essential to the pattern, skilled in our appointed tasks,
sources of laughter and sharers of tears.**

Leader: We commit ourselves to work together,
**All: that one day, this world may be a place
where all people live in justice, freedom and peace.**

A Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 15:10-28

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

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"
(please feel free to remain seated)

#393

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

"No Outsiders—None!"

Rev. Doug Williamson

 A Closing Hymn

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

#391

 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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