

The First Congregational Church of West
Brookfield
United Church of Christ



August 30, 2026; 10 a.m.

The Mulberry Tree

By Vincent van Gogh (1889)

REFLECT

"We both believe, and disbelieve a hundred times an hour, which keeps believing nimble."

Emily Dickinson

FOURTEENTH 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: this is the day that the Lord has made;

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: O come and let us sing to the Lord;

All: let us greet God's new day with songs of praise and Thanksgiving

 An Opening Hymn

"Morning Has Broken"

#35

The Psalter

Psalms 100

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth.

All: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Leader : Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

**All: enter his gates with Thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.**

Leader: The lord is good and his love endures forever;

All: His faithfulness continues through all generations.

A Responsive Celebration of Our Shared Faith

Leader: May God's gracious and holy words so enter and pervade our hearts and minds;

All: That loving one another and the outsider become our second nature.

A Reading from the Gospel

Luke 17:1-19

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, thou Font of every blessing"
(please feel free to remain seated)

#68

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

"About Faith"

Rev. Robert Bell

 A Closing Hymn

"Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving"

#22

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

Postlude

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**We welcome Rev Robert Bell as our guest preacher this week.**

Bob and his wife Joann moved to West Brookfield in April of this year. They spent many years in Washington DC working and raising their three children. Bob began his career in Fall River MA as the pastor of the first Presbyterian Church Fall River; moving back to the DC area in 1979 to work in nonprofit, senior housing and healthcare for 31 years; then serving as pastor of the 15th St., Presbyterian Church for seven years. Bob enjoys visiting grandchildren, hiking, walking, reading, and social justice issues.



### **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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***First Congregational Church of West Brookfield***

***36 N. Main Street***

***PO Box 371***

***West Brookfield, MA 01585***

***508-867-7078    [FCCWBWorship@gmail.com](mailto:FCCWBWorship@gmail.com)***

***[Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org](http://Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org)***

***<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstCongregationalChurchofW.B>***

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| <p><b><i>Rev. Dr. Doug Williamson – 913-387-9947</i></b></p> |
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***[djwnscaa@gmail.com](mailto:djwnscaa@gmail.com)***

***P.O. Box 74, Barre, MA 01005***