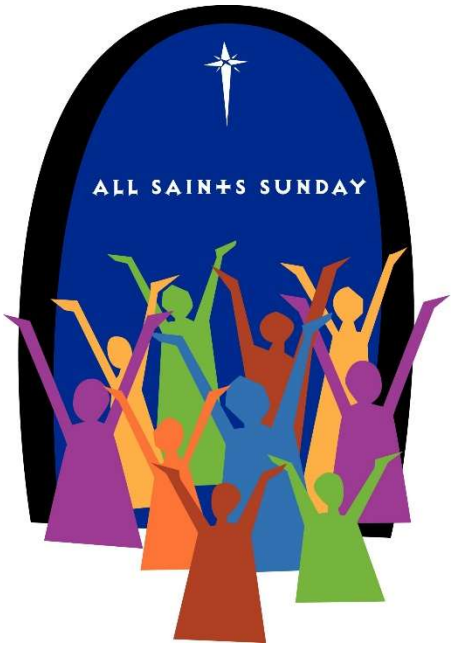
The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



November 1, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

"Happy are we
when our treasures cannot be quantified.
Happy are we
when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.
Happy are we
when our pain is held in the balm of love.
Happy are we
when our delight comes from beyond ourselves."

--Katherine Hawker, posted on Liturgy Outside--

TWENTY-THIRD 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 for All Saints Sunday **Karen Williamson**

Leader: In all our weakness and strength, with our youth-filled Spirits and aging bodies,
All: we come to be your people, O God.
Leader: Strong in faith and eager with questions, singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
All: we come to be your people, O God.
Leader: Filled with saintly determination, yet mindful of our human limitations,
All: we come to be your people, O God.
Leader: Made strong in your endless love for us, we know ourselves to be yours
All: and we come to be your people, O God.
May we truly become your people today. Amen.

An Opening Hymn **"**For All the Saints" **#529**

A Litany of Faith and Creation for All Saints Sunday (by Ann Weems)

A Reading from the Gospel **Matthew 5:1-12**

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 "Remembering Saints We Have Lost in the Past Year"

Music for Reflection and Inspiration **Stephen Page**

Sermon "For All the Saints" **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.)

A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Blessing the Bread and Cup

Pastor: The source of all life is with us. **All: The life-giving Spirit is with us.** Pastor: The risen Christ is with us.

All: We offer our hearts in praise to the living God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks. **All: We thank God with joy.**

Pastor: Living, eternal God, you are worthy of our thanks and praise.
Your breath gives us life; your word brings new life out of death.
You call us from separation and sin to a joyful life of communion
with you and all your creatures. With all people, and all creation, we sing your praise:

The Sanctus [#737 in hymnal; we will sing through twice]

Pastor: Holy are you, source of all, and blessed is Jesus the Christ,
in whom you share our life and death. At the table of communion Jesus welcomed the sinful and the righteous, the powerful and the poor, proclaiming your love for all. When death was at hand, once again Jesus gathered the disciples and gave you thanks and praise, blessing gifts of bread and wine. After you raised him from death, Christ was made known in the breaking of the bread.

All: Even now we come to meet Christ in the breaking of bread, praising you that by your great mercy we have been born anew in a living hope, through the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

Pastor: We offer ourselves to you, Holy One; draw us into the eternal communion, you share with Jesus Christ, and with the Spirit, who moves among us.

All: Through your Spirit, reveal to us the presence of Christ as we partake these earthly gifts of bread and wine, as we share in the life of your church, as we offer our hearts to you, that we may take part in the pouring out of your love into the world. Amen.

Pastor: These are the gifts of God, for the people of God. Through the bread that we break we recognize

Christ's presence. Through the cup of thanksgiving we share in Christ's life and death.

[*Bread served; we partake together; cups served; we partake together.]*

A Prayer after Receiving Communion

Pastor: Let us pray together:
All: Holy, triune God, we thank you for your presence in all of life and in this meal of thanksgiving through which we remember your life, death, and new life among us in Jesus the Christ. Through your Spirit present in this feast and in all the world, kindle in us divine love and compassion, that in all things we may give you glory. Amen.

A Closing Hymn "Rejoice in God's Saints" **#531**

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

Postlude

A LITANY OF CREATION AND FAITH FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
(by Ann Weems)

Pastor: In times to come, your children will ask you: "Why did the Sovereign One our God ask us to obey these laws?"
All: We will tell our children: Once we were slave people, and now we are free. Once we were no people, and now we are God's people.
Leader: On that first morning, God called us.
All: God called us from nothing.
Leader: Out of nothing came being. **All: Out of darkness came light.**
Leader: Out of chaos came order. **All: Out of nothing came life.**
Pastor: On that first morning God called us.
All: This morning God calls us to be the people of faith in the midst of meaninglessness.
Pastor: In the midst of meaninglessness, **All: God calls us to meaning.**
Pastor: Out of brokenness, **All: God calls us to wholeness.**
Pastor: Out of divisiveness, **All: God calls us to community.**
Leader: Out of tears, **All: God calls us to laughter.**
Leader: Out of self-centeredness, **All: God calls us to love one another.**
Leader: Out of unfaithfulness, **All: God calls us to faith.**
Leader: Out of death, **All: God calls us to life.**
Pastor: And we will say to our children:

All: Come with us and worship God, who has created and is creating in our midst. Come with us and keep covenant.

Leader: In times to come we will tell our children:

All: Once we were slaves, but now we are free; once we were no people, but now we are God's people.

Pastor: Out of death to resurrection, out of chaos to rebirth,

Out of unfaithfulness to faith—and called to be saints.

All: Praise God for these wonderous gifts!

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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