The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield

United Church of Christ



November 8, 2026; 10 a.m.

REFLECT

We're all on a journey — each one of us. And if we can be sensitive to the person who happens to be our neighbor, that, to me, is the greatest challenge as well as the greatest pleasure.

-- Rev. Fred Rogers, aka Mr. Rogers --

TWENTY-FOURTH 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 **Paul Andersen**

Leader: In a world that cries out, "Fear me!"
All: We will listen to Jesus' words, "Don't be afraid!"
Leader: In a world that wants us to hate the other…
All: We will live Jesus' call to, "Love God. Love your neighbor, as you love yourself."
Leader: In a world that radicalizes…
All: We, too, will be radical. Radical with our hospitality. Radical with our hope. Radical with our love.
Leader: Then come to this place,
ready to be who we are called to be.
All: Let us gather together and worship God.

An Opening Hymn in the Spirit of Veterans Day **#728**
"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

A Litany for Veterans

Pastor: We pause to remember those who go to war in our name.

All: **We give thanks for courage, for love of country, for those who work to bring peace to our world.**

Leader: Remind us, Oh God, that the goal of any war need be justice and peace.

All: **On this day, we pause in worship to give thanks to God for veterans.**

Pastor: And seek to bind up the wounds of those who served.

All: **Enable us to know how to comfort, how to bind up their wounds.**

Leader: And remind us, Dear God, that the widow, the orphan, the widower, and the veteran – all know the cost of war.

All: **Challenge us to love the warrior but hate the cost of war.**

Pastor: And we pray for a time when peace will reign and swords become plowshares once more, that war be known only in history books.

All: And we give thanks, Gracious God, that you remain with us as we celebrate the service of all who dared to go forth in our name. Remind us that such service is not a movie, an adventure, nor something to be glorified. Remind us that war is a failure by us to overcome hatred with love, injustice with righteousness, violence with peace. We give thanks for those who protect us from such failures. May we truly be Your people and be makers of peace. AMEN.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures **Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18**

A Hospitality Prayer

Pastor: Let us join our voices in prayer.

All: Welcoming God, give us the eyes of Jesus to see our neighbors and the strangers we meet. Teach us what it means to love the stranger as we love ourselves. Forgive us for our selfishness, for our silence, for not caring enough for the strangers who come to our communities. Teach us to love and care for the stranger the way you do. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel **Matthew 22:34-40**

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 "Spirit of the Living God" **#492**

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 "Mr. Rogers and Jeff Erlanger"

Music for Reflection and Inspiration **Stephen Page**

Sermon "Being Human Together" **Rev. Doug Williamson**

A Closing Hymn "As a Fire Is Meant for Burning" **#551**

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.

First Congregational Church of West Brookfield
36 N. Main Street
PO Box 371
West Brookfield, MA 01585

508-867-7078 ***FCCWBWorship@gmail.com***

Westbrookfieldcongregationalucc.org

https://www.youtube.com/@FirstCongregationalChurchofW.B

Rev. Dr. Doug Williamson – 913-387-9947
djwnscaa@gmail.com
P.O. Box 74, Barre, MA 01005