

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

77 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont

Phone: (802) 885-5728

E-mail: fccucc@vermontel.net

Website: www.firstchurchspringfield.org

www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

August 31, 2025

10:00 AM

"We are a community in Christ, called to act with love toward our neighbors."

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(As we prepare for worship, we invite quiet contemplation of the Living God.)

**For those who are able, please stand.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT #281 (NCH-Black) "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN #26 (UCC-Red) "Praise the Lord, His Glories Show"

OPENING PRAYER *(Psalm 112)*

1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments!
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
3 Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
5 It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
6 For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.
8 Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
9 They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.
10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God our Creator, we come before you a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have preferred our way to Christ's way; we have disobeyed your commandments; and we have worshipped ourselves and the things we have made. Forgive us, restore in us the knowledge of who we are, and make us alive to serve you in faith, obedience, and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

***SONG OF PRAISE #338** (UCC-Red) (Gloria Patri)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

GOD MOMENTS

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SERMON

"Welcome, Stranger"

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

***HYMN #250** (UCC-Red)

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - CONCERNS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR GIFTS (Please send pledges & donations to the church via mail or use online giving through our website. Loose offerings go into the general church fund.)

MUSICAL OFFERING – ANTHEM "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

***SONG OF PRAISE HYMN #780** Doxology (NCH – Black)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, O heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, who gave the world the gift of your son Jesus, we give to you the gifts of our hearts and souls, the work of our minds and hands, and the dedication to follow your teachings to bring your light to the world. With gratitude we give our best portion for you. Amen

***HYMN #174** (UCC-Red)

"We Would Be Building"

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "One In Love"

One in love, one in friendship true,
One in hope, one in spirit, too,
One in faith that God will care for you
Till we meet together again.

POSTLUDE

WE EXTEND THE HAND of Christian fellowship to all who have come to worship in this Welcoming, Open and Affirming congregation. May our prayers and the hearing of God's Word make our burdens lighter, our hearts encouraged, and our souls refreshed.

If you are visiting for the first time, we welcome you.

OUR THANKS to Jon Clinch, the Choir, and all who participated in our service this morning.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given by Pat Townsend.

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE NEEDED! Please sign up on the flower sign-up list on the table in the entrance or call Cynthia King 802-885-5831.

CHECK OUT our new church web site: firstchurchspringfield.org and our YouTube channel First Church Springfield 4738 (@firstchurchspringfield4738)

TO JOIN OUR ONLINE LIVE WORSHIP SERVICE EACH SUNDAY AT 10 AM, CLICK ON THE LINK FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE:

www.firstchurchspringfield.org

Note that a copy of the bulletin and hymns are available midway on the homepage.

Click on Worship on the homepage and it will take you to our Facebook page and a live video. Click on the video.

Glad you can worship with us!

CHOIR meets to raise our voices on the final Sunday of each month, rehearsing at 9 AM just before worship. All are welcome to join.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

Those words can mean most anything. Would you or someone you know benefit from prayers, home visits, help with shopping, rides to appointments, prepared meals, food to help you over a hard time? If you have such a need, or know someone who does, please contact Congregational Care chair, Claire Trask at 886-7377.

PRAYER LIST	Marlene	Jaz	Martha	Jocelyn
	Helen	Jeff	Amie and Nicole	Wesley
	All others in need			

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR!

Aug	31	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Sep	3	“Acoustic Worship” Musical Service	5:00 PM
Sep	4	Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM
Sep	7	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
		Followed by Pot-luck lunch	

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
PASTOR'S HOURS

Mon., Tues. & Wed. 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Wed. & Thurs. 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

STAFF

Pastor: Michael Mario
Sexton: Todd Murray

~ *NOTES* ~