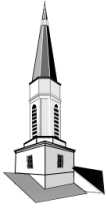


NOVEMBER 2025



The Spire

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

77 Main Street

Springfield VT 05156-2999

(802) - 885-5728 fccucc@vermontel.net

firstchurchspringfield.org

www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield

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

Pastor's Message November 2025

"To all things there is an appointed time, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1



Time marches on, and we come once again to the end of Daylight Savings, returning to an earlier sunrise and sunset. Clocks will be turned back Sunday, November second this year. Enjoy the extra hour of rest!

With evening falling an hour earlier, our Acoustic Worship sing-alongs will move to our winter schedule, beginning at four o'clock, so folks can drive home with a little daylight left. The next one is Wednesday, November 5. Join us for song and praise!

Time has been marching on for me as well – I'm approaching the eight-year mark as pastor (including my time as bridge pastor), and approaching an age where future considerations take on different importance. After much prayer and thought, I informed leadership council that I'll be retiring in the next year. Being in good health (knock on wood), I'm happy to stay on long enough to make the transition to a new pastor (whether a bridge, interim, or settled) as smooth as possible. If I had the ability to see the future and knew I'd remain in good health for another decade, I'd love to continue that long, as I love serving the church. Taking Ecclesiastes into account, there is an appointed time for every purpose. I'm filled with gratitude for our time together. We'll have a special meeting following worship this coming Sunday, October 26, to begin planning the search process for a new pastor. Please come and share your ideas.

With gratitude in mind, we can look forward to Thanksgiving coming up on the 27th of November, and then, Advent and a new church year begins the following Sunday.

Best wishes that you may enjoy God's Blessings, on Thanksgiving and throughout the year,

Michael Mario, Pastor

Church services will continue to be live streamed on Facebook each Sunday at 10:00 and the services can be viewed anytime through the church website.

Sunday church services are also recorded on DVD for SAPA TV to be shown at a later date. The present channels are 160 for VTEL TV and 1077 for Xfinity Comcast and services are shown on Sunday at 10AM and Wednesday at 4PM. There is at least a one week delay.

TREASURER'S REPORT (as of Sept 30, 2025)

YTD income	\$ 87,559.
<u>YTD expenses</u>	<u>\$143,790.</u>
Difference	(\$56,231.)

Total Liquid Assets \$267,111.
Restricted Funds \$161,988.
 Avail. Liquid Assets \$105,123.

CELEBRATING NOV. BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 1 *Michael Mario*
 Nov. 7 *Richard Dechen*
 Nov. 17 *Dale Dechen*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.



**CLEAN-UP DAY WILL BE NOV 1st
AT 9:30 AM**

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Marlene	Jaz	Martha	Jocelyn	Sheila
Helen	Jeff	Amie and Nicole	Wesley	Ted
The Family of Candace		All others in need		

Community Lunch Kudos

Thanks to all who made the Oct. 15th Community Lunch a success! Only because of wonderful team work were we able to serve 80 people a great lunch of baked pork with applesauce, buttered noodles, mashed butternut squash, green beans, and pumpkin chocolate chip bars. More than 15 volunteers helped with all the cooking, serving and cleanup! Of course, the fun music from Pastor Michael keeps everyone happy!

Like last year, we have decided that with the "busyness" of the holidays in November and December, we will not try to have the lunches again until the new year. The committee will meet to reassess upcoming lunches and hopefully set menus in January. We welcome new ideas and people who are willing to help in any way, including making salads, etc. at home!

It takes a church to feed a Community!
 Thanks again, Pat Townsend



November and December Events



Santa Claus Club is getting ready early. They have received many requests for gifts, especially for their growing senior members. We are taking 20 gift tags, five for children and the rest for seniors. They will be available on our tree sometime early November.

We will be serving hot chocolate and cookies for Springfield's Santa Comes to Town event Friday,

December 5th. We will be asking for cookies as usual! Pastor Michael adds to the festivities by singing carols. It is a fun event that is looked forward to us as well as our neighbors.



The Springfield Family Center's Food Shelf is more important than ever to our neighbors with federal cuts in supplemental food programs. We will be including a list of needed items including specific foods for Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes. The Santa Claus Club is also working on filling these boxes for hungry neighbors. The list includes: stuffing, canned vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy and mac and cheese. Bring these foods with you on Sunday for our food basket by the front doors.

Thank you!

CALL TO SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday October 26, 2025

The Special Meeting of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Springfield, Vermont, will be held on Sunday, October 26, 2025. We will meet in the Vestry after the Sunday service. This meeting will transact the following items of business:

1. To discuss and begin the process to search for a new pastor.'
2. To take up and act upon any other items of business that may properly come before this meeting

FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ATTEND THIS MEETING REMOTELY WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

Respectfully,

Peter Andrews

Peter Andrews
Moderator of the Church
Dated this 12th of October 2025

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR ON SUNDAY, NOV.2nd



ACOUSTIC WORSHIP

AN UNPLUGGED CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND SCRIPTURE

Monthly,
First
Wednesdays
4:00 PM

*Come to
Listen!*



First
Congregational
Church

*Come to
Sing!*

Country, Folk, and Blues Gospel Music with selected Bible readings and prayer.

77 Main Street, Springfield

Firstchurchspringfield.org

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Springfield, VT 05156



First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
802-885-5728
E-mail: fccucc@vermontl.net
Website: www.firstchurchspringfield.org

Michael Mario, Pastor
Sheila Turner, Admin Assistant
885-5728
Todd Murray, Sexton
885-5728

Church Office Hours	Tues. - Wed. 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M
Pastor's Hours	Wed. & Thurs. 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.