

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

November 30, 2025

10:00 AM

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(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 #81 (UCC-Red) "Sleepers, Wake"

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN #83 (UCC-Red)** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (Purple – Hope)

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.

With the coming of this light there is hope.

Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil.

God wants us to work for good in this world.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, as we prepare for the coming of the child Jesus, help us to cleanse ourselves from sin, to reconcile us to our neighbors and to you, and to find strength, patience, and wisdom to follow your guidance as your beloved children. 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 MOMENT

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 24:36-44

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES (Teachers and classes leave for Church School)

SERMON

“The Signs Are Everywhere”

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

***HYMN #110 (NCH-Black)**

“Now Bless the God of Israel”

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***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

Dearest God, we long for the arrival of your light in the world, your son Jesus. We pledge our gifts to you, that we may carry your hopeful news to this world: Good News that Jesus Christ is coming, to reign with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN #79 (UCC-Red)**

“Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”

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 Kyle Washburn, the Choir, and all who participated in our service this morning.

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

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR!

Nov	30	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Dec	3	“Acoustic Worship” Musical Service	4:00 PM
Dec	4	Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM
Dec	5	Downtown Holiday Program!	4:00 PM
Dec	7	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Dec	7	Springfield Community Chorus	3:00 PM

Friday, DECEMBER 5TH FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM-We welcome the **Springfield Garden Club's Pop Up Market** - fresh greens made up into Christmas decorations for the table or on the door. This is a major fundraising event for them to support all that they do for our town.

LATER THAT DAY FROM 4PM TO 6 PM-**Cocoa and Cookies** served to our neighbors as they join in an all town event welcoming Santa who arrives on the Square at 6 pm. Please join us!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
PASTOR'S HOURS

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

STAFF

Pastor: Michael Mario
Administrative Assistant: Sheila Turner
Sexton: Todd Murray

~ *NOTES* ~

Update on Conversations from our Special Congregational Meeting on 10/26 and meeting with Mike Schmitt on 11/9.

The meeting on 10/26 was well attended. Pastor Michael will be retiring at the end of this year. He has offered to continue as a Bridge Pastor until we find a new Pastor. A Search Committee was formed.

We had a conversation about renting space in our church to community groups as a result of our Leadership Council recommending that we speak with Mike Schmitt, President of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Mike had some thoughts about possibilities. The members on 10/26 asked that Mike meet with us to share these ideas and for us to explore this opportunity.

Members and friends were invited to meet with Mike after worship on 11/9. Mike spoke about three groups looking for space for their collections and for classroom/lecture space. The groups mentioned were the Springfield Historical Society, Stellafane and the Vault. Mike said that a “management committee” could be formed from the community and likely at least one church member to find funding/grants for any structural changes needed and would oversee the process of re-imagining our church building. Church members were concerned about how all of this would work and still have Sunday services and an ongoing faith community.

Mike also mentioned the idea of a Culinary Institute and another member mentioned earlier the possibility of a Music Academy.

The next step may be to ask Vanessa Rebentisch, Director, of Springfield on the Move to speak with us. Members also wanted more information about how the three groups needing room for their collection would use our available space. Members had questions about how the second floor classrooms could work. There are lots of good questions and a lot of possibilities. What can we give up to make this large, beautiful building fit into supporting the revitalization of Springfield?