

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/](https://www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/)

February 1, 2026

10:00 AM

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

## ***FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY***

*(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 #193 (NCH-Black)

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

### CALL TO WORSHIP

### \*HYMN #21 (UCC-Red)

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

### OPENING PRAYER (from Psalm 116)

I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.  
What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.  
O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.  
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.  
Praise the Lord!

### CALL TO CONFESSION

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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**

Matthew 5:1-12

I Corinthians 1:18-31

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

#### **SERMON**

"Wise Fools"

### **PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY**

#### **HYMN #129 (UCC-Red)**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

## **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**

### **\*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

Dear God, we who are blessed by you are called to joyfully share your blessings with our neighbors throughout your world. May the gifts which we share bring your creation ever closer to the fulfillment of your vision for all people. We gratefully pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Communion Hymn: Let Us Break Bread Together 210 UCC Red Hymnal)

The Lord be with you

**And Also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**

## BREAKING AND DISTRIBUTION

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray:

**We thank you, Lord, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN #198 (UCC-Red)**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

## 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 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.

**GIVING SUNDAY-the first Sunday of the month:** This is the time we bring in our food offerings for the **Springfield Families Food Shelf**. See list of needed items by the basket in the foyer. The **Deacon's Fund** is for any member or friend who needs financial help to pick up medications, pay utility bills, rent, childcare, or pick up groceries. We all need a helping hand at times. Please talk with Pastor Michael Mario. All requests are confidential.

**ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK** after church today. Please plan to attend.

**CHECK OUT** our church web site: [firstchurchspringfield.org](http://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](http://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.

<b>PRAYER LIST</b>	Jaz	Martha	Jocelyn	Sheila
	Helen	Jeff	Amie and Nicole	Wesley
	Ted	Elmer	Claire	Cynthia
	Dan	All others in need		

#### **COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR!**

Feb	1	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
		Annual Meeting Following Worship	
Feb	4	“Acoustic Worship” Musical Service	4:00 PM
Feb	5	Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom	9:30 AM
Feb	8	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**PASTOR'S HOURS**

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

#### **STAFF**

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

~ *NOTES* ~