



# June 2026

## THE SPIRE

**First Congregational Church  
77 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont**

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

### Pastor's Message June 2026

*"Sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord all the earth.  
Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name: declare his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among all nations, and his wonders among all people." Psalm 96:1-3*



Having just celebrated Pentecost, a baptism in the church, and the solemn marking of Memorial Day, all on the same weekend, summer has begun. As gardens and fields of wildflowers burst into multi-colored glory, so may our spirits, and our voices, burst forth with praise to God!

Jesus sent his apostles out to proclaim God's good news, and their words have reverberated through the years to our time. We now tell the story for others, that it may continue to be remembered. And what better way to remember what we've heard than by hearing it musically?

We have plenty of opportunities to follow the exhortation in Psalm 96, and sing unto the Lord. In addition to the regular singing of hymns during our worship time (so thankful for Kyle and Jon's leadership of our hymns!), the choir offers an anthem on the last Sunday of each month, we get together for Acoustic Worship sing-along on the first Wednesdays, and I have the pleasure of providing music on our Green Space as part of the new Fourth Friday event in town. Next one takes place on June 26. Stop by from 5-6 PM for a snack and some tunes to enjoy. There's music throughout downtown on those evenings, and a chance for us all to engage with our neighbors and share our Green Space with the community.

I hope the summer brings you joy, and may our praise of God be everlasting!  
Peace of God be with you,  
Michael Mario, Pastor



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS!

- June 8<sup>th</sup> – Warren Cross
- June 18<sup>th</sup> – Gwynna Taylor
- June 19<sup>th</sup> – Patricia Spence
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Judi Priestley
- June 24<sup>th</sup> – Cynthia King
- June 24<sup>th</sup> – Anne Miller

Happy Birthday to everyone in the month of June!

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.

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES!

- June 1<sup>st</sup> – Richard & Dale Dechen
- June 24<sup>th</sup> – Forrest & Bobbie Randall

Happy Anniversary to everyone in the month of June

**TREASURER’S REPORT  
(as of April 30, 2026)**

YTD income	\$30,936.
YTD expenses	<u>\$56,169.</u>
Difference	(\$25,233.)

Total Liquid Assets	\$234,520.
<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>\$159,054.</u>
Avail. Liquid Assets	\$75,466.

## **A SPRINGFIELD EVENT – FOURTH FRIDAY IN DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD**

There will be music, food and gatherings downtown every fourth Friday from May to October from 5 pm to 8 pm. We set up snacks on our green space from 5 – 6 pm and Pastor Michael gave us great music. People stopped by on their way to have dinner at the Copper Fox or just strolling Main Street to listen to Michael and sample snacks and beverages. The weather was perfect and our green space shone as did our welcoming hospitality!

Join us for the fourth Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> for another opportunity to gather outside in our blooming green space. Bring your chairs and an appetizer or not and be a part of a community event sponsored by Springfield on the Move.



## **ALUMNI DAY – June 20<sup>th</sup>**

Join us in our green space and on our church portico to watch, cheer and enjoy the Alumni Day parade that starts at 10:30 am. We put out water for people and pets and open our doors for anyone needing a rest room. It is a fun event that celebrates our alumni and our young people moving into their next great adventure. Thanks for all our teachers and staff that support the importance of education for all.

## **WE CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN AND OUR MUSICIANS**

Children's Sunday and Music Sunday is going to be June 14th. WE will be honoring our musicians for their constant work to keep music in our church. We will also celebrate the children that have come to Sunday School this past year. WE hope you will join us.

Worship Team



PIERCE GLEN BOWEN, SON OF ALEX LAWRENCE AND DAN BOWEN, WAS BAPTIZED HERE ON MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>. GLEN IS THE GREAT GRANDSON OF LONG TIME MEMBERS LELAND AND RUTH LAWRENCE, SO THIS BECAME A FAMILY REUNION WITH 25 LAWRENCE FAMILY MEMBERS TOGETHER FOR THE WEEKEND! WHAT A WONDERFUL GATHERING!

#### **HEARTFELT THANKS FROM CLAIRE**

The Congregation and Pastor of this church have been so kind and comforting to me through the past year that I can't thank you enough. You have fed me physically and spiritually at a time when I wasn't all that interested in carrying on. Thank you so much for the food, the hugs, the prayers and your acceptance of my new dog. And thank you for doing my job in the kitchen when I was feeling so lost. I still have my moments of gone-ness but with your and God's help I am getting through this horrible time. I'm coming to the place of just being thankful that Bob and I had the time together that we had----45 real years.  
Bless you all,  
Claire Trask

First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
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Michael Mario, Pastor  
Todd Murray, Sexton  
885-5728

Church Office Hours  
Tuesday & Wednesday  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Pastor's Hours  
Wednesday  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM