



July & August 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 July/August 2026

“lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.” Song of Solomon 2: 11-13



Our summer months are here, complete with Independence Day and Labor Day holidays, perhaps some travel, and enjoyment of the bounty of local harvests. While God’s blessings abound through all the year, many folks have a special fondness for the “lazy, hazy days” of this season, with its long hours of light and warm temperatures. It’s a time when many people have a chance to slow down for a bit, to stop and smell the roses (literally!).

Our church calendar is much the same way in the summer. We’re in what’s called Ordinary Time, the long season between Pentecost and Advent. No Lenten austerity, nor Advent/Christmas rush, rather a time when we can hear the scriptures focus on Jesus’ life and ministry, and the stories of our ancestors from the Old Testament. We may take the excitement of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, and let it energize us through the next few months. We can take the time to consider what Jesus’ teachings and miracles mean for us, and perhaps put ourselves in the Apostles’ place, thinking over the point of a parable. This is a good time to ask “What is Jesus saying to me?” We might just find ourselves feeling as if we’re walking and talking in the garden with him, as the hymn states.

I hope that your summer months are peaceful and that the joy in God’s love may be with you.

PS: Springfield’s Fourth Friday events continue through the summer. Join us on the Green Space from five ‘til six for refreshments and music on those evenings, weather permitting, of course!

Peace and Blessings,

Michael Mario, Pastor



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

July 8th – Walter Dodd
July 22nd – Glenna Richardson
August 2nd – Lyle Wood
August 9th – Betsy Owen
August 11th – Roger Owen
August 15th – Frank Zezza
August 18th – Russell Abbott
August 22nd – Joseph Trombly
August 24th – Pete Andrews
August 26th – Tammy Locke
August 29th – Diana Hake-Oberg

Happy Birthday to everyone in the
months of July and August

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES!

July 1st – Cindy & John Hughes
July 24th – Diane & John Holme
August 17th – Lyle & Harriet Wood
August 18th – Morris & Dianne Root
August 18th – Jeff & Tammy Locke

Happy Anniversary to everyone in the
months of July and August!

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 May 31, 2026)

YTD income	\$37,004.
<u>YTD expenses</u>	<u>\$64,061.</u>
Difference	(\$27,057.)

Total Liquid Assets	\$236,480.
<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>\$159,381.</u>
Avail. Liquid Assets	\$77,099.

Join us Friday, June 26th from 5 – 6 PM for the Fourth Friday Town Celebration sponsored by Springfield on the Move. It is an opportunity to gather outside in our blooming green space. Bring your chairs and listen and sing along with Pastor Michael as he shares his love of music, especially ones we know and love. There will be music by the falls and food vendors by the Plaza. The Event goes until 8 pm. Come, stay, have a meal and be entertained by music and the sounds of our community.



June 14th was Music and Christian Education Sunday with flowers for our Sunday School teachers and children, plus our talented musicians. Cake was enjoyed downstairs!





The 2026 Springfield Alumni Day Parade! We were there with waves, smiles, cheers, water and open doors. It is good to celebrate our seniors moving into their future and events in our town!

NOTES OF INTEREST

Our green space is blooming. Our gardener, Scott Morgan, along with David Pride are relocating plants to better places, adding new plants to fill out the spaces and making a more sustainable plan for future growth. Our neighbors are using it and events are taking place! Come check it out on your next time in Springfield.

Repurposing our church building-We have started to clean out some of the rooms on the second floor in preparation to paint as needed and offer the space for rent. Check out the tables by the ramp in the Vestry for anything that you might find useful. There are some real treasures...imagine a whole box of seashells!

We are talking about a possible federal grant for economic development to make alterations in our building to support new uses that would enhance our town. We have invited Rev. Paul Sangree, Associate Conference Minister of the VT UCC Conference to talk with us Sunday, September 20th about options for our church sustainability.

First Congregational UCC's Calendar

July 2026

V-Vestry, FR-Fellowship Room, KD-Kindergarten, 10,11,12 Classrooms 2nd floor

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:00p-5:00p ACOUSTIC WORSHIP SERVICE - SONGS AND SCRIPTURE!	2 9:30a-10:30a Wilderness Bible study- Zoom Please let Pastor Michael know of your interest in joining us.	3	4
5 10:00a-11:00a Church service followed by Coffee Hour	6	7	8	9 9:30a-10:30a Wilderness Bible study- Zoom Please let Pastor Michael know of your interest in joining us.	10	11
12 10:00a-11:00a Church service followed by Coffee Hour	13	14	15	16 9:30a-10:30a Wilderness Bible study- Zoom Please let Pastor Michael know of your interest in joining us.	17	18
19 10:00a-11:00a Church service followed by Coffee Hour	20	21	22	23 9:30a-10:30a Wilderness Bible study- Zoom Please let Pastor Michael know of your interest in joining us.	24 6:00p Fourth Friday Event on our Green - 5 - 6 pm. Bring your chairs and an appetizer to share. Sing along with Pastor Michael.	25
26 10:00a-11:00a Church service followed by Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30 9:30a-10:30a Wilderness Bible study- Zoom Please let Pastor Michael know of your interest in joining us.	31	



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