

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

July 26, 2026

10:00 AM

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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(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 #319 (NCH-Black) "Sing Them Over Again to Me"

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN #15 (UCC-Red) "Come, Thou Almighty King"

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 119:129-135)

129 Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore my soul keeps them.

130 The unfolding of your words gives light;

it imparts understanding to the simple.

131 With open mouth I pant;

because I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as is your custom toward those who love your Name.

133 Keep my steps steady according to your promise,

and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Redeem me from human oppression,

that I may keep your precepts.

135 Make your face shine upon your servant,

and teach me your statutes

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
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.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your holy 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 13:31-33, 44-52
Romans 8:26-39

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

SERMON "It's Like..."

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

***HYMN #277** (UCC-Red) "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

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.)

MUSICAL OFFERING – ANTHEM "As Men of Old Their First Fruits Brought"

***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

Precious Lord, we celebrate the richness of your community and cherish the gifts which each person brings. Let your love shine on the world through the giving of our time and talents. We pray with gratitude for the presence of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

*HYMN #81 (NCH-Black) "God Be With You"

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 today are given by Claire Trask – welcome Charlotte Mercy!

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.

PRAYER LIST	Dianne	Jaz	Jocelyn	Amie and Nicole
Harriet	Wesley	Ted	Elmer	All others in need

CHECK OUT our 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.

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR!

July	26	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
July	30	Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom	9:30 AM
Aug	2	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tues. & Wed. 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M

PASTOR'S HOURS

Tues. 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

STAFF

Pastor: Michael Mario

Sexton: Todd Murray

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