

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

77 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont

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www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

October 4, 2026

10:00 AM

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

NINETEENTH 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 # 21 (NCH-Black) "God Reigns o'er All the Earth"

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN # 9 (UCC-Red) "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

OPENING PRAYER (Based on Psalm 19:1-10)

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims the LORD'S handiwork.
2 Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens the LORD has set a tent for the sun,
5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.
7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Philippians 3:4b-14

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

SERMON

"Onward!"

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

***HYMN # 186** (UCC-Red)

"O Master Let Me Walk With Thee"

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

***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, with gladness we praise your holy name. With joyous hearts we reflect your love to others through our sharing of time and talents. In gratitude for our church, our community, and all of creation, we thank you, Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

God be with you

And Also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

BREAKING AND DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray:

**We thank you, God, 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 #164 (UCC-Red)**

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

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 Jon Clinch and all who participated in our service this morning.

The **NEIGHBORS IN NEED** offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. In 2026, the suggested offering date is October 4, but churches collect the offering for a month or any other season throughout the year. Thank you for your support and generosity!

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given by Pat Townsend.

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	Ellen
Harriet	Wesley	Ted	Family of 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!

Oct	04	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Oct	07	Acoustic Worship Musical Service	4:00 PM
Oct	08	Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom	9:30 AM
Oct	11	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Oct	24	Clean-Up Day!	9:00 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
Sexton: Todd Murray

~ *NOTES* ~