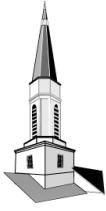


NOVEMBER 2026



The Spire

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

77 Main Street

Springfield VT 05156-2999

(802) - 885-5728 fccucc@vermontel.net

firstchurchspringfield.org

www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield

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

Pastor's Message November 2026

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." 2 Corinthians 9:10-12



On the surface, November is a quiet, subdued month. October's leaves have mostly faded and dropped. Children's Halloween costumes and decorations will be put away. The days are shorter, and we'll lose an hour of afternoon light with the switch back to standard time, which occurs on Sunday the first.

The first real snow of winter has yet to fall, and the exciting rush of Christmas season with its bright lights and music is weeks away. There are but few songs dedicated to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Yet there's much to cherish about November, especially for those of us in a church community. All Saints' Day (the reason for Halloween, after all) the first of the month, falls on Sunday this year. It's our time to remember those saints who have gone before, especially those we've lost in the past year, and share Communion as we honour them. The month includes Reign of Christ Sunday and the beginning of Advent, the new liturgical year, with its anticipation of the humble and joyous birth of the Christ child.

And, of course, there's Thanksgiving – a holiday which *feels* like a Holy Day. For many of us, it's a time to simply enjoy a good meal with people we love and to express gratitude for our lives. Perhaps that's why it feels so Holy and is so loved. The relative quiet of the weeks leading to it give us breathing room and space to reflect on the many reasons to be thankful. They give us more space to pray without ceasing (as Saint Paul wrote), and to rejoice in the goodness of God's creation.

May the Peace of Christ be always with you,

Michael Mario, Pastor

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.



**** STEWARDSHIP TIME ****

As we prepare our annual budget for 2027, we must consider our Stewardship giving as well. The UCC theme for Stewardship this year is “There Our Hearts Will Be” focusing on the Scripture quote: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” - Matthew 6:21.

You will be receiving information during the next week with Kick-Off Sunday scheduled for the 2nd Sunday of November, which is November 8th this year. Plans are to celebrate Stewardship Sunday on November 29th, as the campaign winds down and we move into Advent season and activities.

Please watch your mail for how you can continue to support our church and its programs as we work together as a church family and uphold our Mission Statement.

With God’s love,
Your Stewardship team

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 1 *Michael Mario*
Nov. 7 *Richard Dechen*
Nov. 17 *Dale Dechen*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE IN THE
MONTH OF NOVEMBER.**

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

YTD income	\$ 66,358.
YTD expenses	<u>\$109,420.</u>
Difference	(\$ 43,062.)

Total Liquid Assets	\$214,284.
<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>\$151,321.</u>
Avail. Liquid Assets	\$ 62,963.

ON ALL SAINTS DAY, SUNDAY, NOV. 1st, we will be remembering the following saints who were special to our church community:

Andrew Mario, Joan Matanle, Helen Moore, Marion Crandall, and Elmer Kruse.

Join Pastor Michael on Wed. Nov. 4th at 4 P.M. for another wonderful Acoustic Worship to sing-a-long with familiar tunes and hear related bible verses! A good time will be had by all!



COOKIES ARE NEEDED!!!

Santa is coming to town on Friday, December 4th. Once again we are serving cocoa and cookies in the Vestry from 4 – 6 PM. We need cookies to offer. Bake now and put them in the freezer in the church Pantry with a note for 12/4. Come and join us, welcoming our neighbors and handing them a warm drink and a holiday treat before Santa arrives. We need servers, cookie placements and a general welcoming spirit! Thank you!

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Website: www.firstchurchspringfield.org

Michael Mario, Pastor
Todd Murray, Sexton
885-5728

Church Office Hours Tues. - Wed.
 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M
Pastor's Hours Wed. 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.