FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

November 22, 2026 **10:00 AM**

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

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
LAST 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

***HYMN #43 (UCC-Red)** "Come Ye Thankful People Come"

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN # 123 (UCC-Red)** "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 100)

1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
2 Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
4 For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God our Creator, we come before you a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have preferred our way to Christ's way; we have disobeyed your commandments; and we have worshipped ourselves and the things we have made. Forgive us, restore in us the knowledge of who we are, and make us alive to serve you in faith, obedience, and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

GROWING IN OUR FAITH

SCRIPTURE READINGS Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Matthew 25:31-46

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

SERMON "Face to Face"

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

***HYMN #142 (UCC-Red)** "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

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, Ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dearest God, the gifts of your creation are in abundance all around us. Thank you for allowing us to share in them, and to share of them with our neighbours. As your Good News travels outward through our sharing, may we remember with gratitude the saving grace of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen

***HYMN # 419 (NCH-Black)** "Now Thank We All Our God"

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 and all who participated in our service this morning.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given by Pat Townsend in memory of Bob.

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	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!

Nov	22	Sunday Worship –Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Nov	26	Thanksgiving Day	
Nov	29	Sunday Worship – Michael Mario	10:00 AM

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.

STAFF
Pastor: Michael Mario
Sexton: Todd Murray

~ NOTES ~

WONDERNG ABOUT WHAT YOU MIGHT DO TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO JOIN YOU/US IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY?

Here are three simple things you can do to help attract others to church:

1. **Send a personal text on Sunday morning**
    - "Good morning! I'm heading to church at 10. I'd love for you to join me if you're free."
    - Personal invitations are often more effective than church advertising.
2. **Offer to pray for someone**
    - While at church, send a message such as:
    - "I'm at church this morning. Is there anything I can pray for you about?"
    - People who aren't ready to attend may still appreciate prayer and feel cared for.
3. **Share one positive takeaway after service**
    - Post on social media or text a friend:
    - "Today's message really encouraged me to trust God when things don't go as planned."
    - Share what impacted you rather than promoting the church itself.

🎁✨Holiday Meal Box Donation Wish List ✨🎁

Help us spread joy this holiday season! The Springfield Family Center is preparing Holiday Meal Boxes for families in need, and we need your support. Your generous donations will bring warmth and happiness to local families during this special time.

Contribute to our holiday handout by helping us put together our holiday food boxes! *(Items needed by Dec 10, 2026)*

📝Wishlist:

- ★ Turkeys
- ★ Hams
- ★ Stuffing
- ★ Canned veggies
- ★ Crispy Fried Onions
- ★ Boxed mashed potatoes
- ★ Mac and cheese
- ★ Gravy
- ★ Broth
- ★ Cream of Mushroom Soup
- ★ Spices/Seasonings/Oils
- ★ Cranberry Sauce
- ★ Dessert box mixes