FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/

November 29, 2026 **10:00 AM**

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(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 #83 (UCC-Red) "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN #86** (UCC-Red) ''O Come, O Come Emmanuel''

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE (Purple – Hope)

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.
With the coming of this light there is hope.
Because of Christ we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil.
God wants us to work for good in this world.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 80:1-7)

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

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 Isaiah 64:1-9
Mark 13:24-37

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

SERMON "When Is The Hour?"

PRACTICING OUR SPIRITUALITY

***HYMN #103 (NCH-Black)** **"**Watcher, Tell Us of the Night**"** (Vs 1-2)

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 "Now Bless the God of Israel"

***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

Lord, on this first Sunday of Advent, may the gifts of your people bring hope. Through our giving, through the sharing of our lives with others, we can deliver the hopeful message to all that your kingdom is coming, through the life of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus. May our gifts be multiplied and magnified as the living presence of the Hope which Christ brings to the world. Amen.

***HYMN #79 (UCC-Red)** "Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"

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, the choir, and all who participated in our service this morning.

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	29	Sunday Worship –Michael Mario	10:00 AM
Dec	2	Acoustic Worship Musical Service	4:00 PM
Dec	3	Wilderness Bible Study via Zoom	10:00 AM
Dec	4	Downtown Holiday Program!	4:00 PM
Dec	6	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* ~



Deuteronomy 6 is set after escape from enslavement, a generation in exile, and the discovery of the promised land Israel stands on the threshold of a future they could not have imagined possible just a short while ago. They are in the process of shaping covenant with their Creator and Liberator. Having been given directives about what behavior would and would not be acceptable, Moses now addresses the community and speaks the words every faithful covenant partner would enshrine upon their doorstep forevermore.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Known simply as the Shema, these lines lay bare the essence of what God is asking of those who worship God. Not only here, but also in the gospels many generations in the future, what stands out is the centrality of love in the fulfillment of covenant.
We, too, are invited to offer our contributions of time, talent, and treasure not through the lens of obligation but love.

As you consider your pledge of support for the church you love, start by reminding yourself about the mission of the church. Prayerfully reflect on why that mission matters to you. Think about the ways it has made a difference in your life or about how it matters to the community you live in. Invite yourself to consider how it is in the past year this church has blessed you, comforted you, or transformed you.

When you write your check or record your automatic deposit in your bank statements, pause for just a second a offer a prayer of thanks to God for the ways your church fulfills its mission in the world.

CONSIDER YOUR GIVING AS A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of our annual income would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in God's world. Thank you for prayerfully considering your commitment!

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	**1,667**	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	**2,083**	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	**2,500**	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	**2,917**	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	**3,333**	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	**3,750**	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	**4,167**	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	**5,000**	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	**6,250**	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	**8,333**	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	**10,417**	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	**12,500**	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	**16,667**	333	500	667	833	1667