

**First Congregational Church**  
United Church of Christ  
3 Gray Road, North Yarmouth, Maine 04097  
Organized in 1806



Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here. — The United Church of Christ

**The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Labor Day Weekend**  
**August 31, 2025 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

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I pray that the Father of honor and beauty, who is the Great Spirit of our Honored Chief Creator Sets Free [Jesus] will gift you with a spirit of wisdom to know him deeply and understand his ways. **Ephesians 1:17** (*First Nations Version*)

**We Gather to Worship God**

\*Those who are able may stand.

**Bold** type indicates Congregational Responses

**Prelude**

**All Sing: God welcomes all! Strangers and friends!  
God's love is strong! And it never ends!**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Grounding Prayer & Lighting the Peace Candle**

**\*Call to Worship** from *Living Psalm 81*

Pastor: I am the Lord your God who called you, God, who sheltered you in times of trouble, provided you with vision and hope for today, the one who brought you to this time and place.

People: **Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of justice and righteousness.**

Pastor: Open your mouth wide and be filled. I will fill you with words of prophesy, I will fill you with dreams and wisdom. You will be filled with justice and passion.

People: **Sing aloud to God our hope; shout for joy to the God of deliverance and love.**

Pastor: Open your mouth wide and speak. Speak love and compassion to the brokenness; speak loudly to the troubles you see: speak to the hearts of those blinded by greed and selfishness.

People: **Sing aloud to God our healer; shout for joy to the God of resistance and power.**

**\*Hymn – *We Gather Together***

**CH # 276**

Words: Nederlandtsche Gedenckclanck, 1626; tr. Theodore Baker, 1894; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

Music: Dutch melody (16 century); arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,  
to turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;  
the pow'rs that oppress us now cease to distress us.  
O God, be present with us, and make your will be known.

Beside us to guide us, O God we perceive you  
ordaining, maintaining the power of life.  
Yes, yours be the glory; let all tell the story.  
Our God, be ever with us, in gladness and strife.

We all sing your praises, Redeemer triumphant,  
defend us, be-friend us, what-ever may be.  
May your congregation escape tribulation.  
Your Name be praised forever, O God, make us free!

**Invocation**

***Worship Ways***

God of Glory, we acknowledge your presence among us as we gather. You have knit us together as a community. In your kindom, the first will be last and the last will be first. We exalt you, yet you come near to us. Dwell in the praises we voice, in the hope to which we cling, and the love that persists. Reveal yourself to us, Great One, and we will declare and spread your goodness; for we pray as Jesus has taught us:

**The Lord's Prayer (in unison)**

**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.  
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you. — Response: **And also with you.**

**Scripture Readings**  
**The First Testament**  
**The Gospel**

***First Nations Version***  
**Proverbs 25:1-15**  
**Luke 14:1-14**

## **Discipleship for All Ages**

### **\*Hymn – *Be Thou My Vision***

**CH # 595**

Words: Irish song(8th c.); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905: V. by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912.

Alt. Music: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won, thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I need not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always: thou and thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**The Good News: *Indigenous Wisdom***

**Pastor Paul Day**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

***Worship Ways***

**Righteous God, forgive us for the positioning we do. We seek elevated places and too often fail to notice the absences at your table. We live in complacency while the world around us weeps in pain, suffering, and despair. Break our hearts, O God, so that we will seek your kingdom more than our own acquittal. Convict our spirits to propel us to reshape the world into your vision of beloved community—repaired, restored, and reconciled. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Beloved, the Holy One is righteous and just as well as compassionate and faithful to forgive the contrite heart. God will give you strength and courage to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

## **Prayers of the People**

### **+ The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God +**

Our shared ministry depends upon the gifts that we bring. As image bearers of the divine, we receive the privilege of generosity. Through our gifts, we demonstrate trust in the Sovereign One and hope in our future. Let us give with an abundance of love and faith.

## **Offertory**

**\*Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

## **\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

## ***Worship Ways***

**Holy, Holy, Holy God, be glorified in our giving. Receive and magnify these gifts so that needs will be met, communities transformed, and lives renewed. We dedicate them in your precious name. Amen.**

## **\*Hymn – *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky***

**CH # 684**

Words: Ruth Duck, 1984, 1989; Music: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wild flow'rs growing,  
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.  
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation, that all may have abundant life in ev'ry earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night and, weary, wait for morning,  
when children have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warning,  
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor,  
That all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join as partners in creating  
a future free from want and fear, life's goodness celebrating.  
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,  
that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

**\*Charge and Benediction**from **Hebrews 13**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. And let mutual love continue. For God has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

**Postlude****We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors**

## **Staff**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day  
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Lyn Glassock  
Choir Director: David Myers-Wakeman  
Organist: Peter Dickson  
Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman  
Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath  
Treasurer: Liz McGlinn, CPA, CGMA  
Church Phone: 829-3644

Church e-mail: [nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com)  
Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>  
Maine Conference Website: [www.maineucc.org](http://www.maineucc.org)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://youtube.com/c/nyccucc)  
Note: This service is recorded and streamed on YouTube.

If you are not receiving church emails and would like to, please send an email to [nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com](mailto:nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com) asking to be added to the list. Like the NYCC FB page and you will be notified of what is happening there, too!

Offerings can also be made online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1301940>.

## **THIS WEEK\***

Today        10:30 am, Coffee Hour  
Tuesday     10:00 am, Tuesday Gals  
Sunday       9:30 am, Worship with Holy Communion

## **COMING UP\***

Office Hours – September 2-18th – 10:00-12:00 pm  
Saturday, September 6 – Rental in Fellowship Hall 7pm-11pm.  
The office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 in observance of the Labor Day holiday.  
Sunday, September 7 – Diaconate Meeting following worship.  
Saturday, September 20 – Rain space for a wedding at The Barn. Jeanne is the point person for the church. Pray for Sunshine!

**Pilgrim Lodge:** Family & Friends Camp, Aug. 29—Sept. 1; Alumni Day, Aug. 30;  
Women's Fall Weekend, Sept. 12-14; Maine Conf. Annual Meeting, Oct. 17-18

### **IN OUR PRAYERS\***

**Congregation & Community:** Sheila Babcock (Pet Pantry patron), David and Michelle Bickford, Terri Bickford, Candy Burgess, Carol Davis, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Linda Lambrides, Blanche Mays, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns, Nancy White

**Wider World:** People recovering from disasters in Texas, No. Carolina, So. California, and elsewhere; Black Mountain Orphanage; Peace in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere.

\*Please submit items for the Church Calendar or the Prayer List to Pastor Day or Lyn Glassock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. Thank You.

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***Living Psalm 81*** was written by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson; used by permission.