

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



Communion Sunday

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

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2026 ~ 9:30 a.m.

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: **Lord bless this new year, guide and come.**
 May there be peace for everyone.
 Lord, may your blessings fill our hearts
 and may we live our days with love.

Jocelyn Soriano

Litany of Welcome for the Beginning of a New Interim Journey:

Moderator: A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in the life of the church. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today, we begin a new chapter in our life together. We welcome the Reverend Dr. Cynthia Biggar, whose time as our Intentional Interim Minister begins.

Leader 1: Cynthia, in the presence of this Congregation will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of this church?

Interim Minister: I promise, with the help of God.

Moderator: Will you love, serve and pray for these people of God, nourishing them with the Word and Holy Sacraments and leading them through this time of transition?

Interim Minister: I promise, with the help of God.

Leader 2: Will you lead this Congregation in giving faithful witness to the Word and making known the love of God through service to this church and the community?

Interim Minister: I promise, with the help of God.

Leader 1: May the Holy Spirit grant you the power to keep these promises and perform these duties with strength and compassion.

Congregation: AMEN

Moderator: We have heard the solemn promises made by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar, whom we have asked to be our Interim Minister. Do you, the Congregation, receive Cynthia into this office? And do you promise, to the best of your abilities, to show her the respect and support due to a minister of Christ's gospel, to pray for her and for the work of this church, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

Congregation: We do.

Moderator and other Leaders: With these mutual promises, and in the presence of God, we welcome you as Interim Minister of this Church, in the name of Jesus Christ.

ALL: AMEN

***Hymn "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

CH #453

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981; Music: John Zundel, 1870

**Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.**

**Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.**

Call to Worship (from Micah 6, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1, Matthew 5)

Pastor: What does the Lord require of us?
**People: To do justice, love kindness,
and walk humbly with our God.**
Pastor: With what shall we come before the Lord/
**People: With speech that is gentle
And words that build up.**
Pastor: How shall we live our faith?
**People: With actions that bring peace
And works that lift up the lowly.**
Pastor: Come and worship God in spirit and in truth.

Invocation (from Micah 6, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1) in unison

**The hills hear Your voice, O Lord.
The mountains quake before You.
As we call on Your name,
Help us walk in the ways of righteousness
And speak in tones of peace.
As we seek to be blameless and do what is right
May our hearts be free from guile and deceit,
And may we be known as peacemakers,
The blessed children of God.**

***Passing the Peace**

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

Choir Anthem – Come All You Thirsty

John R. Cameron

Discipleship for All Ages

Hymn for All Ages "What Does the Lord Require of You?" #661
Words and Music: Jim Strathdee, 1986

What does the Lord require of you?
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God. To seek Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God. God. And love kindness and walk humbly with your God. God. What does the Lord

Introduction to Scripture

Rev. Biggar

Scripture Reading Matthew 5:1-12 ("The Beatitudes")

Meditation "Blessed and Challenged"

Prayers of the People

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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. And 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.

We Offer Our Gifts and Ourselves to God

Invitation to Offering

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** (*from Micah 6, Psalm 15, Matthew 5*) *in unison*

**Source of justice and mercy,
work through this offering**

to bring Your gifts to the world:
righteousness and peace,
love and kindness, hope and joy.
May our gifts truly express our gratitude
for Your many blessings for our church
and for Your children everywhere. AMEN

+ The Sacrament of Holy Communion +

We practice an open communion. All who trust in Jesus Christ and seek to follow God's ways are welcome to share the sacrament. You do not need to be a member of this congregation. Please hold the bread and the cup until all have been served, that we might symbolize our unity in Christ by partaking all at the same time.

Invitation

***Communion Hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”** CH #16
Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.
Music: Wyeth’s Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Communion Prayer (Responsive)

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is our duty and our joy
at all times and in all places
to give thanks to You, O God,
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

**Therefore, with Angels and Archangels
and all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify Your glorious name,
evermore praising You and saying,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O holy God, Creator of all people and worlds,
send now upon this bread and cup

Your life-giving Spirit.

As we partake of this holy meal,
fill us with the Holy Spirit
that we may be one body and one spirit in Christ.

All glory and honor is Yours, almighty God,
now and forever. AMEN

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**We give You thanks, O God,
that You have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Christ.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,**

**and send us forth into the world in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN**

***Hymn “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”**

CH #433

Words: John Fawcett, 1872

Music: Johann G. Nageli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

***Benediction**

Rev. Biggar

Response:

**Go forth into the world
Rejoicing in the power of the spirit
Thanks be to God, thanks be to God,
Thanks be to God, Amen! (repeat)**

Mary (Mitzie) Collins

Postlude

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

*** Those who are able may stand.**

Acknowledgements: Today's Call to Worship, Invocation, and Prayer of Dedication are resources from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026*, used by permission. The Communion Prayer was adapted by Rev. Cynthia Biggar from several sources including *The UCC Book of Worship* and *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Staff

Intentional Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Lyn Glasscock

Music Director: David Myers-Wakeman

Organist: Peter Dickson

Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman

Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath

Treasurer: Liz McGlinn, CPA, CGMA

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Church Website: <http://nyccucc.com>

Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org

YouTube: 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 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

Today - Deacons Meeting following worship

Tuesday, February 3 – Tuesday Gals at 10am

Wednesday, February 4 – Bell Ringing at 5:45pm/Choir at 6:30 pm

Thursday, February 5 – Discipleship at 1pm

Saturday, February 7 - Memorial Gathering for Marcia Fuller in FH -1-4:30pm

IN OUR PRAYERS*

Congregation & Community: Sheila Babcock, David and Michelle Bickford, Terri Bickford, Candy Burgess, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns, Wider World: People recovering from natural disasters in the U.S. and around the world, Black Mountain Orphanage; Peace in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere.

*Please submit items for the Church Calendar or the Prayer List to Lyn Glasscock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. Thank You. Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708