

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



**The First Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of Christ
January 11, 2026**

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

We Gather to Worship God

*Those who are able may stand.

Bold type indicates Congregational Responses

Prelude – Lets All Together Praise Our God
“Down Ampney”

Bach, Buxtehude & Walther
D. Wagner

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Grounding Prayer & Lighting the Peace Candle

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

Call to Worship

Matthew 3:13-17

Pastor: Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

People: **But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.**

Pastor: And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

People: **And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”**

***Hymn – Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

CH # 90

Words: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843, alt

Music: Traditional Spanish melody; harm. David Evans, 1927

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ we bring: Alleluia! Amen!

Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise we with grateful choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!

Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can depend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forever more: Alleluia! Amen!

Invocation

from **Worship Ways**

Holy One, as your Spirit rested on Jesus as a dove, may your Spirit rest on us this day. As you proclaimed him as your own Beloved Son, remind us that we, too, are your Beloved Children—

not because of anything we have done, but because of Who you are. Hold us in your love. As we gather at the water today, help us remember who we are, and who we are becoming together—your people of compassion and courage. In the name of the One Who shows us how to be human, and teaches us how to pray —

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.**

Choir Anthem – *Gentle Voice*

Lee Dengler

Discipleship for All Ages

(Children may be dismissed to Sunday School)

Prayers of God's People

Hymn – Hear Our Prayer, O Lord (sung through twice)

CH # 306

Words: Psalm 143:1 Music: George Whelpton, 1897

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. A-men.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

The Good News: “*Here Is My Servant*”

Pastor Paul Day

***Hymn – *Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed* – vv. 1, 3 & 4**

CH # 378

Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1980
Music: Plainsong, Mode IV; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1943, alt.

Wonder of wonders, here revealed; God's covenant with us is sealed. And long before we know or pray, God's love enfolds us every day.

Here in this sacrament we see God's grace unbound, for all, for me! May we respond with joyful praise in loving service all our days.

Our vows of faith we now renew, stretch wide our sights to global view, and claim with Christians far and near a larger family held dear.

Renewal of Baptism

from ***Worship Ways***

Pastor: Holy One, you moved over the waters at creation. You carried your people through the sea and into freedom. Your Spirit descended upon Jesus in the river. Bless this water now. Let it awaken memory. Let it carry mercy. Let it stir our hearts toward your ways.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Rejoice and be glad! Remember your Baptism!

You are invited to come forward, dip your hand in the water, and make the sign of the Cross on your forehead.

Pastor: We are the Body of Christ—not alone, but together.

People: **We are God's Beloved Children.**

Pastor: The Spirit that was in Christ is in us.

People: **We are called to carry God's grace.**

Pastor: We will not break the bruised reed. We will not extinguish the smoldering flame.

People: **We will walk in compassion, courage, and joy.**

Pastor: May this be our covenant.

People: **By God's grace, may this be our life together.**

+ The Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves to God +

Invitation to Generosity

Worship Ways

Pastor: Beloved of God, today we have remembered who we are—a people formed in water and Spirit, held in love, and called to bring God's grace to the world.

We do not give out of guilt, or out of scarcity, or because the church needs to keep the lights on. We give because love takes form in us. We give because we belong to one another. We give because our lives are woven together with all creation. Our offering is the way we say:

Yes—we will live as God's Beloved!

Yes—we will stretch our hands toward compassion!

Yes—we will join Christ in the work of healing!

People: **We bring our gifts—our time, our treasure, our commitments, our lives—with joy.**

Offertory – Bridegroom

Peter Cuttz

***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**

Worship Ways

Pastor: Let us pray. Holy One, Source of Living Water, You have gathered us in, washed us in grace, and reminded us that we are your beloved children. As water flows from its source to nourish field and forest, so let our giving flow outward—to nourish hope, to tend to healing, to join the slow and sacred work of renewing the world. Bless these gifts, and bless the lives from which they come.

People: **May they ripple outward in acts of compassion, in courage where it is needed, in justice that is gentle and strong. Just as the river does not hold itself, teach us not to hold back our love. We offer what we have and who we are, with joy and trust. 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.

***Charge and Benediction**

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 – Alleluia Toccata

F. Groden

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

THIS WEEK*

Today 10:30 am, Coffee Hour
Tue. 10:00 am, Tuesday Gals
Wed. 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 1:00 pm, Discipleship Book Group
Next Lord's Day, January 18 – Second Sunday after Epiphany
8:30 am, Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am, Worship
10:30 am, Coffee Hour

IN OUR PRAYERS*

Congregation & Community: Sheila Babcock, David & Michelle Bickford, Terri Bickford, Candy Burgess, Carol Davis, Sandra and Vince Golonka, Steve Quentel, Lori Martin and Kaitlin Quentel, Holly and Charles Slonina, Susanellen Stearns, Nancy White.

Wider World: People recovering from natural disasters in the U.S. and around the world; Black Mountain Orphanage; Peace in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere.

Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Day
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Lyn Glassock
Music Director: David Myers-Wakeman
Organists: Peter Dickson & Jesse Myers-Wakeman
Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath
Treasurer: Liz McGinn, CPA, CGMA
Church Phone: 829-3644
Church e-mail: nyarmouthccucc@gmail.com
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>.

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