

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



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026

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We Gather to Worship God

Prelude *Two Fugues* by Domenico Scarlatti

Bringing in the Light of Christ

9:30 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar, Interim Pastor

Our Ministry and Mission (Announcements)

Call to Worship *from Psalm 105 and Romans 8*

Give thanks to God, for God is good.

God's goodness and mercy are sure.

Sing to the Spirit, for the Spirit is here.

**The Spirit knows the ache for connection
deep within us.**

Praise Christ Jesus, who loves us

with a love that is boundless and true.

Give thanks to God, and sing God's praise,
as we worship together this day.

***Hymn # 72 "To God Be the Glory"**

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875; Music: William H. Doane, 1875

To God be the glory, great things he hath done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

who yielded his life and atonement for sin,

and opened the life-gate that all may going.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the Glory,
great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

to every believer the promise of God;

the vilest offender who truly believes,

that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the Glory,
great things he hath done!

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder,
our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the Glory,
great things he hath done!

Opening Prayer (in unison) *from Romans 8 and Matthew 13*

**Loving God, thank You for calling us to worship today.
Thank You for sending Your Spirit
to speak to and for our spirits,
strengthening our weary souls
and empowering us to live and serve.
Send Your Spirit into our worship today,
that we may fully sense Your presence
and embrace Your mysterious wisdom.
In Your holy name, we pray. AMEN**

Hymn # 570 “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Words: William Walford, 1845; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1861

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
and escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel; the bliss I share of
those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face, and gladly
take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace I'll cast
on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Discipleship for All Ages “Solomon’s Dream” (I Kings 3:1-12)

Hymn for All Ages # 354 “**Seek Ye First**”

Words and Music: Karen Lafferty, 1972

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:26-39 (selected verses)

Sermon “All Things Work Together for Good”

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.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *Seek Ye First* by Nancy Raabe

***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**

**Miraculous God, bless these gifts
with Your miraculous love.
Bless our offerings with an abundance
that expands and grows,
so that all may know the truth of Your love—**

a love that cannot be stopped
no matter what.
Bless us to bring forth Your miraculous love
in all that we say and do. AMEN

***Hymn # 514 “God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty”**

Words: Mary S. Edgar, 1925, alt. Music: C. Harold Lowden (20th Century)

God, who touches earth with beauty, make my heart a-new. With your Spirit
recreate me pure and strong and true.

Like your springs and running waters, make me crystal pure. Like your rocks of
towering grandeur, make me strong and sure.

Like your dancing waves in sunlight, make me glad and free. Like the
straightness of the pine trees let me up-right be.

Like the arching of the heavens, lift my thoughts above. Turn my
dreams to noble action, ministries of love.

God, who touches earth with beauty, make my heart a-new. Keep
me ever, by your Spirit, pure and strong and true.

***Benediction**

***Response # 445 “Go in Peace”**

Words: Barber I. Waters, 1982 Music: Kenneth E. White, 1982

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate life!

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Taking the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude Classical Variations on Hymn Tune

“Let There Be Light, Lord God of Hosts” by Mozart

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

Acknowledgements: Today's printed prayers are worship resources from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026; used by permission.

Staff

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

Music Director: David Myers-Wakeman

Organist: Peter Dickson

Organist: Jesse Myers-Wakeman

Sexton: Mark R. H. Heath

Treasurer: Lois Knight

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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 / Deacons Meeting

Tuesday – Tuesday Gals at 10am

Sunday, August 2 –Our joint worship service (here, with Gray and New Gloucester UCC churches) will include both **Communion** and **The Blessing of the Backpacks** (for anyone of any age who is going “back to school” in any role). **We will also be collecting (and blessing) school supply donations.**

IN OUR PRAYERS*

We pray for those in our congregation and community who are

- mourning the loss of loved ones;
- serving our country in the military, including James Black, E-6, US Navy;
- experiencing health issues or personal concerns, including Candy B., George D. (Leah D.’s brother), Sandra and Vince G., Steve Q., Lori M. and Kaitlin Q., Holly and Charles S., and Susanellen S.

We pray for those in the wider world, nationally and globally who are

- hungry or unhoused,
- experiencing violence and destruction from wars and conflicts,
- rebuilding their lives following natural disasters,
- recovering from trauma.

We pray for peace within ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world.

*Please submit items for the Church Calendar to Lyn Glassock by Tuesday in order to be included in the bulletin. For the prayer list, please speak with a deacon or the pastor. Thank You. Note: Hymns and songs are licensed under One License #A-73187 and CCLI #48404708