

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



Whoever you are,
Wherever you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.

HOMECOMING
Faith Formation Sunday

September 20, 2026

Homecoming and Faith Formation Sunday

September 20, 2026

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Canticle / Dawn F. Ashdown

Bringing in the Light of Christ **9:30 a.m.**

Welcome *Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar, Interim Pastor*

Call to Worship *from Exodus 16, Philippians 1, Matthew 20*

In their wilderness wandering, the Israelites grumbled.
The Lord lighted their way and provided nourishment.

**In our life journeys, we will give thanks
for the providence of the Holy One.**

In their daily work, the laborers in the field grumbled
with resentment over gracious giving.

**In our daily lives, we will rejoice at generosity
shown to others.**

As we seek to live our lives by the example of Christ,
may we delight in God's grace.

**We will offer caring presence
and abundant generosity.**

We will even endeavor to give up our grumbling. AMEN

***Hymn "We Are the Church"** *please refer to song sheet*

Words and Music: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all
around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the
church is a people.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all
around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages, too, from all
times and places.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning, sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying, there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying:

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

Opening Prayer (in unison) *from Exodus 16, Philippians 1*

**Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks
for the many ways we see Your abiding presence
throughout scripture and within our own lives.
You hear not only our praise
but also our complaints.
Teach us to hear our own grumbling
as a signifier to redirect our thoughts and lives
to gratitude and generosity.
In hearing our own complaints,
may we look to Christ Jesus for examples of grace
And may we follow Your Holy Spirit
to offer presence to one another,
as we walk in faith together. Amen.**

Anthem "Come Build a Church" by Ken Medema

NYCC Choir

A Message for All Ages

Amanda Skupin

A Prayer of Blessing for the New Sunday School Year

Rev. Cynthia

A Hymn for All Ages: “All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir” *By Bill Staines*

All God's critters got a place in the choir.
Some sing low and some sing higher;
some sing out loud on a telephone wire;
some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now.

All God's critters got a place in the choir.
Some sing low and some sing higher;
some sing out loud on a telephone wire;
some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now.

Listen to the top, where the little bird sings,
and the melodies and the high notes ringin',
and the hoot owl cries over ev'rything,
and the blackbird disagrees.

Singin' in the night time,
singin' in the day,
when the little duck quacks and he's on his way,
and the otter hasn't got much to say,
and the porcupine talks to himself.

All God's critters got a place in the choir.
Some sing low and some sing higher;
some sing out loud on a telephone wire;
some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now.

Dogs and the cats, they take up the middle
where the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles.
The Donkey brays and the pony neighs.
The old gray badger sighs.

Listen to the bass; it's the one on the bottom,
where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
moans and groans with a big to do
and the old cow just goes, “moo.”

All God's critters got a place in the choir.
Some sing low and some sing higher;
some sing out loud on a telephone wire;
some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now.

It's a simple song of livin' sung everywhere,

the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear,
the dopey alligator and the hawk above,
the sly old weasel and the turtledove.

All God's critters got a place in the choir.
Some sing low and some sing higher;
some sing out loud on a telephone wire;
some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now.

All God's critters got a place in the choir.
Some sing low and some sing higher;
some sing out loud on a telephone wire;
some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now.

All God's critters got a place in the choir.

Introduction to Scripture

Rev. Cynthia

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Sermon “Progressing in Faith, and Rejoicing”

Prayers of the People

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer: When the pastor says, “We pray to the Lord,”
please reply: **“Lord, hear our 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 A Prayer Song A. Moore

***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 Exodus 16

**We offer these gifts, O God,
in gratitude for Your provision in our lives.
We offer tangible gifts of money, where we are able,
and tangible gifts of our time, our prayers,
our service, and our witness
to Your abundant grace. AMEN**

Our Faith in Action (Church Announcements)

***Hymn # 452 “Here I Am, Lord”**

Words and Music: Daniel L. Schutte, 1981; harm: James Snyder, 1994

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Refrain: Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
Refrain: Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
Refrain: Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

***Benediction**

Taking the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude Fantasia on Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott J. Krebs

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

Acknowledgements: Today's printed prayers are 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

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>.

THIS WEEK*

Today - 10:30 am, Coffee Hour

Tuesday – September 22 -Tuesday Gals at 10am

Wednesday – September 23 - Choir at 6:30 pm

Thursday – Bible Study at 1pm (Discussion of *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans)

Sunday, Sept. 27th – Choir at 8:30am / Diaconate following Worship

SAVE THE DATE! On November 1, All Saints Sunday, our worship service will celebrate the 220th Anniversary of this church. A chicken pie luncheon will be served afterward. We hope you will join us!

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., Samuel N., Steve Q., Lori M. and Kaitlin Q., and James 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 neighbors, friends, colleagues, and fellow Christians who are “New Mainers” or “sojourners,” seeking to live, study, work, and raise their families peaceably among us (See Leviticus 19:33-34).

We pray for those who are struggling with, or in recovery from addictions including alcoholism, and their families and friends.

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

