

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



**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost,
with Communion**

September 6, 2026

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Sonata #12, 1st Movement

Mozart

Bringing in the Light of Christ

9:30 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar, Interim Pastor

Call to Worship *based on Psalm 149, Romans 13: 8-14, Matthew 18: 15-20*

Come, children of God,
rejoice in your Maker!

**Sing songs and hymns, old and new;
celebrate with voices and instruments,
with praise and prayers!**

Open your eyes to the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ.

For he is already here,
among us and within us,
bringing new life to all who believe.

Let's sing his praises together!

***Hymn # 543 "Blessed Assurance"**

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a fore-taste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this in my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this in my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this in my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:15-22

Sermon “What to Do When You Have Issues with a Fellow Church Member “

Prayer of Confession (from Matthew 18)

in unison

**Merciful God,
we have not always sought reconciliation
as You have called us to do.
We have allowed pride and fear
to keep us from addressing conflicts
with love and grace.
Forgive the times we have withheld forgiveness
and failed to seek peace.
Help us approach others with an open heart,
ready to heal and restore relationships. AMEN**

A moment of silent reflection

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news:
Where two or three are gathered in God's name,
God is there among us.
When we seek reconciliation, God is present,
offering grace and healing.
In Christ, we are forgiven and restored,
called to live in peace with one another.
Embrace this mercy and know that through God's love,
all of us—beloved children of God—
are made whole.
AMEN

***Hymn # 590 “Kum Ba Ya”**

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a fore-taste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this in my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my
story, this in my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching
and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my
story, this in my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer *When the Pastor says, "We pray to the Lord,"
Please respond, "**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 Forth in Peace of Christ M. Higgins

***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 Matthew 18)*

**Gracious and reconciling God,
we bring these gifts before You
as a symbol of our commitment to Your work
of peace and unity in the world.
Bless these gifts, Lord,
that they may build bridges where there are divides,**

bring hope where there is hurt,
and extend Your love to all.
As we offer our resources, may we also offer our hearts,
striving to live in harmony and peace,
as Christ has taught us. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Communion Hymn # 387 “Bread of the World, In Mercy Broken”

Words of Institution

The Bread

The Cup

Sharing the Elements (by Intinction)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn # 433 “Blest Be the Tie” (verse 1)

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.

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 Gavotte I and II from English Suite #6 J.S. Bach

We Go Forth to Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Those who are able may stand.

Acknowledgements: Today's printed prayers are resources from reWorship.com and The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026.

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

Monday, September 7 – The church will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 8 - Tuesday Gals at 10am / Trustees at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 9 –Choir at 6:30 pm.

September 20 is Homecoming Sunday! Please invite a friend!

We will welcome the choir back and bless and dedicate the new Sunday School year. After the service we will enjoy a potluck lunch together.

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., Holly and Charles S., and Susanellen S., and James S. (husband of Amanda 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