

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.**

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026

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We Gather to Worship God

CENTERING WORDS (Matthew 22)
Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.
Love your neighbor as you love yourself.
Sounds so simple, but turns out to be complex.

Prelude

Bringing in the Light of Christ

9:30 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Biggar, Interim Pastor

Gathering Music

“Let Us Pray for Peace”

led by David Myers-Wakeman

by Nancy Kraft and Thomas Keesecker

Lord we pray for peace, for the healing of creation.

May your truth and justice mend ev’ry breach; may we learn to live as one.

Call to Worship *(Deuteronomy 34, Psalm 90, Matthew 22)*

Come to us, O God.

Breathe through our worship

with Your Holy Spirit.

Fill us with Your faithful love.

Guide us with Your ancient teachings.

Come to us, O God.

Be in our prayer and praise.

***Hymn # 67 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

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 *(from Deuteronomy 34, Psalm 90, Matthew 22)* in unison

**God of ages past and days to come,
help us embrace both your ancient wisdom
and your ongoing guidance.
Help us hear anew your words from years gone by.
Open our hearts and minds
to fully embrace what it means to love you,
to love ourselves, and to love our neighbors
as you have loved us.
In love and gratitude, we pray. AMEN**

Anthem **“Thy Word”** *Words and music by Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant.*

A Message for All Ages

Hymn for All Ages **“This is My Commandment (That You Love One Another)”**

**This is My commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.
That your joy may be full, that you joy may be full.
This is My commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.**

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon “The Two Greatest Commandments”

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

***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 22*

Gracious God,
bless the offerings of ourselves
and our gifts.
May they be offerings of love,
for You and for Your people.
In loving gratitude, we pray. AMEN

Our Faith in Action (Church Announcements)

***Hymn # 526 “The Gift of Love”**

Words: Hal H. Hopson, 1972; Music: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson 1972

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

***Responsive Benediction** *from I Thessalonians 2 and Matthew 22*

As beloved children of God,
let's go to bring God's love to the world.
Led by the teachings of Christ,
**let's go to live the lessons of love, justice,
and grace.**
Go in peace to love and serve God and our neighbors.
AMEN

Taking the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

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

Church Phone: 829-3644

Church e-mail: nyarmouthcucc@gmail.com

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

Maine Conference Website: www.maineucc.org

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/nyccucc](https://www.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 nyarmouthcucc@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 /

11 am – 2 pm **Open House celebrating NYCC's 220th Anniversary**

Monday, 10/26 – Missions Meeting at 6:30pm via Zoom

Tuesday, 10/27– Tuesday Gals at 10 am

Wednesday, 10/28–Choir at 6:30 pm

Thursday, 10/29– Book Discussion at 1pm. (*Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans)

Sunday, November 1 – Choir at 8:30 am / **All Saints Day Worship Service**

will be followed by a social hour and a **Chicken Pie luncheon** (by invitation to members and friends of the church). **Celebrating NYCC's 220th Anniversary!**

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., Jenn (Charlene B's daughter), George D. (Leah D.'s brother), Sandra and Vince G., Jasmine L. (Trudy P.'s granddaughter), 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