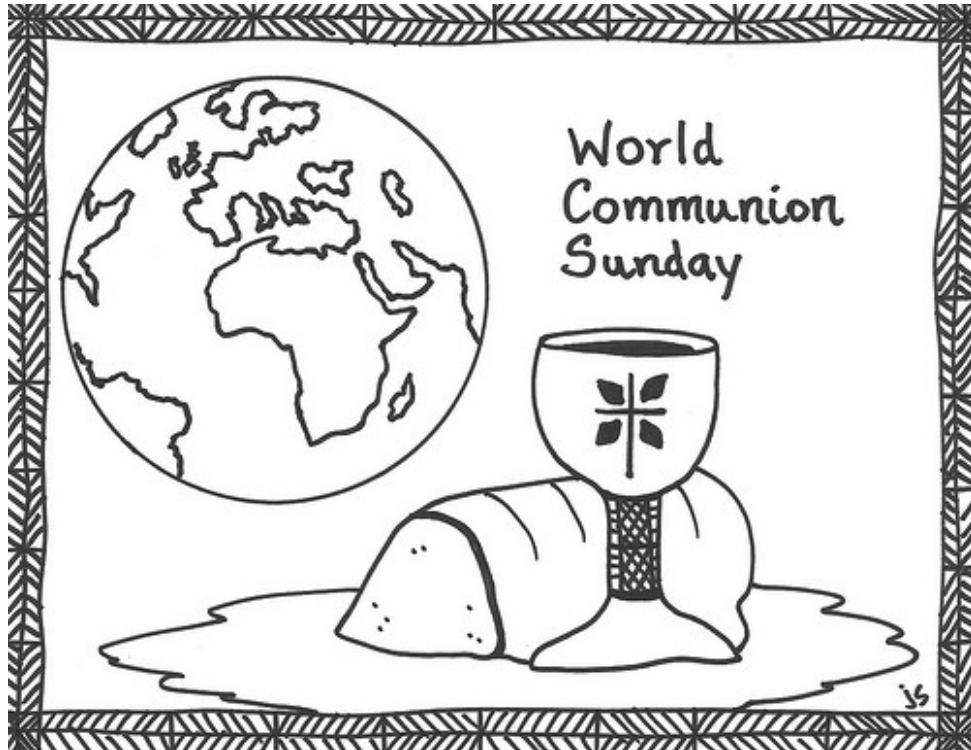


# *First Congregational Church*

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



## **Our Purpose Statement**

It is our purpose to joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives; to respect one another in love, actively seeking and embracing those who wish to grow with us in faith, hope and love; to follow the example of Jesus, as we minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the community.

*Through service we flourish.*



# *The First Congregational Church in Worcester*

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*World Communion Sunday*

*October 2, 2022*

*You are invited to a time of quiet preparation during the Prelude*

Prelude

*Commune with Me/When I Lift My Heart to You in Praise ~ arr. Bergquist*

Ringling of the Chimes

Call to Worship (*from Worship Ways*)

We were created in relationship and for relationship.

**We are created for community!**

God knew it was not right for us to be alone.

**We are created for community!**

Through Jesus Christ, God entered into human relationship with us. We rejoice in our unity with all humanity.

**We are created for community!**

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Adoration ~ *Insert*

*On World Communion Sunday*

On World Communion Sunday all hearts are joined as one.  
We gather 'round Christ's table and pray God's will be done.  
One loaf of bread to feed us, one cup to quench our thirst.  
God's realm is sweet reversal; the last are welcomed first.

In every congregation, across the UCC,  
six thousand churches, scattered; one offering received.  
For healing and empowerment, for those in need of bread:  
Our gifts make real the Gospel: Christ Jesus is not dead!

Extravagantly lavish, God's grace has been conceived.  
Each person is a treasure, a lost gold coin retrieved.  
The stranger is our neighbor; the weak one is made strong.  
Don't hinder them; give welcome! Make clear that all belong!

"Do justice and love kindness, walk humbly" – this we heed.  
By standing with our neighbors, responding to their needs.  
May we, who tend the vineyard, may we, who plant the seeds,  
Unite with sisters, brothers to give, to heal, to feed.

Unison Reading

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended to heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Message for the Young and Young at Heart

Sharing of Announcements, Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response *Lemmel*

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

New Testament Reading *Galatians 3:23-29*

Giving of Our Offerings

Offertory *Dona Nobis Pacem ~ arr. Adler*

\*Doxology *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above,  
ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, bless the gifts that we place before you. May the ministries they sustain join a worldwide witness of your love! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Gospel Reading *John 6:1-13*

Meditation *Welcome Wide!* Rev. Josh Fitterling

\*Hymn ~ *Insert* *As We Gather at Your Table*

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story will we claim it as our own;  
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
May we still behold your image In the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to God, most high.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Word of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Dear God, we give you thanks for this simple and sacred meal. Through it, may we be strengthened to welcome and serve. Amen.**

Deacon's Fund Collection

\*Sending Hymn ~ *Insert*

*Remember Me*

Remember me — the God who saves — For back in Egypt you were slaves;  
Then by my hand I set you free. Now keep my law. Remember me.

Remember me in bread and wine Whene'er you share this meal of mine.  
I gave my life to set you free. With thanks and praise, remember me.

Remember me in all you do, For I'm alive! I walk with you.  
I was, I am, and I shall be. O church I love, remember me.

Our God, we hear! We're called and freed! Your Spirit gives us memory.  
Now send us out that we may share Your love's great story everywhere.

\*Benediction & Benediction Response

*Ellers*

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;  
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day.  
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Chimes  
Postlude

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee ~ arr. Hustad*

*\*Please stand in body, or in spirit.*

*All are welcome to attend Coffee Hour immediately following our worship service in the Parlor  
(through the sanctuary doors to the right).*

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***The First Congregational Church in Worcester***  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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a just  
world  
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[office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org)

Doug Perkins, Sexton

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**Prayer Requests**

*We would like to keep Hampton Bagdasarian in our prayers and he also requests prayers for June Kemp; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda and Marie Samuelson whom is very ill; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Sue & Norman Anderson request prayers for their daughter, Melanie Anderson, Sue's brother, Danny Waskevich and their friend, Roger Waite. Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie; The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck, Dr. Richard Hunter, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, Bob Lingner and Joyce & Armand Thienel. Holly Mahlert requests prayers for her mother, Deb Mirick, on a recent cancer diagnosis. Erika Vecsey requests prayers as she recovers from surgery.*

*If you would like to add a prayer concern or update our list, please email the church office at [office@fcc-worcester.org](mailto:office@fcc-worcester.org). Thank you for praying with us!*

**Announcements**

**Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Collection - TODAY** - On the first Sunday of every month, donations of non-perishable, shelf-stable items are collected for the Carty Cupboard in Worcester.

**Deacon's Fund Collection – TODAY-** Funds are collected monthly and are available to the Pastor and Deacons to provide one-time, emergency assistance to a neighbor in need.

**Fellowship – Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**-Apples to Apples Game Day. Join us in the parlor at 10am on October 4th for a time of fellowship and playing a fun card game!

**Sit & Share, Pause & Pray with Pastor Josh – Wednesdays from 2 to 3pm** Want to visit with Pastor Josh in a more casual setting? Come on by every Wednesday! Stop by for a minute, or 10, or more. Look for the yard sign out front and stop by!

**Coffee Hour Hosts Needed –** Would you be able to provide the snacks and goodies for one of our after worship coffee hour times? We would love to have you help us provide hospitality. Sign-up any Sunday after worship in the Parlor. Thank you!

**Carpet Fund Collection**  
Our new carpeting fund continues to grow! Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

**Weekly Calendar**

<b>Today</b>	10:00am	FCC Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:00am	Carty Food Cupboard/Deacons Fund collection (Sanctuary)
	11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (upper level)
	11:30am	Confirmation Class (Conference Room)
<b>Monday</b>	7:00pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00am	Fellowship- Game Day (Parlor)
	6:30pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
<b>Wednesday</b>	2:00pm	Sit and Share (Lawn)
	6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00am	New Hope SDA (Sanctuary & Parlor)
	12:00pm	Church of God (Hall)
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00am	FCC Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:00am	Special Meeting (Sanctuary)
	11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (Upper level)
	11:30am	Trustees Meeting (Conference Room)

**SPECIAL MEETING  
CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022**

The Church Council requested that the Clerk call a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday October 9, 2022 following the worship service at 11am. One request will be presented to the congregation at said meeting and it is as follows:

A request by the Board of Trustees to authorize them to enter into a covenantal building use agreement with Family Christian Church of God. The Board was approached by a representative of Family Christian Church of God regarding building use for their congregation. The primary space utilized will be Fellowship Hall on the lower level, if approved, on Sundays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Preliminary discussion and negotiations have already begun and the Trustees would like to proceed with a covenantal agreement.

Any members wishing to attend the meeting remotely may do so using the Zoom Worship Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102423294?pwd=RjhHZGNDZDJyODNHWVFabnRVZ2Vldz09>

You may also call in by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and entering the following information as prompted.

Meeting ID: 831 0242 3294

Passcode: 11824

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn Ahaesy, Clerk  
*(Appointed Clerk by Council)*