
THE SPIRE

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

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Hanover, Massachusetts 02339

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Rev. Donald Remick, Pastor
Meg Clapp, Associate Pastor

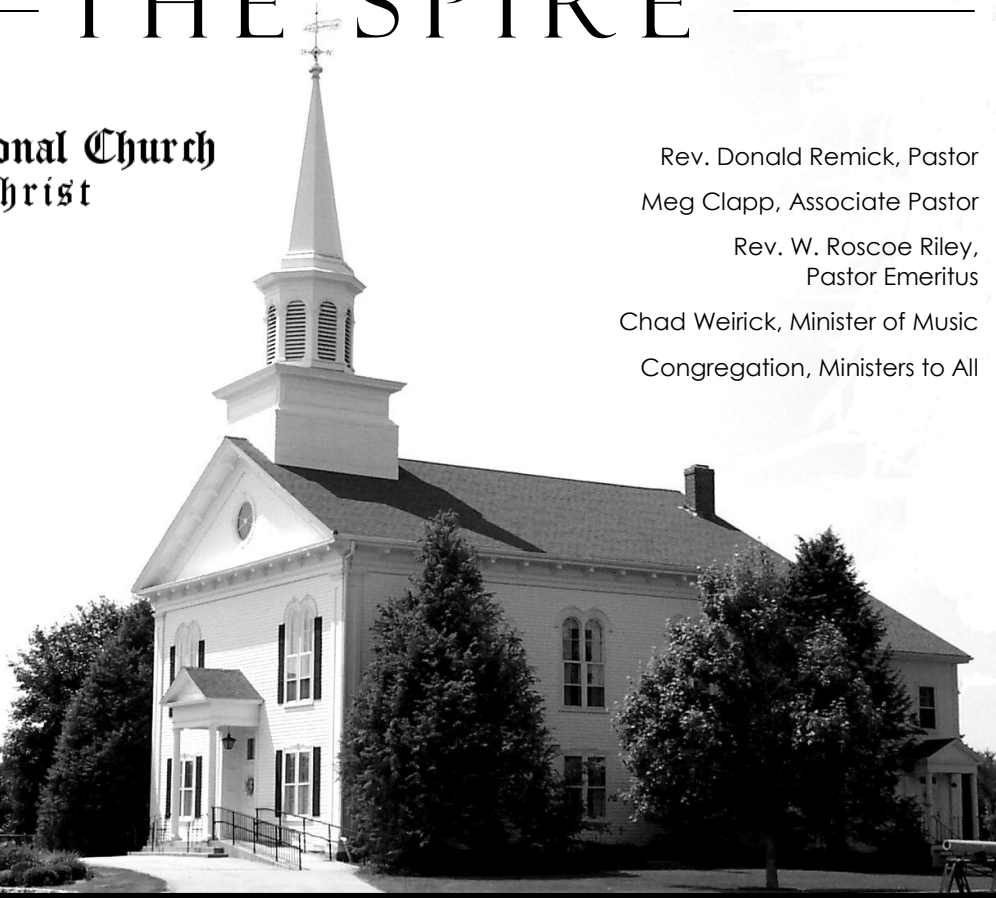
Rev. W. Roscoe Riley,
Pastor Emeritus

Chad Weirick, Minister of Music
Congregation, Ministers to All

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

SUNDAY

Nursery through
Grade 8



A COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR A GROWING COMMUNITY

EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE	8:30 A.M.
WORSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL	10:00 A.M.

(Babysitting is available at both services)

October 30, 2007

REJOICE, GIVE THANKS AND SING

This is the season of Thanksgiving. It's the season of Harvest. Those who walked the path of faith before us, lived closer to the earth. They knew how dependent they were on gentle rains, warm sun, fair winds and short winters. In our generation, we are more dependent on Shaws, Stop and Shop, Trader Joes and a global network of farm workers. It would be tempting to presume that the food we eat come from the money we've earned. It would be easy to forget the miles traveled and the calloused hands. But it doesn't take long, tracing that route back, before we realize that all we have comes first as a gift from God. Theologian Robert Ochs says there are three ways to take a gift: It may be taken for granted, it may be taken with guilt or taken with gratitude.

So come ye thankful people come and raise the song of harvest home. Gather together with us now to thank we all our God. This is the month to be thankful for the harvest of love and hope that is possible within our community of faith and because of our community of faith.

Don't forget to bring a friend to church to share in this joy.

First Congregational Church

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515 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339-2216

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SPIRE DEADLINE

E-Mail articles to Stacey Stahl at office@fcchanoverucc.org by **Monday, November 19 at noon**. Because this is Thanksgiving week, all articles must be e-mailed by the deadline.

Next Mailing: Wednesday, November 21, 2007

INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT WORKSHOP

The foundation of our faith is formed first at home. In our rituals, prayers, and acts of justice and compassion, we discover our faith and deepen it and pass it along. Advent has always been a season to prepare our spirits for the birth of Christ; the incarnation of God. We keep the light of this season's message alive by lighting candles each week. To bring that ritual home we are offering a chance for our church's households to gather and create their own Advent Wreath. We'll provide materials to create your own wreath and a liturgy that you can use at home whether yours is a household of one or one half a dozen. **We'll gather for coffee in the Parish Hall immediately after church on Sunday, November 25th.** Please sign up at church this month so we can be sure to have enough supplies. Because of a generous gift to the Pastor's Discretionary fund there is no cost for this workshop. Just come and join the fun.

Do You Want to Deepen Your Spirituality?

Weekly Fellowship Gatherings to Explore the Scripture

This month we will begin a discussion of the Biblical insights in the book "***Finding Sanctuary: Monastic Steps for Everyday Life***" In the BBC television show, *The Monastery*, the Abbot (Fr Christopher Jamison) guided five modern men (and three million viewers) into a new approach to life and this book now offers the reader a similar opportunity. No matter how hard you work, being too busy is not inevitable. Silence and contemplation are not just for monks and nuns, they are natural parts of life. Yet to keep hold of this truth in the rush of modern living you need the support of other people and sensible advice from wise guides. By learning to listen in new ways, people's lives can change and the abbot offers some monastic steps that help this transition to a more spiritual life. You can order the book from Amazon and read it in preparation for our discussion. We'll explore the book during our Monday evening gatherings beginning in October and leading through Advent.

Book Connoisseurs

What books have been most influential to your faith and life? During this month we will be taking a poll of books folks would like to read. We'll put together a list, select a book to read and set a date to gather when we're finished to talk about our reflections and learnings.

Moonlighters

The October meeting was well attended as we worked on Church fair projects and discussed upcoming events. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14th @ 7:30 in Riley Hall. At this time we will work on projects for our shut-ins to be delivered in time for Thanksgiving. Please join us for some fun, fellowship and food! New members and ideas are always welcome.

SEARCHING SEARCHING

Have you been a member of Moonlighters over the past 30 years? January 12, 1978 was the first meeting of the new evening women's group called "The Moonlighters". We would like to plan a 30th anniversary celebration sometime in early 2008 and invite all present and previous members. Please call Ruth Hall (781-585-1869) with your name and/or the names of others who may have been part of this group.

OUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY

After over a month of searching we have found a new church secretary. Stacey Stahl has joined our church staff as its newest member. She has worked in the area of life insurance, mutual funds and annuities with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans where she also served Manager of Lutheran Community Services. She has worked as a Customer Service Representative in Michigan and in computer projection sales. She is also a freelance graphic designer specializing in digital scrapbooking. Stacey is the wife of the new pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Cross (Rev. Michael Stahl). They have a daughter in kindergarten. She has extensive experience working with volunteer organizations and companies. She offers a warm welcome and a great smile to everyone who visits our office. Please extend the care and hospitality of our church to her. She will be in the office from 9 till noon Monday through Friday.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS MONTH

Labyrinth

Our **Outdoor Hanover Labyrinth** continues to draw people. The evening firewalks seem to particularly capture people's interest. People jog it, walk quietly, accompany their kids and even walk their dogs. The new granite benches have been added giving folks a place to sit contemplate and rest both in the center and on the outside. The bench in the center has been given in memory of Ellen Josselyn. The benches on the outside were an anonymous donation. The birdbath, shaped like a communion chalice, was given in memory of Laura Cervelli. Stop by in the early fall morning when the air is crisp. Stop by at night to watch the sunset light up the glorious fall foliage. The Firewalks will continue on **Wednesday evening** throughout the fall. The labyrinth is always open and with the light from our parking lot it is available round the clock. We will be offering some special programs in the Labyrinth this coming fall.

Worship in our **Indoor Labyrinth** rain or shine you can enjoy the quiet

walk filled with prayers. The light and colors stream in through our new windows. The music plays softly in the background. Check the website and the *IN-SPIRE* for additional times.

- First Thursday from 6:30 – 8:30 PM
- Second Saturday from 9-Noon
- Fourth Tuesday from 8:30 – 10 AM

We are always looking for more hands to help with the set up and take down of the labyrinth.

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is a tradition that goes back centuries in Christendom and Millennia in our Judeo-Christian heritage. It is a day set aside to remember loved ones we have lost and to honor the legacy they have left in our lives and our community. Again this year on **Sunday, NOVEMBER 4**, we will honor those whose lives and legacy have shaped our hearts and souls. They are the saints of our past whose memories and stories gather around us as we come to worship. Everyone will be invited to write their names on cards and bring those names forward to put at a table

setting on our communion table as a way of honoring them and holding them close with us in the embrace of God.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

This year our Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Monday, November 19th**. It will be held here. Thanksgiving began here in New England as the whole town gathered to give thanks for life, harvest and the love of God. The service will be lead by clergy and lay people from our town churches along with the voices of a combined choir. The service begins at 7:30 pm.

Evening Worship

This month we return to our Evening Worship of meditation and healing. We hold this on the third Sunday of each month. It is time for quiet reflection, guided meditation and prayers for healing. Mostly folks experience it as a time to rest your soul in the love and care of God. Join us this month on **Sunday evening November 18 at 7:30 pm.**

CELEBRATING A MINISTRY SSSSHHHHH!!!!

Doris Hotton has served our church as its secretary for over 3 decades. This fall she has retired from that position among us.

Anyone who has ever come to or called the church office is well aware of her care and her competence. She has taught church school, typed letters, answered endless questions, organized the office, kept boards and committees up to date, produced newsletters and made sure you received them.

She did all of this and more with an infinite smile and amazing poise and patience.

We would like to celebrate all that she has done and all that she has brought to our church.

An all church gathering isn't possible at this time, but we would love to invite you to offer Doris a gift. One of the most thoughtful gifts we could offer Doris is a card remembering and appreciating something that Doris has done for you or the church over

the years. Please send your cards to the church office and we will see that they are delivered to Doris. If you would like to include a check for Doris, please make it out to "First Congregational Church of Hanover." We'll combine these for a retirement gift.

Please don't mention this to Doris or her family. We want it to be a surprise.

Please send your gifts to the church by Veterans Day (November 11th)

LAURA'S COUNTRY CHURCH FAIR

Saturday, November 3 from 9:30 am-2 pm

Don't miss the fun. Spread the word.

The church fair has always been one of the high points in the life of our church year. It is a day to gather together to celebrate God's blessings. From Autumn to Advent, from Children's games to Christmas Crafts, every table – every room -- is filled, literally filled, with labors of love. There will be games for the kids, food for all, crafts, knitting, baked goods, preserves, books, jewelry, plants, fudge, toys and grandmas amazing attic treasures.

And that is only a part of the joy. There is an air of joy and laughter, fun and friendship that you can feel just walking into the room. Your heart will be filled, even if you walk away empty handed (though that is very unlikely).

Contact any of the following Fair Committee Members for any questions or interest:

Carol Osgood, Ruth Hall, Irene MacAskill, Linda Gilardi

YOUTH NEWS

Senior High

- November 3** Help out with the church fair-we need everyone to sign up
Pizza Night. Make your own pizza, bring a topping. Reflections on the
November 4 Holocaust and Darfur (6:30 – 8:30)
November 11 A marvelous movie or Simpson's - ART theme continues (6:30 – 8:30)
November 18 Bake Bread for Hanover Thanksgiving gift baskets (6:30 – 8:30)
December 1 Sort the evergreens
December 16 Reflection, fun, food and games (6:30 – 8:30)

LOOKING AHEAD

We are planning to help again with Common Cathedral worship and meal ministry in Boston. We'll give you specifics as the month unfolds.

EVERGREEN SALES

This is one of our key fundraisers for our Mission Trips. We need EVERYONE to get orders from friends, family and neighbors. A copy of the order form is included in this SPIRE.

Junior High:

- November 3** Help out with the church fair-we need everyone to sign up
November 4 Fun and food (4 - 5:45)
November 18 Fun and food (4 - 5:45)
December Fun and food (4 - 5:45)

Confirmation:

November 3...help out with the Church Fair

November 11...regular class, starting with church till 1 pm

November 18...regular class, starting with church till 1 pm

Church School News

We have had a wonderful time with the Ten Commandments this month. We have made popcorn and candy Mt. Sinai's, had a carnival with lots of candy (obviously an eating month!), watched great movies and did some wonderful artwork. I hope everyone has had a chance to see the tablet paintings the kids did on the wall leading to the Sunday School rooms.

Next month is Queen Esther, so expect to see some crowns floating around!

If your child has not received a new box of envelopes, please see me. I will try to make sure everyone has one, but do not hesitate to let me know if you need one. Our church are great at contributing to the church.

We still need some help in teaching. If the Spirit moves you, just call me at 781-826-4909.

See you Sunday. Deborah J. Bowen

STEP UP IN FAITH

Gail Devers wrote: *"Keep your dreams alive. Understand to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe."*

This past year despite our deficit budget our church has dared to listen to the dreams of God. Our church is moving with new winds of faith. We are imagining a more spiritually healthy budget that allows us to build on the strengths and vision of our church. Together with God we can make that happen. "We are limited, not by our abilities, but by our vision."

As our church leadership has gathered over the last several weeks, here is what they recognize as our church's needs:

For Meaningful Worship:

- Adding and maintaining equipment in our Sanctuary that will produce better audio and video to enhance our experience of worship
- Upgrading our video so we can bring our worship service to cable and internet as a way to reach out to our community and our homebound.
- Adding funds to expand our labyrinth ministry more fully into the community with music, meals and special events. This will not only offer more worship variety for church members, but will also be a way to draw new folks into our worship life.

For Focusing on Community:

- Expanding our funding of Outreach programs to our neighborhood and world.
- Funding to better utilize local media and community opportunities to share the story of our church.

For Caring for Children and Youth:

- Adding to our resources and classroom equipment so we can more effectively utilize the curriculum options -- including computer and internet access, updated video, a program to replace worn out furnishings, and new supplies
- More appropriately funding our Youth Ministries so we can cut back on the extensive fundraising. (The normal expenditure for effective youth ministries is \$1000 per youth for staffing and programs and events. Our church supports about one third of that, the rest is fundraising and fees.)
- Funding that will support our life changing Mission Trips as well as better program options for faith formation each week.

For Empowering Leadership:

- This past year we've begun new ministries like Prayer Shawls and Blankets, Worship Hosts, Kayak outings, Visitor Follow-up, Labyrinth Ministries, ...we want to have funds to encourage and support new opportunities to make a difference in our church and world.
- We hope to offer programs and speakers that help deepen our faith and open us to new possibilities to bring God's love and compassion into our world.
- We want to initiate Mission Trips for adult members of our church.

For Building Upkeep:

- We've added new fuel efficient boilers and windows, but fuel costs keep rising.
- Insurance costs keep escalating above the cost of living index.
- We need to fund a program for ongoing repairs, renovations and maintenance from our steeple to building structure to exterior paint to landscaping.

**To overcome our deficit and move into this vision we need the extraordinary generosity of our congregation to match the extraordinary vision of our God.
Please read our Stewardship material carefully and prayerfully.**