Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Stewardship Sunday 3
October 25, 2026

***** Some rise to their feet, some rise in their hearts—please rise as you are able.*

OPENING BELL
At the sound of the bell please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.

PRELUDE *Thanks Be to Thee,* G.F. Handel/McKinney Martha Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Paul Ashby

INVITATION TO WORSHIP **Whoever you are…and wherever you are on life's journey… you are welcome here!**

OPENING REFLECTION

CALL TO WORSHIP Nancy Palubicki

We are raised to think of ourselves as completely independent.
We often enjoy the myth of the rugged individualist who becomes a great success.
But that rugged individualist required teachers, friends and an entire network of people to keep them from starvation and support their work.
We all need a support system just to make it to first grade.
How many of us grow all our own food, build our homes and cars, provide our education and electricity?
We are connected to many life support systems we often take for granted.
Wisdom discovers the truth of our interdependence.
Jesus reminds us that he is the Vine and we are the branches.

****HYMN NCH #314 *Community of Christ* All

Community of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor,
take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
cry out for justice and for peace the whole world 'round:
disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun.
Our currency be love and kindliness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Paul

MISSION MOMENT Stephania Vasconez

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Respond to each shared prayer request with “Peace, Shalom, Salaam.”

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SIXTY SECONDS FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS/CONTEMPLATION

INVITATION TO OFFERING — Nancy

OFFERTORY — *Above All Else,* Joel Raney — Choir

**DOXOLOGY (tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*) — All

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Nancy

Holy Creator, Spirit and Life giver of this evolving universe, we celebrate our connections to this life-giving earth. We sense the connection that unfolds in every caring parent, every true friend, every support we receive from those who love us. As we dedicate our gifts make us aware of the gifts of love in every breath. Amen

****HYMN NCH 313 — *Like a Tree Beside the Waters* — All

Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care,
We, O God, your sons and daughters, your enduring witness bear.
In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard.
Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, living Word.

Like a tree beside the river, drawing life from holy streams,
Fill us with your love forever; recreate our hopes and dreams.
Through the storms of life sustain us by the wisdom of your grace.
May the changing of the seasons find us in your warm embrace.

We, beside the living waters, drink from your eternal life.
Give to all, your sons and daughters, faith that rises over strife.
O — Living God, most glorious, strengthen us for life today.
By the hope of timeless promise guide your church upon the Way.

SCRIPTURE — *John 15:1-5, Job 42:10-17 [NRSVUE]* — Nancy

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends, and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The

Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning, and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived one hundred and forty years and saw his children and his children's children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

MESSAGE "*There is a Little Charlie Brown in All of Us"* Paul

****HYMN 564 *We Are Not Our Own* All

We are not our own, Earth forms us, human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations, seeds of life divine.

We are not alone, Earth names us: past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us; dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us: we are not our own.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving, and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth and all things living, liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us on a way uncertain and unknown,
All the saints with prayer surround us: we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome, living stone upholding living stone,
Gladly showing all our neighbors we are not our own!

****BENEDICTION Paul

**** SUNG BENEDICTION *World Peace Prayer* All

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe!

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE

RECESSIONAL *Ash Grove*, Lloyd Larson Martha

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher	Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
liturgist	Nancy Palubicki
musician	Martha Jones

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