

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN LONGMEADOW
“Striving to be a Church the World needs Today!”



“Complaining About Others”

**COMMUNION SUNDAY
ORDER OF WORSHIP
February 2, 2025**

☞ *Those who are able, please stand.*

Prelude: "The Old Rugged Cross" Arr. Jenifer Cook

Welcome

Rev. Doug Bixby

Spotlight Souper Bowl of Caring

Marilyn Paul-Lewis

☞ **Call to Worship**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to our generous God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the giver of life!

People: Whose banquet is spread for all.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the God of love!

People: Who calls us to be nourished by his grace.

Opening Prayer & Sharing the Peace of Christ

☞ **Hymn** "Like a Mighty Stream" M. Hogan & J. Jacobson

Please refer to Page 5.

Scripture: Genesis 3:6-13

Liturgist, Marilyn Paul-Lewis

Leader: God is still speaking.

People: We are still listening.

Children's Moment: A Message for All Ages

Children will stay in worship on Communion Sundays.

Sermon: "Complaining About Others"

Rev. Doug Bixby

Anthem "How Can I Keep From Singing?" Greg Gilpin

Chancel Choir, Addison, Mezzo-Soprano

*"My life flows on in endless song - how can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm - how can I keep from
singing? What, though the tempest around me roars, I know the
truth it liveth. What, though the darkness around me close, songs*

in the night it giveth. I hear the real, though far off hymn that hails a new creation. It sounds like an echo in my soul, above earth's lamentations. Oh to the Rock, to the Rock I'm clinging. Oh to the Rock - how can I stop singing? Oh to the Rock, I'm clinging to the rock now. Oh to the Rock, hear me singing!"

Joys, Concerns, and Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts)

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 and ever, Amen.

Prayer Response #812 "Amen (Danish)" New Century Hymnal

Call to Communion

Rev. Doug Bixby

Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives. – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to you as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Communion Music "He Never Said a Mumblin' Word"
African-American Spiritual, Chancel Choir

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Announcements

Rev. Doug Bixby

Call to Offering

Offertory "Esto Les Digo" Kinsley Lange
Carey Larsen, soprano
Sue McNary, alto
Mark Todd, tenor
John Thomas, bass

"Esto les digo / si dos de ustedes se ponen de acuerdo aquí / en la tierra para pedir algo en oración / mi padre que está en el cielo se lo dará. / Porque donde dos o tres se reúnen en mi nombre / allí estoy yo, en medio de ellos. (This I say to you / if two of you are put in accord here / in the earth to ask anything in prayer / my Father which is in heaven, will give it to you / Because where two or three are gathered in my name / there am I, in the midst of them.)"

✠ 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

✠ #77 "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" SICILIAN MARINERS. New Century Hymnal (Black).

✠ Benediction

Postlude "Ricercare" Johann Pachebel

“Like A Mighty Stream”

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice___ and let us sing___
2. Oh, ev - 'ry trial___ we'll o - ver - come___

5
In ev - 'ry song___ Let free - dom ring___ From ev - 'ry soul
When ev - 'ry child___ Be - neath the sun___ And ev - 'ry soul

10
___ Comes a no - ble dream___ Let jus - tice roll___
___ Shall live as one___ The no - ble dream___

15 **REFRAIN**
like a might - y stream___ Like a might - y stream___
has just be - gun___

19
Like a might - y stream___ Let jus - tice roll___ Let jus - tice

24
roll___ Let jus - tice roll___ like a might - y stream___

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Please enjoy the beautiful flowers on the Altar. They were arranged by Marieke and Doug Burt.

*Please take home a Congregation Vision Survey and return to the office by Sunday, February 16 and consider signing up for a Vision Committee Team which will focus on a particular part of the building.
Please sign-up in the lobby.*

We would love to hear from you!

First Church of Christ Staff:

Rev. Doug Bixby – Pastor
Daniel Rose - Director of Music Ministries
Marilyn Paul-Lewis – Family Ministries Director
Crystal Dunn - Youth Leader
Stan Zdonick - Building and Technology Manager
Noelia Ortiz – Communications Director
Jill Labonte – Administrator

Church School Teachers:

Carolyn McGarr – Church School Teacher
Elaine Booke – Church School Teacher
Alexandra (Alex) Zolotor – Pre-K and Nursery Teacher

Chancel Choir Section Leaders:

Carey Larsen, soprano
Sue McNary, alto
Mark Todd, tenor
John Thomas, baritone





tacklehunger.org

On Sunday, Feb. 9th, many families will join with family members and friends to eat and drink while enjoying the camaraderie of the annual Super Bowl festivities and game. At the same time in our community, many people are homeless, cold, alone, and hungry.

This year on Super Bowl Sunday our children in Church School will once again participate in the national "Souper Bowl of Caring" as one of their service projects. Children will be stationed with soup pots at the doors of the church to accept monetary contributions, which we will then donate to the Open Pantry. Please consider helping our children support this ministry as they continue to learn about food insecurities and what they can do to help. (Checks can be made out to First Church with "Souper Bowl of Caring" in the memo line.)

For more information contact Marilyn at marilyn@firstchurchlongmeadow.org.

TODAY

Worship, Sanctuary, 10 am
Coffee Hour after Worship, Bailey Hall
Confirmation Class, Atwater Room, 11:30 am
Popcorn and a Movie! Buxton Rm, 3:00 pm
(Youth Event with Crystal)!

CHURCH CALENDAR – THIS WEEK

Wednesday, Social Justice and Adult Education,
Buxton Room, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
(Witness Stones discussion)

Thursday – Spirit Speaks, Study, 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 6:15 pm–7:15 pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm -9 pm

Friday, Capital Campaign Meeting, Buxton Rm, 2:15 pm

Saturday, Longmeadow HS Music Dept. Sanctuary, 6:30 pm
(Free concert to benefit Jewish Family Services
New American Settlement Program)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February Fling

The February Fling is this Friday, February 7 at 6pm. Dinner is made by a few men and served to all that attend this fun Friday Evening Fellowship event! Please join us at the beautiful home of John Thomas & Dennis Coffey, Westfield, MA. Please rsvp to Stew Creelman at 563-1343.

Reception of New Members and Baptism, Sanctuary, February 23