First Church of Christ, Congregational

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



October 18, 2026

Worship Bulletin Guide

Bold Words We speak together as one.

= Great section for kids!

***(Asterisk)** We stand together in body or spirit.

Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Prayer of Invocation

Prelude *In the Garden* C. Austin Miles, arr. John Purifoy

Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Hymn** *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*
The New Century Hymnal #17, verses 1 and 2

***Call to Worship** *inspired by Psalm 100 and 150*

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth, and let the noise become good news!

Many: We come to turn sorrow into gladness!

One: For every cry that has gone unanswered, for every hurt the world has overlooked,

Many: We come to build, to open, to repair!

One: Praise God with hands that work and hearts that widen. Praise God with doors thrown open and tables made long.

Many: Let there be room enough for everyone!

One: God is good, God's love has no end, and God's mercy reaches every generation.

Many: Let everything that breathes praise God!

Scripture Reading *inspired by Psalm 100 and 150*

Musical Response *Enter My Heart* James F.D. Martin

Enter my heart, enter my heart, O Spirit of pow'r and love,
May I proclaim your holy name. O Spirit, enter my heart.

Statement of Faith

Prayers of the People

The 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

Gift of Music *All Things Bright and Beautiful* John Rutter
Chancel Choir

A Chorus of Generosity Doug Sansom

Mission Statement as a Covenant

We follow Jesus. We tend the good world God has made.
And to one another, today, we make these promises:
We will open the door, every door, and keep it open, and no one who comes will be turned away.
We will let our differences make us stronger, and count every person as a gift we cannot do without.
We will go deeper, together, growing toward God even when the growing is hard.
We will serve, and keep serving, following Jesus toward whoever needs us most.
We will give, freely and gladly, because we have decided to trust that there is enough.
We make these promises because we have seen what love can do.
We believe lives can change. We believe ours already are.
This is who we choose to be, here, now, with each other.
Not someday. Today.

A Time for Giving

Invitation to Offering

***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**

Time with the Children

Meditation Pastor Chris Hart

***Closing Hymn** *Praise to the Living God*
The New Century Hymnal #8, verses 1 and 4

Benediction

Postlude All Creatures of Our God and King arr. Rafael Griffin

During the postlude, please feel free to greet your neighbor, engage in personal reflection, or exit for fellowship in the Gay Room.

Share, Listen, and Connect

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Cottage Meeting! **Wed, October 21st, 6:30pm** at the Remington home. As our congregation moves forward in the search for a settled minister, the **Profile Writing Team (PWT)** wants to hear from you. We will offer several opportunities for members to share their thoughts, questions, hopes, and concerns. We hope everyone will take advantage of at least one of these gatherings. Your voice matters as we listen, learn, and move forward together!

A Chorus of Generosity

"The best music is essentially there to provide you something to face the world with." - Bruce Springsteen

Your support helps us amplify our impact and build a brighter future. Join us **Generosity Sunday October 25th** as we lift our voices in harmony and make our collective message resonate on Generosity Sunday.



Mark your calendars for the annual town-wide "Christmas in Suffield" fair on the first weekend of November!

First Church will be bustling with local craft vendors, the basket raffle, the Attic Treasures tag sale, a delicious bake sale, and a country store filled with local goods! November 7th from 9:00am - 3:00pm. After visiting First Church, be sure to check out the other locations in the area! *Maps of locations will be available at the event.* All proceeds from our church booths directly support our upcoming **Rise Against Hunger** meal-packaging event.

We need your helping hands and donations to make this festive weekend a success! Donate a basket, a baked good, or your time during the event. Sign-up online, through the church office, or in the E. Gay Room.



The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and provided by Bobbie Rodgers.

We are excited to host another meal packaging event with Rise Against Hunger on *Sunday, November 15th*, immediately following worship! Every dollar you give to *Going the Extra Mile* this month directly funds the ingredients and supplies needed for our packaging assembly line. By donating, you are fueling a team effort that delivers life-changing nutrition straight to families who need it most. Together, we can go the extra mile to fight global hunger!

Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor Chris Hart, Interim Minister, call or text (774) 318-6006

In-office & pub Hours posted on the church website calendar

Pastor Sarah Roman Greaves, Seminarian

Amy Pott, Director of Worship Arts

Joseph Cain, Kat Guthrie, Anne Graczyk, & Nicholas Roche

Chancel Choir section leaders

Jasmine Byrne, Lay leader

Dick Lathrop, A Chorus of Generosity

Lisa Kucia, Deacon greeter

Carolyn Blighton & Kris Uzdarwin, Ushers

Zak Wosko, A/V & livestream technician

Cyndie DeMur, Chancel guild

Amber Bigley, Office Manager

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Communication and Behavioral Covenant

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and... forgive each other... Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." - Colossians 3:12–15

Conflict and disagreement are a natural part of our life together. In every season, we covenant today to bear with one another, forgive one another, and be knit together in love, trusting God to guide us as we build community through both joy and struggle.

Compassion

I will care for others through presence, listening, encouragement, and practical support. I will welcome others and make space for all, honoring their individual uniqueness. When there is exclusion or tension, I will continue to extend welcome.

Faith

Through prayer and reflection, I will nurture my faith, holding onto hope in times of uncertainty, cultivating joy, laughter, generosity, and celebration, and trusting in God's guidance, knowing that doubt itself is part of the journey.
I will show up, participate, and help build belonging and community by sharing my gifts of time, energy, and resources. If others withdraw, I will invite reconnection.

Integrity

I will speak honestly, listen deeply, and communicate directly, carefully choosing my words and moments with intention and care. I will practice transparency, seek understanding, and invite open conversation.

I will stay engaged in moments of tension and disagreement. I will listen before reacting, seeking mutual understanding. I will act with courage, acknowledging my mistakes.

I will not hold tightly to my own way, but remain open to compromise and commit to supporting what the group decides, even when it differs from my own view. I will extend and seek forgiveness so we may move forward with love and compassion.

Created by the congregation in 2026