



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS On **Sunday May 10, from 11 am to 1 pm**, there will be a display of beautiful artificial flowers set up outside in front of the church. The flowers are free to anyone who can use them. They would work well for decorations in your home or for cemetery memorials. Please stop by and pick up some flowers. Our thanks to the Paolino Family for their generous contribution

WE ARE OPENING THE CHURCH FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FREE LUNCH. 11 AM—2 PM on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 All are welcome, invite a neighbor and friend. Let's get to know each other better. Eastertide and Spring is a time of new life. Let's share our abundance and make new friends.

FAIR HAVEN SPRING FLING will be Saturday May 23, 2026 9:00 am until sold out. Deacons will once again set up outside the church to sell cinnamon rolls for \$5 each. Want to bake? We could use your help. Please talk to Debbie Pratt

ECUMENICAL PENTECOST PICNIC IN THE PARK—SUNDAY, MAY 24TH Join us as we bring back an old tradition. The "God Squad" will begin the walk from Our Lady of Seven Dolors at **1:00PM**, meeting parishioners at the different churches as we walk to St. Luke's, The Baptist Church, The Methodist Church and ending at our church to follow the Holy Spirit throughout the park. We ask that everyone bring a dish to share, we will have hot dogs and lemonade to accompany your treats.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FAIR HAVEN

~ALL ARE WELCOME HERE! ~ MAY 3, 2026 ~

~ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ COMMUNION ~ NEW MEMBER ~

"MY FATHER'S HOUSE

HAS MANY ROOMS:

IF THAT WERE NOT SO,

WOULD I HAVE TOLD

YOU THAT I AM GOING

THERE TO PREPARE

A PLACE FOR YOU?"

JOHN 14:2, NIV



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY *"The Bible teaches that our homes should be hospitable and that those who come in and out of our homes should sense the presence of Christ."* Billy Graham



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~ MAY 3, 2026 ~ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~

PRELUDE *In the Garden* arr. Steven Scott Sharon Pinsonnault

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Jane

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES & RINGING OF THE BELL Lynn S. & Debbie P.

One: What is our church's mission?

Many: To embody God's powerful love...

- welcoming all people, with a vision and message of hope,
- weaving deep relationships with Jesus and each other,
- working, praising and playing in our towns and world.

OPENING HYMN (CH) # 278 *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*

Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand; looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand. As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray: Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.

Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands; yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands. While in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth: Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.

Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease; where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace? Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife: Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.

Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love; help us as we work and pray; send us from above truth and courage, faith and power needed in our strife: Jesus, Savior, be our Way; be our Truth, our Life.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

People: **I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Leader: In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

People: **I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Leader: In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

People: **I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Leader: In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

People: **I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Leader: Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.

People: **Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

ALL: *Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus: for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the glory of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Together we trust in this moment of transformation which is made possible by You. Give us the strength to continue on the journey and to set tables that are welcoming and ever expanding.*

CLOSING HYMN (CH) # 432 *O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life*

*O Christ, the Way, the Truth the Life,
be with us now, we pray;
direct our steps as we go forth
to do your will this day.*

*O faithful Guide, renew our trust
in love that does not fail;
and give us strength to work and pray,
that peace may soon prevail.*

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

CHORAL BENEDICTION *This Little Light of Mine*

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

*Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

BENEDICTION

Pastor Jane

POSTLUDE *Siciliano* Domenico Scarlatti Sharon Pinsonnault

Please join us for Coffee and Fellowship following the service

Thank you for coming to worship with us!

IMMEDIATE NEEDS PRAYER LIST: Pam Berryhill, Jeff Buxton, C.J.,
Connie Munukka, Carlene Kasuba, Jessica Smith, Rick Hall, Jeanne Cole,
Erik Van Scoy, Vance, Chris, Joe and Matt, Peter, Jennifer Clement,
Maggie Ashton

All: *At this table, we are included and room is ever being made to include more. More love, more understanding, more food, more drink, more community, and more good and goodness.*

One: Your invitation is eternal for this table belongs to God. We don't get to decide who we sit next to, but we do get to decide to enjoy whoever is seated.

All: *So come to the table, where strangers become friends, friends become family, and family keeps expanding.*

One: Come as you are and leave better than how you came.

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: In the beginning, the earth was formed. It was the first table that all creations were invited to. This table has gone through several iterations and holds steady. Jesus was at this table at some point in history. He lived, he taught, he was put to death, and then he resurrected. In doing all these things, he taught us a new way to look at tables and how to set them inclusively.

All: *He showed us that we are included in the heart and mind of God always and he taught us how to include those we might be inclined to label as "other". For these reasons among many others, we give thanks for this meal.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: We remember that night during the Passover Jesus had his last meal at a table, with those closest to him. There, they shared their love of God and Jesus and of each other. In the midst of love, Jesus gave thanks and broke the bread and said, something like this, "Take and eat this gift from the earth and from the human hands that prepared it and know that God gives it to you, a blessing for your body and your spirit." Later, Jesus took a cup and after blessing it said something like this, "Drink this fruit of the vine, the gift of the sun and labor in the fields. Taste and know the goodness of God."

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

All: *Come Holy Spirit. Bless this bread and cup and bless each of us. May these elements transform us. May they inspire and give us courage to follow the way of Jesus, which is ever inclusive and expanding.*

One: Come, for our table is ready, let's eat this bread & drink this cup together.

COMMUNION VIDEO *Remembrance* (Communion Song) Matt Redman

GIVING THANKS

One: Let us give thanks.

INVOCATION

Ron Stack

PRAISE & WORSHIP VIDEO *Shine Jesus Shine*

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 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.*

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

TIME WITH THE YOUNG

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: Will the new members please come forward?

Lead Deacon: Introduces the candidates

Pastor: Let us pray: Gracious God we thank you for the life journey that brought these new people to our church. We celebrate the unique impact that they will make here and already has made here through their presence, gifts and talents. May the people of the First Congregational Church of Fair Haven offer support in times of trouble and rejoice with you always. May our church community strengthen your faith and deepen your discipleship. All this we pray in Christ's name. Amen

QUESTIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS:

Pastor: Today we make a covenant with each other. We make promises to one another, before God, so that we can depend on each other through good times and hard times. We do so that we can live together in the kingdom of heaven on earth. You are all beloved children of God. You now have a church community and a people. We ask you:

Do you affirm your faith in God as your Creator, in Christ as your inspiration, and in the Holy Spirit as your guide and strength? If so, please say, I do.

New Members: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise to work to grow in faith and to be an active and joyful member of this church? If so, say, I promise with the help of God.

New Members: I do so with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise as you are called and are able to participate in the life and mission of this people of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves our community and world? If so, say, I promise with the help of God.

New Members: I promise with the help of God.

PROMISE FROM THIS CHURCH

Pastor: Members of this church: do you promise to help each member a place in this body of Christ, to pray with and for them, to welcome them fully into holy friendship, to comfort them in distress and to serve them, in times of need? If so, please answer, We promise with the help of God.

Congregation: We promise with the help of God.

Pastor: Now let us say our church covenant together:

To embody God's infinite love and grace by:

Believing that ALL people are God's children, made by God in God's image.

Accepting and intentionally including people of every race, culture, age, gender identity, sexual orientation and/or expression, religious background, and differently abled into this community of faith. Fully opening our doors to ALL to participate in worship, prayer, fellowship, communion, service, membership, baptism and marriage. Sharing in God's boundless love always.

RECEPTION INTO FELLOWSHIP:

Congregation: We, the members of this church, receive you into our fellowship with great joy! God may grant you may find here a fellowship of love and service in which we all may work together as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. We look forward to our walk together in Christ. Amen

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the congregation, we extend the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company and family of the First Congregational Church of Fair Haven.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 14:1-14

Mary Ann Charron

SERMONIC SONG *I Want to Go Home*

*We come on the sloop John B My grandfather and me
Around Nassau town, we did roam Drinking all night
Got into a fight Well, I feel so broke up I want to go home*

*So hoist up the John B's sail See how the mainsail sets
Call for the captain ashore Let me go home
Let me go home I wanna go home, yeah-yeah, yeah
Well, I feel so broke up I wanna go home
The first mate he got drunk And broke in the captain's trunk
The constable had to come and take him away
Sheriff John Stone Why don't you leave me alone? Yeah, yeah
Well, I feel so broke up I wanna go home
So hoist up the John B's sail See how the mainsail sets
Call for the captain ashore Let me go home
Let me go home I wanna go home Let me go home
Why don't you let me go home? Hoist up the John B's sail Well,
I feel so broke up I wanna go home Let me go home
The poor cook, he caught the fits And threw away all my grits
And then he took, and he ate up all of my corn
Let me go home Why don't they let me go home?
This is the worst trip I've ever been on
So hoist up the John B's sail See how the mainsail sets
Call for the captain ashore Let me go home
Let me go home I wanna go home Let me go home*

SERMON Home

Pastor Jane

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY *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.*

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Deacons Lisa and Ron

INVITATION

One: Come, all who hunger.

All: *Come all who thirst.*

One: Come no matter what's needed because everyone needs something and everyone needs someone.