

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS PRAYER LIST :** Pam Berryhill, Jeff Buxton, C.J., Connie Munukka, Carlene Kasuba, Dorothy Stack, Shawn and Becky; Jessica Smith, David Stack, Joe Verga, Rick Hall, Jeanne Cole, Erik VanScoy, Vance, Mary Ann Charron, Michelle Grenier, Chris.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WARNING

#### First Congregational Church Fair Haven, VT, UCC

The members of the First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, Vermont UCC are hereby warned to meet at the church on **Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.** immediately following the worship service to transact the following business:

1. To vote on the status of the Rainbow Door.

The vote will contain three choices:

- A. Remove the Door
- B. Leave the Door as is
- C. Alter the door to include the wording on display in Reed Chapel

The vote will be taken by paper ballot. **You may vote only one choice.** The majority will win the vote. The meeting will be available on Zoom for those who are unable to attend in person. Absentee ballots will be available by December 1, 2025. Contact Mary Brown, Clerk, or Steve Fredette, Moderator, if you need an absentee ballot and did not receive one by email. Steve Fredette, Moderator

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be held on **Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 4:00 PM.**

**LIVE NATIVITY Saturday, December 20th at 6:00 PM**

**BAKE COOKIES WITH US TUESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 9TH**

**GIFTS FOR A FAIR HAVEN FAMILY IN NEED** Please see the list to sign-up in Reed Chapel. All gifts must be here next Sunday, December 14th



First Congregational Church of Fair Haven, UCC  
3 North Park Place, Fair Haven, VT 05743  
802-265-8864 [www.fhucc.org](http://www.fhucc.org) [church@fhucc.org](mailto:church@fhucc.org)



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FAIR HAVEN**  
~ALL ARE WELCOME HERE! ~ DECEMBER 7, 2025 ~  
~ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~



**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY** *“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.” — Jimi Hendrix*



~ DECEMBER 7, 2025 ~ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~

**PRELUDE** *Gloria* Charles Sergisson

Sharon Pinsonnault

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Jane

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES & RINGING OF THE BELL**

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) # 140 O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:** Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things, far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge of show,  
and cause us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **Refrain**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** Gather around, you are welcome here and you will hear Good News.

**People:** *In a world where there are so many discouraging and negative voices Lord, we need you more than ever.*

**Leader:** It is the God of encouragement who will speak to you today. The God of Jesus Christ.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL:** We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we may experience Christ and receive his gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives: through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN (CH) # 352 *Spirit Song***

Oh let the Son of God enfold you  
With His Spirit and His love  
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul  
Oh let Him have the things that hold you  
And His Spirit like a dove  
Will descend upon your life and make you whole

**Chorus** Jesus, oh Jesus  
Come and fill Your lambs  
Jesus, oh Jesus  
Come and fill Your lambs

Oh come and sing this song with gladness  
As your hearts are filled with joy  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name  
Oh give Him all your tears and sadness  
Give Him all your years of pain  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name **Chorus**

**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**

**POSTLUDE** *Jesus, Who Didst Ever Guide Me* J.S. Bach      Pastor Jane      Sharon Pinsonnault

*Thank you for coming to worship with us!*

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care. We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in your beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history. We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven we glorify you:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same ways, Jesus took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

**Many: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!**

One: Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

**Many: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit!**

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready. Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

**Each person is invited to tear off a piece of bread  
and dip it in the cup as it is passed**

**People: So come in, relax, let your tiredness roll away. We will lift up our hearts and listen.**

**Leader: Gathered as God's children, we prepare for the birth of our Savior.**

### **LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT PEACE**

**Reader 1: Today we light the Candle of Peace.**

**Reader 2: There is a hush in our hearts as we wait to feel the peace of God envelop us.**

**Reader 1: We imagine it as delicate as a lily's petals opening, as a blanket pulled snug beneath our chin, as a breeze shaking the oak's branches on a sunny morning.**

**Reader 2: We expect peace to come gently, but when has anything worth while come without pain? A baby cries in birth as the mothers sweats and shakes. Imperfect compromises leave both sides vulnerable. A voice that rallies us to change is often silenced too soon.**

**Reader 1: Striving for peace is no different. It is fierce, and loud, and it requires tenacity. Peace is complicated. Peace is a sip of water after the longest night. Peace is the flame within that we must keep lit for the sake of all.**

**Reader 2: Peace is the hush, and it is the clatter.**

**ALL: Peace is God's love, acted out loud.**

### **INVOCATION**

### **PRAISE & WORSHIP Chalice Praise # 72 My Peace**

*My peace I give unto you  
It's a peace that the world  
Cannot give*

*It's a peace that the world  
Cannot understand*

*Peace to know, peace to live  
My peace I give unto you*

*My love I give unto you  
It's a love that the world  
Cannot give  
It's a love that the world  
Cannot understand*

Mary Ann Charron

*Love to know, love to live  
My love I give unto you  
It's a love that the world  
Cannot understand  
My love I give unto you*

## 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—A MESSAGE OF GOD'S LOVE

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Isaiah 11:1–10, Romans 15:4–5, 13; Matthew 3:1–12  
Joanie Brown

## SERMONIC HYMN (CH) # 487 *Help Us Accept Each Other*

*Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted  
and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them  
or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love,  
to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness  
and laughter's healing art.  
Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us, make us one!*

Pastor Jane

**SERMON** Breakfast with the Branch

**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 HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

One: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**Many:** *In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.*

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

One: God be with you.

**Many:** *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many:** *We lift them to God.*