

# First Congregational Church of Wakefield United Church of Christ



Gathered 1785



*We are an Open and Affirming congregation.  
No matter where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*



*"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.  
It shouldn't be that women are the exception." Ruth Bader-Ginsburg*

## **February 22nd, 2026**

Minister—Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.

Sunday Deacons—Gail Feddern & Anne Palmariello

Greeters—Jeff Hebert, Linda Messer, Nancy & Jeff Perkins

Tech Team—Kaylee Fogg, Nathan Fogg,  
Frank Frazier, Morgan Gehring, Carol Jeffery,  
Mjo McCarthy & Barry Truhn

Organists—Cindy Eggleston & Beverly Woods  
Voice Choir Director—Cindy Eggleston  
Bell Choir Director—Kevin Connell  
Guitarist—Buddy Dee

# **Welcome to Sunday Worship!**

(\* Please stand if able. Bold content is read in unison.)

## **Introit & Candle Lighting**

### **Greeting & Reply**

**\*Opening Hymn** (*see screen*) “Lead Me to Calvary” HFG #407, vs. 1, 2 & 4

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Lift up your voice and call out to God.

**Many: We cry out, believing God hears us.**

One: Come together and wait for God.

**Many: We come together, trusting God is still speaking.**

One: Surely God’s presence is here with us now.

**Many: We wait in hope, for God’s steadfast love lifts our hearts.**

One: Surely God’s word will accomplish all God intends

**Many: We wait in confidence, for God is a present help.**

One: Come, Worship the Lord.

**Many: *We celebrate the power of God that restores us.***

## **The Scripture Readings** (*see insert or screen*)

*Gloria Ballinger*

Hebrew Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4a (*NRSV*)

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-5, 11-17 (*NRSV*)

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Invocation**

**Congregational Hymn of Choice** (*see screen*) “Jesus Loves Me” HFG #226

(*Choir will lead, but we invite the congregation to sing as well!*)

**Passing the Peace of Christ** (*if you feel comfortable doing so*)

### **\*Singing of 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 Debts (Trespases), as we forgive our Debtors (Trespas) 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.**

## **Announcements**

**Offering**

**Voice Choir Offertory Anthem** “Christ Is with Us”

*Arranged by Benjamin Harlan*

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

**\*Sermonic Hymn** (*see screen*) “Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior” HFG #416

**Message** Silent Surrender

**Matthew 6:16-18**

**<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you!”**

**Responding to God’s Word Video** (*see screen*)

“God So Loved the World” by *Sir John Goss*

**Prayers of the People**

**Service of the Lord’s Supper** (*see inserts*)

**Benediction** (*see screen*) “Fill My Cup Lord”

**Postlude**





*Please join us for a wonderful coffee hour  
downstairs after service.  
ALL ARE WELCOME!*



**\*\*HAPPENINGS & REMINDERS\*\***

- *The Print Directory is being updated now, please email [churchoffice@fccwakefieldnh.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccwakefieldnh.org) by March 15th if you have any updates to your info or would like to be added or removed.*
  - *The choir is taking Hymn Requests, please place them in the collection plate.*
  - *Evening Bible Study with Rev is on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays! All Welcome!*
    - *Please let Ken Ballinger know if someone would like a Home Communion Visitation.*

**\*\*\*See Steeple Views & Happenings Emails for Updates & Details\*\*\***

- CareGivers Support Group: 1st & 3rd Mon @ 9:30 am
  - Finance Ministry Meeting: 3rd Mon @ 1 pm
    - Adult Faith Formation: Tues @ noon
    - Ukulele Club: 2nd & 4th Tues @ 6 pm
    - Chair Yoga w/ Pam: Wed @ 10 am
    - Diaconate Meeting: 1st Wed @ 5 pm
- End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting: Thurs @ 10 am
  - Evening Bible Study: 1st & 3rd Thurs @ 5:30 pm
    - Parish Helper's Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 1 pm
    - BLPOA Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 6 pm
  - Leadership Council Meeting: 2/22 following fellowship

**Prayers**

Sara M, Gerard B, Lois B, Nancy B, Brian T, Cindy E, Our UCC Sister Church in Zimbabwe, Richwood, LA Detainees: Pastor Ruzana, Mila, Mostafah, Arezo, Matisa, Rosa, Sophie, Somaya, Mahsa, Flore and the many who's names we do not yet know.



**Credits**

1. Our songs are covered under our music license, One License #742268-A
2. Graphics: churchart.com



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