



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 27, 2025**

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

God of Grace and God of Glory

Harry Emerson Fosdick

John Hughes

God of grace and God of Glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple pour Thy power;
Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as - sail His ways!
Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring - mad - ness; Bend our pride to Thy con - trol;
Set our feet on loft - ty pla - ces, Gird our lives that they may be

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Crown Thine an - cient Chur - ch's sto - ry, Bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
From the fears that long have bound us, Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Shame our wan - ton, self - fish glad - ness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
Ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es In the fight to set men free.

9

Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, For the fac - ing of this
Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, For the liv - ing of these
Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's
Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, That we fail not man nor

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hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
days, For the liv - ing of these days.
goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.
Thee, That we fail not man nor Thee.

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

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This Sunday we welcome Keith Obert
as Worship Leader

Praise and Worship

Welcome

Keith Obert

Passing of the Lord's Peace

Children's Church

Keith Obert

Organ

The Tomb Is Empty - Lani Smith (1934-2025)

Introit

"Walk through Life" - Pinkzebra
The TrebleMakers Youth Choir

***Call to Worship**

Dear God, we gather together your people in your house to do
your work. 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! Amen!***

***Unison Prayer**

***Gracious God, we thank You for calling us to be Your
people and for inviting us to share in Your work in the
world. Give us willing hearts and ready hands to
serve You faithfully. Help us to listen for Your voice,
to follow where You lead, and to use our gifts for Your***

glory. Fill us with Your spirit, that we may love as You love, give as You give, and serve as Jesus served. May our actions reflect Your goodness and may our lives bear fruit that honors You. Strengthen us to persevere in doing good, trusting that You are with us in every task. Let all that we do bring praise to Your holy name. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *God of Grace and God of Glory* (Page 1)

First Scripture Reading *1 Chronicles 28:20*

Then David said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and of good courage, and do it. Fear not, be not dismayed; for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.”

Second Scripture Reading *John 15:8*

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.

***Hymn** *May We, O Holy Spirit, Bear Your Fruit* (Page 6)

Sermon *Doing God’s Work* Keith Obert

Musical Reflection *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

REFRAIN

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name.

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Prayers of the People (*Joys and Concerns*)

Pastoral Prayer

Keith Obert

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 and ever; Amen.

Call to Offering

Keith Obert



*Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Praise the Creator and the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, three in one.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.***

*Prayer of Dedication

Keith Obert

*Closing Hymn

Go Make of All Disciples

(Page 7)

*Benediction

*Departing Together *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Amen.*

Postlude

Marche Pontificale

- C. Gounod (1818-1893)

White for Easter
Easter Sunday is traditionally white,
symbolizing the joy, purity, and the resurrection of Christ.
White represents the purity and glory of God's light
and is used during Easter Sunday and
the entire Easter season to signify
the joyous occasion of Christ's resurrection.

THIS IS MY CHURCH

- Anonymous

It is composed of people like me. We make it what it is.

It will be friendly--- if I am.

Its pews will be filled--- if I help fill them.

It will do a great work--- if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes--- if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship--- if I bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit--- if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be.

May we, O Holy Spirit, bear your fruit

1. May we, O Ho - ly Spir - it, bear your fruit - your
 2. May pat - ience stem the harm - ful word and deed, and
 3. May faith - ful - ness en - dure, yet as we grow may

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joy and peace per - vade each word we say; may love be - come of
 kind - ness seek the good a - mong the wrong; may good - ness far be -
 gen - tle - ness lend cour - age to the weak; and in our self - re -

9

life the ve - ry root, and grow more deep and strong with ev - ry day.
 yond our lips pro - ceed, as man - i - fest in ac - tion as in song.
 strait help us to know the grace that made the King of Hea - ven meek.

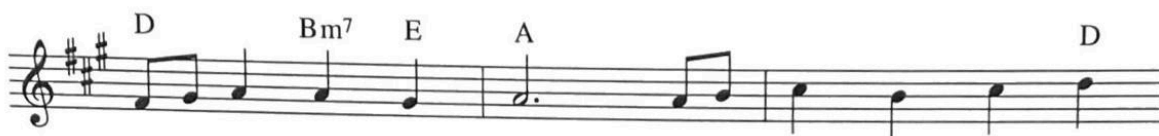
792 Go Make of All Disciples



1. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples." We hear the call, O
2. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples," Bap - tiz - ing in the
3. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples." We at your feet would
4. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples." We wel - come your com -



Lord, That comes from you, our Fa - ther, In
 name Of Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it— From
 stay Un - til each life's vo - ca - tion Shows
 mand. "Lo, I am with you al - ways." We



your e - ter - nal Word. In - spire our ways of
 age to age the same. We call each new dis -
 forth your ho - ly way. We cul - ti - vate the
 take your guid - ing hand. The task looms large be -



learn - ing Through earn - est, fer - vent prayer, And
 ci - ple To fol - low you, O Lord, Re -
 na - ture God plants in ev - 'ry heart, Re -
 fore us— We fol - low with - out fear. In



let our dai - ly liv - ing Re - veal you ev - 'ry - where.
 deem - ing soul and bod - y By wa - ter and the Word.
 veal - ing in our wit - ness The Mas - ter Teach - er's art.
 heav'n and earth your pow - er Shall bring God's king - dom here.

Text: Matthew 28:19–20; Leon M. Adkins, 1896–1986, alt., © 1964, Abingdon Press
 Tune: ELLACOMBE, 7 6 7 6 D; *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Württemberg*, 1784

Serving You Today

Worship Leaders:

Ministers of the Congregation
Pastor
Director of Music Ministries
Ushers/Greeters
Lay Reader

All Members of First Church
Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick
Kiel Krommer
Janice Muldrew/Donna Okscin
Roseann Vinciguerra

Officers:

Moderator
Clerk
Treasurer
Chair, Board of Deacons
Chair, Board of Trustees

Cindy DeSellier
Carol Mullen
Suzanne Kelley
Jeanne Dill
Suzanne Kelley

Members at Large:

Lynn Galica
Elaine Harris
Mary Newland

Staff:

Church Administrator
Sunday School Superintendent
Custodian

Lee Brahen
Erin Greene Wallace
Linda Whippie

Office Hours, Pastoral Care, and Contact Information

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You can always leave a message on the church answering machine at 413-267-3312 when the office is not staffed, or contact the office by email at office@firstchurchmonson.org.

Pastor's Hours

Monday 8:30 - 4:30 *remotely*, and Tuesday - Thursday from 8:30 - 4:30 *in-office*. If you are unable to meet during any of those hours, Pastor Holly is happy to meet outside those times by appointment, and can be reached by email at pastor@firstchurchmonson.org, or by phone at (808) 371-4701. For urgent matters, please contact her at any time by calling (808) 371-4701.

IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS

Please complete a Prayer Request Form and place it in the offering plate if you wish to include a name in next Sunday's bulletin. Your loved one will remain on the prayer list for one month, after which you may resubmit a request if necessary.

For healing and support:

Oliver Holden

J. Harris

Wilhelmina Brahen

Ali Foisy

Delores LaRose

Cheryl Howland

Christine Wilson

Karen

Ray Ray

For comfort in grief:

The Family of Philip Wallander

The Family and Friends of Barry Muldrew

Deb Laviolette and family

For strength and comfort during war and disaster:

The people of Ukraine

The people of Israel and Gaza

The people of Palestine and Lebanon

The people of Syria

For all service people, wherever they may be:

Chelsea Carr

Malik Pugh, USMC

Michael Wales, USN

Stephen Dill, USN

Tim Olson, USN



Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Andy and Trish Nolen-Parkhouse in celebration and remembrance of Dale Nolen who would be 100 years of age this month.

This Week in the Life of the Congregation

April 27, Sunday

Pastor Holly Vacation

10:00 a.m. - Worship (S)

11:00 a.m. - Fellowship (F)

11:45-12:45 p.m. - Community Choir (SA)

11:45-12:45 p.m. - Deacons Meeting (L)

12:00-6:00 p.m. - Jazz Bones Concert (F/K/S)

April 28, Monday

Pastor Holly Vacation

3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SA)

6:00-8:00 p.m. - Cub Scouts (SA)

April 29, Tuesday

Pastor Holly Vacation

Carpet Cleaning - Fellowship Hall

5:15-6:15 p.m. - PiYo Class (SA)

April 30, Wednesday

Carpet Cleaning - Fellowship Hall

6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SA)

May 1, Thursday

National Prayer Day

5:15-6:15 p.m. - PiYo Class (SA)

6:30-8:00 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal (SSA)

6:30-8:30 p.m. - Prayer Shawl (F)

May 3, Saturday

7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L)

9:00- noon All-Church Work Day

May 4, Sunday

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)

11:00 a.m. - Fellowship (F)

11:45-12:45 p.m. - Community Choir (SA)

C - Sprague Chapel

F - Fellowship Hall

K - Kitchen

L - Library

S - Sanctuary

SA - Sunday School Auditorium

SS - Sunday School Classroom

Church News

Fellowship Update. There will be no fellowship today as the Music Committee will be setting up for the Jazz Bones reception. Hosts for fellowship are needed on May 4. If you are interested, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

FCM Safety Team. Here at First Church, safety is a top priority. It is even part of our statement of faith: "We will provide a safe haven - physically, emotionally, and spiritually - for all those whom God sends us." As such, the Church Council is developing a safety team, and we are seeking folks interested in serving on this team. If you have a passion for the safety of others, please consider joining this new team, by contacting Cindy DeSellier, or another Church Council member. All are welcome to serve.

Free Concert. Today at 3 p.m. the Jazz Bones, under the direction of David Neill, will perform at First Church. The ensemble consists of four tenor trombones, one bass trombone, guitar, bass, and drums. The concert is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the First Church Music Committee and the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Guidelines for Announcements during Worship Service.

Church Council hopes to streamline the announcement process during the Sunday worship service. Announcements should be printed in the bulletin whenever possible. If you want to make an oral announcement, please follow these guidelines.

1. Give Pastor Holly a short, clearly written announcement for her to read.
2. Sit in the first row near the lectern if you wish to be recognized during announcement time.
3. Write out your announcement so that you can deliver it succinctly.

Carpet Cleaning. The Fellowship Hall and staircase carpets will be cleaned on Tuesday, April 29. Please remove small items to facilitate furniture removal.

All-Church Work Day. On Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to noon, the trustees are sponsoring an All-Church Work Day. Please come to straighten and clean neglected areas of the church. Bring the cleaning supplies you need to do the jobs that you want to do. You can wash baseboards, dust library books, straighten the Wallace Room, vacuum pew cushions, etc. All workers are welcome!

Character Dinner and Concert. Please mark your calendars for an upcoming character dinner and free concert featuring the Treble Makers Youth Choir. The event will be on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The evening will begin with a character dinner at 5:00 p.m., followed by the free concert at 7:00 p.m. The dinner is \$10 per person (children under 4 are free) and the family maximum will be capped at \$40. Please plan to attend and interact with the characters!

A Switch from Carrots to Salads in Loaves and Fishes Program. For the past seven months, we have been serving cooked carrots as the side dish to the lasagna or chicken & rice casseroles that we prepare and take to South Congregational Church in Springfield to share with anyone in need of a meal. This is done on the second Monday of every month.

During the months of May through September we prepare and serve a tossed green salad instead of carrots. Preparing a salad consists of filling a gallon zip-lock style container with mixed greens along with a couple of tomatoes and a cucumber and placing them in the church refrigerator on the Sunday before we go down to Springfield to serve. There is also the option of contributing \$6 for the purchase of salad ingredients – a great option when working around vacations or a busy schedule.

You can also be involved by helping to transport the food to South Congregational Church and assisting to serve the meal. If you are interested in being a part of this program or would like to know more about it, contact Crystal Kofke (413-328-8149) or Trish Nolen-Parkhouse (413-668-5085). Our next serving date is May 12th.

Monson



Open Pantry

May Food Donation Challenge!



Spaghetti Sauce

And



Canned Fruit

Please bring these challenge items in

by Sunday, May 18th
and place them in the
baskets in the Narthex!

Welcome to First Church



Welcome! If this is your first or second Sunday with us, we are grateful that you've come to be with us this morning. It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and God's presence during our worship. If you have any questions at all about where to go or what to do, our deacons, ushers, and church members are here to assist in making you feel right at home, so please do not hesitate to ask.

All members and guests are encouraged to wear name tags. Guests may obtain a temporary adhesive name tag from an usher.

The Sacrament of Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is up to parents to decide whether their children are ready to receive this Sacrament.

Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp to the church and Fellowship Hall are on the High Street side of the building. Hearing assistive devices are available from the ushers.

Fellowship Hour begins after worship in Fellowship Hall (just follow the crowd). Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

Our *Let's Eat* breakfast is on the third Sunday of each month. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. before worship. Donations are gratefully accepted but not required.

Learn more. If you would like to learn more about First Church, please call us at (413) 267-3312, email to office@firstchurchmonson.org, or visit our website at <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>.

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