



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 29, 2024**

*As a Christian community of faith and love,
we at First Church strive to accept and respect all people.*

- Core Values, 2022

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (D) F (A) C (D/F#) F/A

1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let
 2. Crown him, you mar - tyrs of our God Who
 3. O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race Now
 4. Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred thron'g We

(A7) C7 (Bm) Dm (D) F (A7) C7 (D) F (A) C (D) F (A) C (D) F

an - gels pros - trate fall. Bring forth the roy - al
 from his al - tar call: Ex - tol the stem of
 ran - somed from the fall, Hail him who saves you
 at his feet may fall! We'll join the ev - er -

(D) F (A) C (D) F (A/C#) C/E (Bm) Dm (A/E) C/G (E) G (A) C (D) F

di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all. Bring
 Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all. Ex -
 by his grace, And crown him Lord of all. Hail
 last - ing song And crown him Lord of all. We'll

(A) C (Bm) Dm (D/F#) F/A (G) Bb (D/A) F/C (A) C (A7) C7 (D) F

forth the roy - al di - a - dem, And crown him Lord of all!
 tol the stem of Jes - se's rod, And crown him Lord of all!
 him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all!
 join the ev - er - last - ing song And crown him Lord of all!

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792; alt. by John Rippon, 1751-1836, alt.
 Tune: CORONATION, 8 6 8 6 8 6; Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

bonding of family and friendship and church, for the possibility to hope and live into the future, we give you thanks. For the light of day and the darkness gentle in the night, for the turning seasons of the year and the celebrations by which we mark our time, we give you thanks. For the gospel story, for the salvation of souls, for the promise eternal, we give you thanks and praise, God of holiness and splendor, even as we gather together in the name of the One who makes all love incarnate, Christ Jesus. 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.

Anthem

The River– S. Albrecht

Giving of Ourselves Call to Offering



It's that time in our service when we receive our gifts, tithes, and offerings. Let us give from thankful hearts that have been moved by the undeserved favor of the Holy One.

Offertory

Aria

– Craig Philips (b. 1961)

***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.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, we give today from glad and generous hearts, and dedicate these gifts to you and the ministries to which you call us. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

***Sermon Hymn** *God of Grace and God of Glory* (Page 6)

Sermon *United and Uniting*

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father and Mother, 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.

***Closing Hymn** *Take My Life and Let It Be* (Page 7)

***Benediction**

Postlude *Hornpipe from WaterMusic - G. F. Handel (1685-1759)*

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.

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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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

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Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879

VIENNA 7.7.7.7.


Melody by Justin H. Knecht, 1752-1817



1 Take my life, and let it be Con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my will, and make it thine; It shall be no long - er mine;
4 Take my love: my Lord I pour At thy feet its treas - ure store;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for thee. A - men.



CONSECRATION

Serving You Today

Worship Leaders

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

All Members of First Church
Rev. Jack Kraaz
Kiel Krommer
Janice Muldrew & Donna Okscin
Lisa Borlen
Roy & Lyle Miller

Officers

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

Cindy DeSellier
Carol Mullen
Suzanne Kelley
Jeanne Dill
David Sanborn

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

The office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pastor Jack is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other times by appointment. 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.

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:

Mary Catherine Russell
Marilyn Leister
Ellis
Peggy
Richard D'Aquila
Ernest Gunther
Martha Warren

Stephen Kraaz
Kathy
Kimberly
Dan & Judie Newberry
Doris Carpenter
Annie
Carolyn Lewis

For comfort in grief:

The Family of Jean Taylor
The Family of Donna Okscin, on the death of her mother
The Family of Barry Lukens

For strength and comfort during war:

The people of Ukraine
The people of Israel and Gaza

For all service people, wherever they may be:

Chelsea Carr
Malik Pugh, USMC
Michael Wales, USN

Stephen Dill, USN
Tim Olson, USN

This Week in the Life of the Congregation

September 29, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) and Sunday School (SSA) 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship (F)
September 30, Monday	3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SSA) 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Cub Scouts (SSA)
October 1, Tuesday	4:00-5:00 p.m. - Barre Above Class (SSA)
October 2, Wednesday	6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SSA)
October 3, Thursday	5:30-6:30 p.m. - Zumba Class (SSA) 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal (C)
October 4, Friday	6:00-9:00 p.m. - Youth United (SSA)
October 5, Saturday	7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L)
October 6, Sunday	10:00 a.m. - Worship (S) and Sunday School (SSA) 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship (F)

C - Julie Sprague Chapel

F - Fellowship Hall

K - Kitchen

L - Library

PS - Pastor's Study

S - Sanctuary

SA - Sunday School Auditorium

SS - Sunday School Classroom

SSC - Silver Street Chapel

Church News

Period Packs. As a service project this fall, Hearts Willing will be assembling Church World Service (CWS) Period Packs at our November meeting. Many of our neighbors live in period poverty - lacking necessary feminine care supplies. Hearts Willing is accepting donations of the following items:

- Tampons, unscented, regular absorbency
- Tampons, unscented, super absorbency
- Sanitary napkins, unscented, long super ultra-thin
- Wet Ones, travel pack
- Flushable wipes, unscented, 42 count package.

Collection boxes are located in the narthex and Fellowship Hall. Completed packs will be brought to the Feeding Hills Congregational Church for shipment to the CWS distribution site. We are thankful for your generosity in helping us with this service project.

Neighbors in Need. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. In 2024, the NIN theme is “Mental Health Justice for All!” On World Communion Sunday, October 6, we will be collecting for the UCC NIN special offering. Look for donation envelopes in the bulletin. Your generous support is appreciated.

Fellowship Hosts Needed. First Church offers generous hospitality. One way is by hosting fellowship following worship service. Each month there is a sign-up sheet seeking volunteers who can provide and serve light snacks (not a meal!) and stay to help clean up. Teaming up with someone else is a good idea. Popular items are cheese, crackers, grapes, cookies, and juice. There are also food items on hand purchased with money donated as well as 1/2 & 1/2, milk, and paper goods. If you have never volunteered for Fellowship, please think about doing so.

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



Scan Here to Give Online