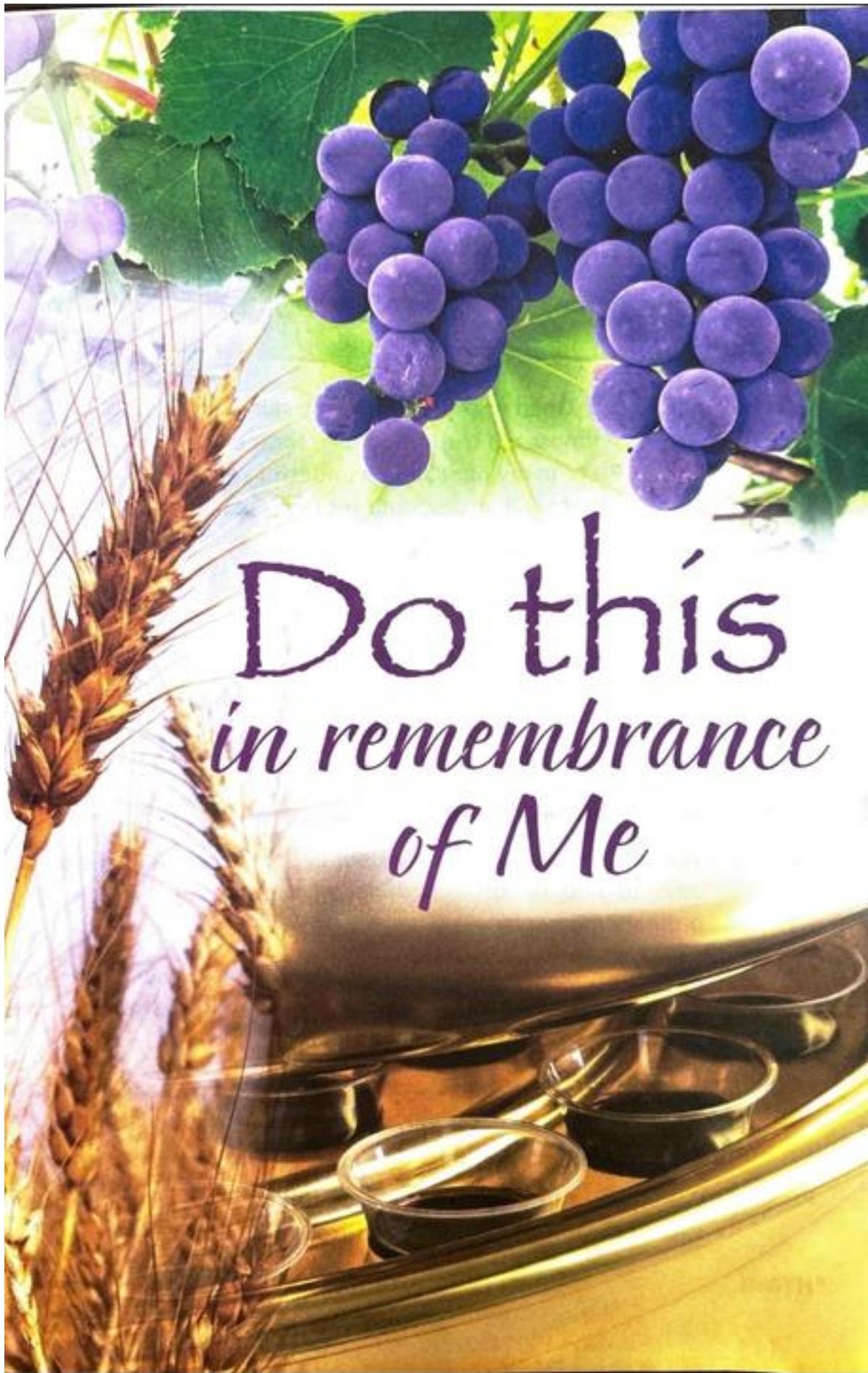




Do this
*in remembrance
of Me*

October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

**LIVE AWESTRUCK! NOTICE THE SACRED AROUND YOU:
MEANING**

GATHERING MUSIC “Sunshine” (Van Rooyens)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC “Meditation” (Melton) Bell Choir

INTRODUCING TODAY’S THEME

OPEN MY EYES

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Clara H. Scott

O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth you
have for me place in my hands the won - der - ful key
that shall un - clasp and set me free. Si - lent - ly now I
wait for thee, read - y, my God thy will to see;
o - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

Words & Music 1897

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marie Birdsall-Chaffee

Leader: There are moments when we pause and ask ourselves:

Why are we here? What is our purpose?

People: We come seeking meaning.

Leader: We long to know what makes our lives matter.
We want our days to add up to something more than a collection of ordinary moments.

People: We come to be reminded that meaning is closer than we imagine – that it can be found in a hand held, a story told, a friendship cherished, a meal prepared.

Leader: So come, you who are searching. Come, you who are wondering. Come, you who know exactly what matters and you who are still trying to figure it out.

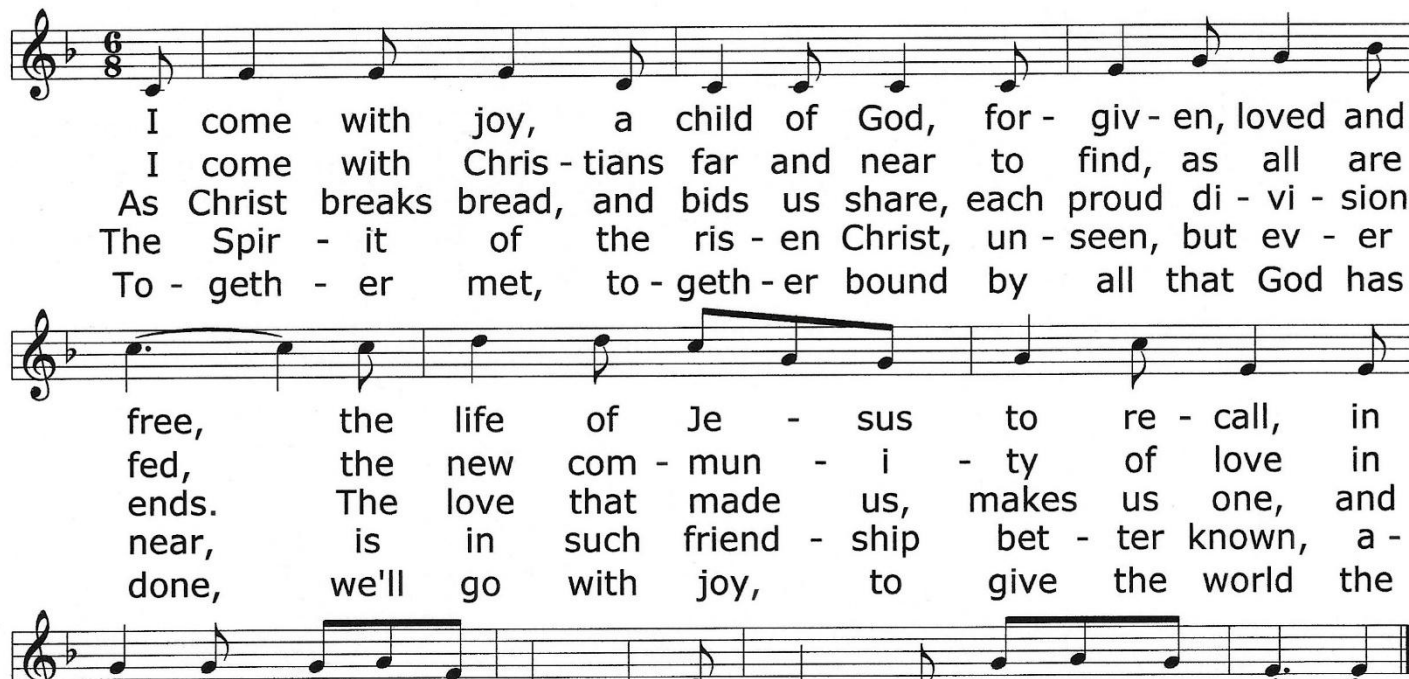
People: We come with open hearts, ready to live awestruck by the sacred meaning that is woven through our lives. Amen.

*HYMN

I Come With Joy

Brian Wren

Walker's Southern Harmony



I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved and
I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has
free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
fed, the new com - mun - i - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

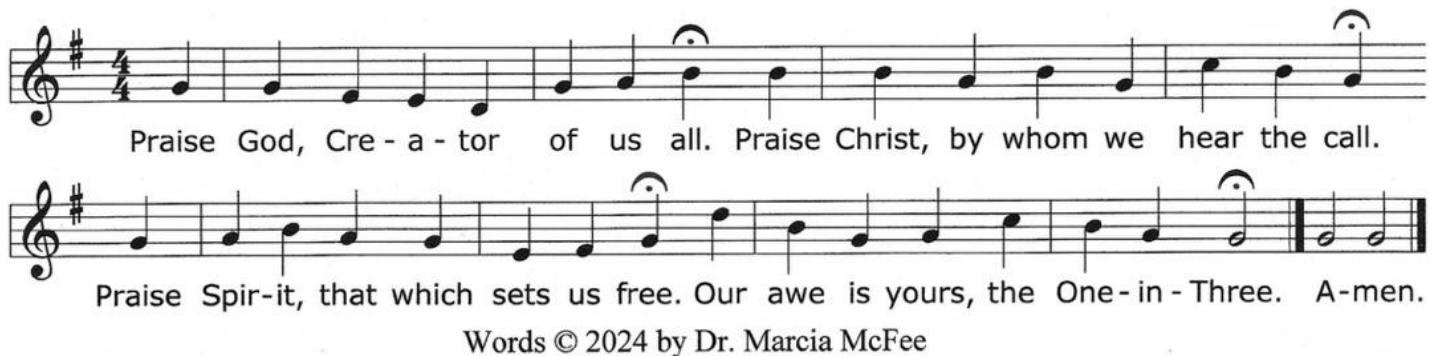
***AWESTRUCK CONVERSATION**

What is something in your life that has become more meaningful over time?

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Children of God” (Scott-Gatty) Bell Choir

***DOXOLOGY**



Praise God, Cre - a - tor of us all. Praise Christ, by whom we hear the call.

Praise Spir-it, that which sets us free. Our awe is yours, the One-in - Three. A-men.

Words © 2024 by Dr. Marcia McFee

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, receive these gifts as an expression of our longing to make a difference. Take what we offer today and use it to create something larger than any of us could create alone. May our giving remind us that our lives have meaning not only because of what we accomplish, but also because of the love we share. Amen.

ANCIENT READING

Psalm 19: 1-4, 9-11

The heavens herald your glory, O God, and the skies display your handiwork. Day after day they tell their story, and night after night they reveal the depth of their understanding. Without speech, without words, without even an audible voice, their cry echoes through all the world, and their message reaches the ends of the earth.... Holding you in awe, Lord, is purifying; it endures. Your decrees are steadfast, and all of them just. They are more precious than gold, than the purest of gold, and sweeter than honey, sweeter than honey fresh from the comb. In them your faithful people find instruction; there is great reward in keeping them.

CONTEMPORARY READINGS

Brian McLaren from *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*: The neocortex of the brain... makes language possible and gives meaning to the word “meaning.” It enables me to talk to myself and observe myself. It integrates current awareness with memory of past experiences and with the ability to imagine future scenarios. It organizes my experience in stories with beginnings, middles, and ends. It helps me

think critically, creatively, and independently. Without the meaning committee [in my brain], there would be no Bach or the Beatles, no Galileo or Einstein, nor Moses or Mary or Jesus or the Buddha or Mohammed. It is the most recently evolved part of me, and frankly, it still has a lot of bugs and glitches that haven't been worked out yet.

Brother David Steindl-Rast from *The Monk in Us*: It is through wholehearted living that meaning flows into our lives.... You see the sandpiper and something in you says a wholehearted yes, or you hear the rain and your whole being says yes to it. It's a special kind of yes; it's an unconditional yes.

Nancy Donovan, "Driving on Rte 101" from
GiftsinOpenHands.com:

Leaves in glorious colors
Blaze from trees along the highway
Every shade and combination of
Plum, apricot, lemon, cherry.

They shout their individuality
"See me. I'm like no one else."

Each tree finally escaping its uniform of green
bursting from its conformity “I am unique.”

One last chance before winter to show its truth
Unafraid to stand alone. Some of us are like trees.

VIDEO MEDITATION

“Meaning”

SERMON

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess that sometimes we look for meaning in all the wrong places. We look for it in achievement, as if our worth could be measured by what we accomplish. We look for it in possessions, as if having more could make our lives feel fuller. We look for it in recognition, in being noticed, praised, or approved by others. We look for it in busyness, filling our days so completely that we never have to stop to consider what really matters. We look for meaning in being right, in being in control, in having the answers, in protecting ourselves from uncertainty. Forgive us when we look everywhere instead of simply towards You. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS R/ "Thanks be to God."

HYMN

The Summons

John Bell

Scottish Traditional



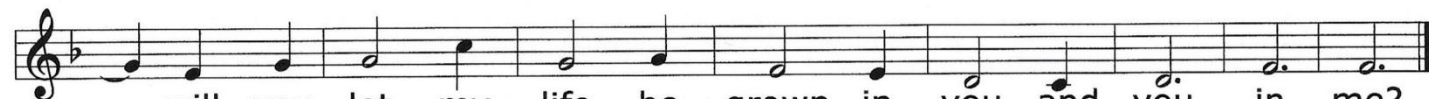
Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
Will you love the "you" and hide if I but call your name?
Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found, to re - shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show,



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Words ©1987 WGRG The Iona Community - Music early 18th Century

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & CONSECRATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we have eaten. We have received. We have remembered. Now send us out. May this bread remind us to nourish one another. May this cup remind us to pour ourselves out in love. May this table remind us that no life exists in isolation. And when we return to our ordinary days — to our kitchens and offices, our families and friendships, our errands and responsibilities — help us see them differently. Help us recognize the meaning already there. Help us notice the sacred hiding in plain sight. And help us make our lives into something beautiful: lives marked by love, lives rooted in connection, lives given in service, lives awakened to wonder. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

BOTH SIDES NOW

Joni Mitchell



Rows and flows of an-gel hair, and ice-cream
Moons and Junes and Fer-ris wheels, the dirt - y
Tears and fears and feel-ing proud, to say "I



cas-tles in the air, and feath - er can - yons
danc-ing way you feel, as ev - ery fair - y
love you" right out loud. Dreams and schemes and



ev - ery - where I've looked at clouds that way. But
tale comes real. I've looked at love that way. But
cir - cus crowds; I've looked at life that way. But



now they on - ly block the sun. They rain and
now it's just an-oth - er show. You leave them
now old friends are act-ing strange, they shake their



snow on ev - ery - one. So man - y things I
laugh-ing when you go. And if you care don't
heads and say I've changed. Well some-thing's lost, but



would have done; but clouds got in my way.
let them know, Don't give your-self a - way.
some-things gained in liv - ing ev - ery day.



I've looked at clouds from both sides now, from
I've looked at love from both sides now, from
I've looked at life from both sides now, from



up and down, and still some-how it's clouds il-lus-ions
give and take and still some-how it's love's il-lus-ions
up and down and still some-how it's life's il-lus-ions



I re-call. I real-ly don't know clouds at all.
I re-call. I real-ly don't know love at all.
I re-call. I real-ly don't know life at all.

© 1967 Crazy Crow Music

***FINAL BLESSING**

***SENDING MUSIC "It's in Every One of Us" (Pomeranz)**

LIVE AWESTRUCK THIS WEEK!

“MEANING”

Spiritual Practice for the Week:

Before you go to bed each night, think back over your day and notice one moment that carried **meaning** for you. It doesn't have to be a dramatic moment. It might be a conversation, a laugh, a meal, a kindness, a difficult decision, a beautiful sight, or simply being with someone you love. Ask yourself: **What happened? Why did it matter? What does it tell me about what I value?**

Reflections for the Week:

Spend a few minutes each day in prayerful reflection on these questions:

Monday: What is a memory that has shaped who you are?
What meaning does it carry for you today?

Tuesday: Who is someone who has given your life meaning?

Wednesday: When have you experienced a moment when you said to yourself, “This matters”?

Thursday: What are you giving your time, attention, energy, or resources to right now? What does that reveal about what matters to you?

Friday: Is there something difficult you have experienced that has changed or deepened your understanding of what really matters?

Saturday: What do you want your legacy to be? If someone were to describe what your life meant to others, what would you hope they would say?

You Won't Want to Miss These Upcoming Meetings and Events!

Sunday, October 4

11:45 AM Bells Rehearsal

12:30 PM Pie Making (Blueberry)

Tuesday, October 6

6:00 PM Finance Meeting

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Thursday, October 8

7:00 PM Knitting Circle

Saturday, October 10

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Café Sarina)

7:00 PM Coffee House

Sunday, October 11

9:30 AM Woodwinds Rehearsal

10:30 AM Worship – Led by the Deacons

11:45 AM Bells Rehearsal

6:30 PM Missions Meeting (Zoom)

7:00 PM Diaconate Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 13

7:00 PM Band Rehearsal

Friday and Saturday, October 23 & 24 FALL FAIR!!!

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH is an engaging congregation rooted in Christian scripture and tradition, but open to new expressions. Here we care more about love, compassion, and service than adherence to rigid rules or a strict set of beliefs. Our faith may be 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not.

EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME

Our congregation is part of the [United Church of Christ](#). Around here, we practice what the UCC calls being “Open and Affirming.” Think of it like a massive, joyful dinner table. We don’t just tolerate differences; we actively pull up extra chairs. Whether you are young, old, LGBTQ+, straight, single, married, partnered, or widowed, a lifelong believer or full of doubts, there is a place set for you. We don’t expect anyone to change who they are to fit in; we change the size of our table to make sure you belong.

HOSPITALITY FOR ALL

- Snacks, smiles, and chit-chat downstairs after worship
- Large-print worship materials
- Hearing assistance devices
- Wheelchair and elevator accessibility
- All-gender restrooms
- Grape juice and gluten-free bread for Communion
- Livestreamed worship services (linked through our website)
- Events and updates through our e-newsletters, website, and social media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Linkedin](#), and [YouTube](#). Follow us!

WE LOVE CHILDREN

We hope that children will feel inspired to experience our worship service by singing, clapping, wiggling, fidgeting, offering prayer requests, sharing a sign of peace, and receiving Communion. We also offer coloring books and other items at our welcome desk.

SUPPORT

Your prayers, presence, time, talents, and financial gifts sustain our ministries. Give online at fccgeorgetownma.org/giving or scan this QR code.

