

“We seek to demonstrate God’s Spirit through worship, witness,
and ministry to the needs of the people in the church and the community.”

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 29, 2024 ~ 10:00 A.M.

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

Art Wallace

WELCOME & GREETING

·PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE & CENTERING PRAYER

Jesus reminds us that communities are strengthened when acts of compassion and healing are performed in the name of Jesus even by those not already a part of a faith community. The challenge is to create a path of peace, love, and justice, while also inviting and welcoming others onto the path with us. May we salt the world with peace and flavor the world with love. Amen.

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to pray.

All: We gather to praise.

Leader: May our prayers extend beyond ourselves.

All: May our praise rise to the heavens.

Leader: May our lives be salty with love.

All: May our prayers be reflections of peace.

·HYMN OF PRAISE *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* Insert

·UNISON INVOCATION

Faithful God, inspire us to be faithful to one another. Open our hearts to meet the needs in our midst and in the wider world. Open our mouths to sing your blessings, joyfully, and gratefully. Open our lives to welcome the stranger, seek the lost, and create peace in a troubled world. Amen.

·THE 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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE “A Tree Without Roots?”

ANTHEM

GATHERING AND PRESENTING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory

·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

THE COMMUNITY AT PRAYER

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, and Our 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 as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Response

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 124

Mark 9:38-50

Phil Johnson, Deacon

Page 703 OT

Page 55 NT

SERMON "Welcomed as you are"

·HYMN OF CELEBRATION *I Love Your Church, O God*
Chalice Hymnal #274

THE BENEDICTION

·CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Blest Be the Ties That Binds*

Blest be the ties that binds
Our hearts in Christian Love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is Like that about. Amen.

POSTLUDE

·Those who are able, are invited to stand.

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Our help is in the name of the Lord, who
made heaven and earth. ~Psalm 124:8

Announcements for the week of September 29, 2024.

Greeting you today as you entered the sanctuary was Deacon, Phil Johnson.

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. We welcome everyone to worship this morning. A special welcome is extended to all who are visiting us for the first time. If you would like more information about our church, and its programs and activities, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please speak to one of our Deacons or the Pastor. We encourage you to complete one of the "I Wish..." visitor cards located in the pew and drop it in the offering basket. Again, welcome, it is good to worship God together. We deeply appreciate all who participate in leading worship.

Please remember to silence your cellphones during the service. Thank you for your assistance.

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The candle by the sanctuary's American flag is lit to remember and honor those serving our country as military and first responders. May it remind us to say a prayer for those giving of themselves to keep us free from harm.

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The sanctuary is equipped with a "Hearing Loop System" which works with hearing aids that have a "T-Coil" setting, sending the sound directly to the hearing aid. We also have headphone devices that work with this system that are available from the ushers.



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**Let us keep in our prayers:**

|                      |                |                    |                    |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Frances Chowdhary    | Evelyn Grabber | The Hawkins Family | Ginger McGuire     |
| Mary Meli            | Ellen Meseroll | Teddy Randall      | Barbara Rodman     |
| The Rodriguez Family | Ruth Tilley    | Ruth Turner-Jones  | The Vickers Family |

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October Birthdays

6th ~ Brenda Olearnick	15th ~ Jennifer Blevins	
18th ~ Christopher Hall	20th ~ Tammy Raymond	22nd ~ Heather Johnson
24th ~ Phil Ziel	29th ~ Paul Lukens	

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**Church Office Hours:** Tues. ~ 1-5 p.m.      Wed.-Fri. ~ 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

| Sunday                                              | Monday                           | Tuesday | Wednesday             | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| 29<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal<br>10:00am Worship (S) | 30<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S) |         | <b>September 2024</b> |          |        |          |

| Sunday              | Monday                                                                                        | Tuesday                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                                                                     | Friday                                                                | Saturday                               |    |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----|
| <b>October 2024</b> |                                                                                               | 1<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH)<br>7:00pm Environmental Justice Comm Mtg (MR) | 2<br>9:30am Bible Study Begins (MR)<br>3:00pm Board of Outreach Mtg<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR) | 3<br>7:00pm Board of Deacon's Mtg (MR)                                                                                       | 4                                                                     | 5<br>9:00am Holiday Fair Crafters (FH) |    |
|                     | 6<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal<br>10:00am Worship (S)                                            | 7<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)                                           | 8<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH)                                                                | 9<br>9:30am Bible Study (MR)<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)                                                                          | 10<br>10:00am Staff Mtg<br>7:00pm Board of CE Mtg                     | 11                                     | 12 |
|                     | 13<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal (S)<br>10:00am Worship (S)                                       | 14<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal<br>7:00pm Scout Leader Mtg                   | 15<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH)                                                               | 16<br>9:30am Bible Study (MR)<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)                                                                         | 17<br>8:00am Lathrop Room Reserved<br>7:00pm Brd of Trustees Mtg (MR) | 18                                     | 19 |
|                     | 20<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal (S)<br>10:00am Worship (S)                                       | 21<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)                                          | 22<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH)                                                               | 23<br>9:30am Bible Study<br>5:00pm Lathrop Room Reserved<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)                                              | 24<br>7:00pm Council Mtg (MR)                                         | 25                                     | 26 |
|                     | 27<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal (S)<br>10:00am Worship (S)<br>11:15am Preliminary Budget Mtg (S) | 28<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)                                          | 29<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH)                                                               | 30<br>9:30am Bible Study<br>2:00pm Willimantic Baptist Church Meal Prep<br>3:00pm Brd of Outreach Mtg<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR) | 31<br>5:00pm Halloween on the Green                                   |                                        |    |

The Deacons and Rev. Amie met and are looking to see if there is interest to rekindle the old "Pastoral Care" committees. The Mail Ministry team still operates, but the others have diminished. The Deacons will have a table in the Fellowship Hall following service on October 6th to answer questions and see if revamping the other teams has interest. Input can also be sent to Phil Johnson at lynphil4@gmail.com or Rev. Amie at pastorlebfirstcong@gmail.com.

## Our Weekly Calendar

(Please check with church office before scheduling any meetings or events.)

### Sunday ~ 9/29

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)

### Monday ~ 9/30

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)

### Tuesday ~ 10/1

6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (FH)  
7:00 p.m. Environmental Justice Comm. Mtg. (MR)

### Wednesday ~ 10/2

9:30 a.m. Bible Study Begins (MR)  
3:00 p.m. Board of Outreach Meeting (MR)  
5:15 p.m. AFG Meeting (MR)

### Thursday ~ 10/3

7:00 p.m. Board of Deacons' Meeting (MR)

### Friday ~ 10/4

### Saturday ~ 10/5

9:00 a.m. Holiday Fair Crafters (FH)

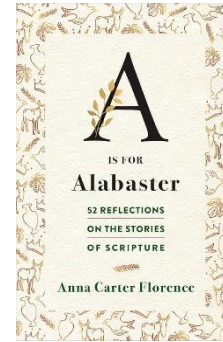
### Sunday ~ 10/6

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)

(MR-Memorial Rm, FH-Fellowship Hall, LR-Lathrop Rm, K-Kitchen, S-Sanctuary, CR-Class Rm)

## Bible Study

### Wednesday Mornings ~ 9:30-11:00 a.m.



Bible Study begins on Wednesday, October 2nd. The book we will use for our study is *A is For Alabaster: 52 Reflections of the Stories of Scripture* by Ann Carter Florence. We are hoping to borrow them from the leading library, but if you would like your own personal copy, they are available on Amazon for \$18. For October 2nd, please read the first five reflections (they are only 2-3 pages long). If you are interested in joining us and would like to borrow a book, please contact the church office (lebfirstcong@att.net or 860-642-6179) to reserve a copy. Everyone is welcome!

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Holiday Fair Crafters

Join us October 5th at 9:00 a.m., as we create items to sell at our Holiday Fair! If you have some ideas you would like to share with the group, please bring them.

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## NEEDED: BREADS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

World Communion Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday in October and offers congregations from around the world the opportunity to experience Holy Communion as a global community of faith. On this Sunday Christians in every culture break bread and drink of the cup to affirm how important the Church of Jesus Christ is and how each congregation can be interconnected one with another in service and Christian unity.

The Deacons will be serving breads from around the world for communion on October 6, 2024 and would like to ask members of the congregation to sign up and bake bread that represents their heritage. Please visit the Deacon's table to sign up to bake or bring a bread representative of another country.

## From the Board of Christian Outreach

Summer is over and the Board of Outreach is in full swing again!

On Sunday, October 6th, we will be taking a collection for Neighbors in Need. This is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice, hope and compassion in the US. This year's theme is "Mental Health Justice For All".

This year we have two ongoing projects:

**No Freeze Zone** - we are continuing our collection of hygiene items (shampoo, deodorant, etc.) and warm apparel. There is a box in the foyer for these items. Our church family has been generous in the past, hopefully we can continue with this tradition.

**Heifer Project** - we are trying to raise enough money to at least purchase a sheep. Priscilla Clesowich has painted a picture of a sheep, but it needs fleece! We are selling bags of cotton balls to be glued on the sheep. The bags of five cotton balls are only \$1.00 and will be available in the Fellowship Hall after church service. We already have a generous donation to purchase one sheep, help us provide for a mate.

Upcoming event: November 24th, WAIM is sponsoring a 'Walk for Warmth'. More information will be forthcoming.

On September 26th, we will host the Board of Representatives from WAIM for a potluck and meeting here.

As usual, we will have Fair Trade items for sale on the first Sunday of the month.



## Flower Committee

The Flower Committee would like to remind the congregation that if you would like to place an arrangement in the sanctuary for Sunday service there is a sign-up calendar in the foyer or call the church office. If it is a last-minute thought just call a flower committee member by Saturday morning. We also invite everyone to please consider sharing flowers, grasses, branches of beauty, from your gardens or yards for any Sunday morning.

Thank you,

Sandy Belisle, Linda Heatherly, Barbara McDermott, and Dawn Drum

# How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A)(D)  
 Eb Bb Cm Ab Eb Bb Eb

1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - came in hin - dranc - es more sure:  
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,

(G) (Em) (A) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (Em)  
 Ab Fm Bb Gm Cm Ab Fm

to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re -  
 if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -  
 whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your  
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to

(A7) (D) (A7)(B) (Em) (G)(A7) (D)  
 Bb7 Eb Bb7 C Fm Ab Bb7 Eb

stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
 wind its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.  
 name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.  
 you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored, done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

# I Love Your Church, O God

1. I love your church, O God, on earth your  
 2. I love your church, O God, whose walls be -  
 3. In love my tears shall fall, in love my  
 4. Be - yond my high - est joys, I prize your  
 5. Sure as your truth shall last, to Zi - on

1. blest a - bode, the peo - ple our re -  
 2. fore you stand, dear as the ap - ple  
 3. prayers as - cend, to serve your church, my  
 4. peo - ple's ways, the sweet com - mun - ion,  
 5. shall be given the bright - est glo - ries

1. deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.  
 2. of your eye, and grav - en on your hand.  
 3. toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.  
 4. sol - emn vows, the hymns of love and praise.  
 5. earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heaven.

WORDS: Timothy Dwight, 1801, alt.  
 MUSIC: Aaron Williams, 1770

ST. THOMAS  
 SM