November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Sharing an experience of belonging, with God's music and the love and justice of Jesus at the heart of what we do.

Welcome Rachel Robicheau

Opening Music: O God, We Yearn for Safety

Guided Breath & Centering Moment

Opening Prayer

Entry Into Worship Cheryle Totten

One: If Jesus started a church today, what would it be afraid of?

Many: Not losing members, losing money or losing the way things have always been.

One: The prophet Zephaniah warned of people "settled on their dregs," so comfortable they believed God would do neither good nor harm.

Many: We know that kind of comfort. We have mistaken it for faithfulness.

One: Jesus told of a servant who was handed a great treasure and buried it out of fear.

Many: He kept it safe, and in keeping it safe, he lost it.

One: How many gifts have we buried to protect the institution?

Many: How many people have we kept at a distance to avoid the risk of change?

One: For a church that exists only to survive has forgotten why it was started.

Many: God, dig us up. Make us brave.

One: Come, let us worship the One who shakes the complacent and entrusts treasure to the fearful…the God who refuses to let us stay buried.

Scripture: Zephaniah 1: 7; 12-18 Cheryle Totten

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His

master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Music: Would You Know Us?

Sermon: Stop Playing Defense Rev. Timoth Sylvia

Music: Let Your Faith be Stronger than Your Fear

Affirmation (Unison) Rachel Robicheau

We believe in God,
who will not let us settle on our dregs,
and who stirs up what has grown too comfortable.

We believe in Jesus,
who handed his followers everything
and trusted them to risk it for love.

We believe the Spirit is still digging us up…
uncovering the gifts we hid,
the voices we overlooked,
and the courage we buried out of fear.

We do not know what kind of church Jesus would start today.
We do know it would not exist only to survive,
and we pray for the courage to risk becoming it.

Offering Invitation Rachel Robicheau

Pastoral Prayer (with 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 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 forever. Amen.

Closing Music: Instrument of Peace

Sending Forth

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WEEKLY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY, Wednesday, November 18th, 6:30 pm EST – ONLINE ONLY: Join us each Wednesday for a time of deep reflection, thoughtful conversation, and sacred curiosity as we open scripture together and explore what it means for our lives today.

Whether you've been reading the Bible for years or are just beginning to ask questions, there's space for you here. Bring your wonder. Bring your doubts. Bring your whole self. Come for the community. Stay for the transformation. Zoom link sent out weekly and available upon request.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL, Friday, November 20th, 7:00 pm: Each year on November 20th, we say the names of trans people killed by anti-trans violence in the past year. We will gather on the front steps of the church to grieve them by name, to light candles in their memory and to refuse the silence that lets this violence go on. All are welcome to stand with us in mourning and in resolve.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE, November 20th: Please submit to Nadine (firstuccrandolph19@gmail.com) anything you'd like included in the December newsletter. Thank you.

GIVING ENVELOPES: If you had giving envelopes this year, 2026, envelopes will be available in the narthex (rear of the sanctuary) beginning November 15th. If you received a box of giving envelopes for this year, 2026, but do not want them for 2027, please let Joy Tardiff know. If you did not have envelopes for 2026 but WOULD like them for 2027, please let Joy Tardiff know. Thanks! Joytardiff49@gmail.com or 781-223-3493

CONVENANTING SUNDAY, November 22nd: It's that time…when we declare our commitment to participate in and support the shared ministries of First Congregational Church, UCC for the next year. 2027 Covenant Cards are available in the Narthex as well as the church office.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Staff Meeting	Monday, November 16th	10:00 am in the Chapel

SCAN OUR QR CODES:

Online Giving

Events Page of Our Website

Rev. Timoth Sylvia, Pastor
Jeff Hobart, Director of Music Ministry

1 South Main Street, Randolph, MA 781-963-6373
www.wearechanginglives.org info@wearechanginglives.org

Choir
Madison Christian, Angela Marseglia, Marjie DiSalvio, Joy Tardiff, Julia Pottey, Noah Hobart, Rachel Robicheau, Aaron Cohen, Laura Lee Coveney, Sam Hobart, Sue Goodale, Paul Meoni

Band
Jeff Hobart – Piano, Rachel Robicheau – Song Leader, Angela Marseglia – Guitars, Sam Hobart – Guitars, Joy Tardiff – Bass, Noah Hobart - Drums

Tech Team
Pat Dzierzak – Dramatic Sounds, John Silipigno, Adrian Sylvia, Caleb Tobin, Alex Goodrich, Ariana Seeramsingh