

Newman Congregational Church, UCC

"No matter who you are, Or where you are on life's journey ... You're welcome here!"

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

newmanucc.org

COMMUNION SUNDAY



SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

10 AM

MISSION STATEMENT

We are an inclusive Christian community dedicated to living Jesus' message of love, peace and justice through joyful worship, compassionate service, radical hospitality and responsible stewardship.

OPENING MUSIC

Prelude and Air from *Suite for a Musical Clock*
Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT- *in unison*

*Whoever you are
Whomever you love
Wherever you are
On your life journey
You are welcome here*

CALL TO WORSHIP – *responsive*

Based on Psalm 27

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: We desire to live in God's house
And to seek God in the holy temple of creation.

*All: Who have come with shouts of joy,
To sing and to make music to the Lord.*

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and truth.

*All: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.*

*HYMN

Bring Many Names

NCH #11

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION – *in unison*

Psalm 79:9:

*Help us, O God of our salvation
for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins,
for your name's sake.*

(silent pause)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE - *responsive*

Leader: Know that in Jesus,
God embraces you, forgives you,
and strengthens you to life renewed.

All: Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

This is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show each other that we carry with us only signs of love, by waving, shaking hands, bumping fists, or however else we are moved to greet each other.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1–2:3

NRSVue

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”

All: And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.”

All: And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

All: And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

All: And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.”

All: And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

All: And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

SERMON

“God Saw It Was Good”

*HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

NCH #25

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO OFFERING

Contributions may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to Newman UCC PO Box 4764, Rumford, RI 02916 or made online at newmanucc.org/give. If you are in the Sanctuary and give online there are laminated cards in the pews for you to put in the plate.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place
John Carter (b. 1930)

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

tune NCH #780

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - responsive

Leader: The Lord be with you!

All: And also with you!

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

...

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

...

*All: Christ has died,
Christ has risen,
Christ has come again.*

LORD'S PRAYER – in unison (using “Debts” and “Debtors”)

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

The congregation will be invited forward to receive Communion.

An option to remain seated and receive Communion is also available.

Note: bread has a gluten-free option; cups are filled with grape juice, not wine

ACCLAMATION - responsive

Leader: Praise the Lord, O my soul;

All: All my inmost being, praise God's holy name.

Leader: Praise the Lord, O my soul;

All: And forget not all God's benefits—

Leader: Who forgives all your sins

All: And heals all your dis-ease,

Leader: Who redeems your life from the pit,

And crowns you with love and compassion.

*HYMN

Spirit of the Living God

NCH #283

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Canon
Jacques Lemmens (1823-1881)

**the congregation is invited to stand*

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FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor the floral arrangement on a particular Sunday, please get in touch with Debra Messinger at 401-741-4633 or debndave15@cox.net.

WORSHIP TEAM

Ministers – All Church Members!
Geoffrey Greene, Minister of Music
Becky Bass, Soprano Section Leader
Barbara Youmans, Alto Section Leader
Thomas Seeger, Tenor Section Leader
Jonne Gomes, Bass Section Leader
Tom Lima, Audio Visual Specialist
Pam Sherrill, Lay Reader
David Johnson & Ryan Roslonek, Greeters
Rev. Samuel Lovett, Senior Minister

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Moderator – Angela Kondon	Trustees – Tom Mottur
Church Clerk – Debra Messinger	Treasurer – Joan Potter
Deacons - Rob Mingo & Pam Sherrill	Missions – Joan Potter & Pat Saumweber
Fatih Formation – Kate Wilcox	Church School – Linda McBride
Food Pantry Coordinator – Janet Bache	Racial Equity Team – Karen Usas
Music Committee – Sandy & Bill Wood	Minister Emeritus – Rev. David Shire
Needles & Hooks – Bill Wood	Garden Team
Financial Secretary – Carolyn Lake	Church Office Admin – Michelle White
Facilities Trustee – Joe McBride	Stewardship – Robin Hofheinz & J. Potter
Faith-Based Discussion – Maxine Williams	Haiti Task Force – Suzanne Swanson
Nursery – Susan MacDonald & Becky Rego	Baby Blanket Coordinator – Helen Bodell
Scented Hearts Coordinator – Mara Brown	Widow's Might – Marge Frackelton
Historical Committee – Nancy Godfray	Blood Drive Liaison – Keith Blackwell
Flowers - Debra Messinger & Pat Leahy	Social Media – Jan Peters
Palm Crosses – Bev Brindle	Card Writing – Nancy Ciccone

THIS WEEK

- Coffee & Conversation – today, September 7, following worship in Memorial Hall
- Good Neighbors Food Pantry – Tuesday, September 9, from 5 – 7 pm
- Needles & Hooks – Wednesday, September 10 at 2:30 pm via Zoom (BW)
- Widow's Might Meeting - Thursday, September 11 at 11 am in the Chapel
- Widow's Might Lunch – Thursday, Sept. 11 at 12:15 pm at Davenport's, E. Prov.
- Adult Choir Rehearsal – Thursday, September 11 at 7pm in the Sanctuary
- Faith-based Discussion Group* – Friday, September 12 at 9:30 am
 - Offered both in-person in the Pastor's Study and on Zoom
- Haiti Task Force Meeting – Saturday, September 13 at 9 am via Zoom
- Morning Worship* – next Sunday, September 14 at 10 am in the Sanctuary
- Ice Cream Social – next Sunday, September 14, following worship in the hall
 - for the first Sunday of Church School
- Sound Sessions – Gospel Music Heritage Month – next Sunday, 9/14, at 4pm
 - at the PDT Clubhouse, 517 Atwells Ave, Providence
 - featuring Earl Bright and Elevated & Newman Church Choir

**indicates hybrid = offered both in-person and online*

Tickets for the **Square Dance on Sunday, September 28**, are available during Coffee & Conversation throughout this month!

The Good Neighbors Food Pantry is requesting donations of **cereal** in September. However, all non-perishable items are gratefully accepted.