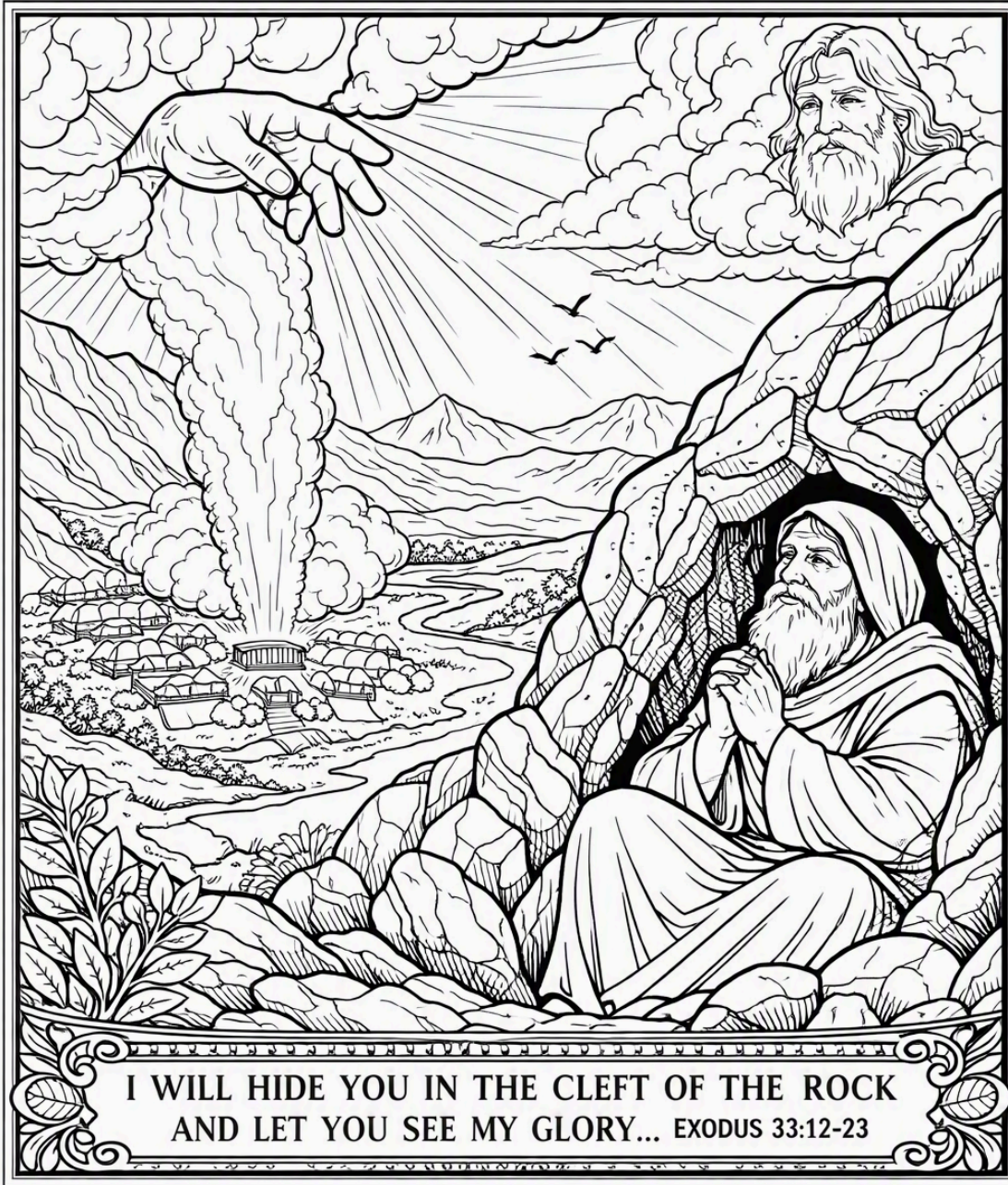


Welcome to First Congregational Church of Warwick, UCC

*"We are committed to serving our community and sharing the love of Christ.
We believe that everyone is welcome in our church, and we strive to create
a safe and inclusive space for all people."*



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18th, 2026

Worship 10:15 Sunday Mornings

Minster: *Pastor Michael Ashe and All Members of our Church*

Fellowship and Coffee 11:15 All are invited!

Minister of Music: *Tom Jones*

Handbell Director: *Stefani Caupuno*

Please Note: This service is subject to change by the guidance of the Holy Spirit
* Denotes please rise in body and/or spirit. Words in **bold** are spoken aloud together

- ~ Invocational Prayer: **(*) Sovereign and Radiant God, you go before us and invite us to meet you. Today, we gather in your presence as a community. You gift us “the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places.” We respond as you call us by name. We come to know you as you invite us to be known, by you. Receive our worship and form us as your people in justice, truth, righteousness, compassion, and love. Be glorified among us and through us, we pray. Amen.**
- ~ Welcome and Announcements:
- ~ Opening Hymn: **(*) #63 Give to Our God Immortal Praise**
- ~ Call To Worship:
- One: Sing to the Holy One, all the earth. Declare God’s glory!
Many: Great is the Holy One, who made the heavens and the earth.
One: Sing a new song unto the Holy One. Join with all creation in praise and reverence!
Many: We witness God’s marvelous works among the peoples.
One: Worship the Holy One, all the earth! Declare God’s sovereignty!
Many: Rejoice and be glad! God is great!
- ~ Prayer of Confession and Assurance: **(All) Gracious God, you have revealed yourself in scripture, prophets, and the Christ. Yet, we have reduced your gospel of liberation for all people, restoration of all creation, and redemption for the world into personal piety and devotion. We make idols of the trappings of empire, trusting in our own plots and plans while failing to believe and trust you with bold, transformative prayers. Help us, O God, live in faith and access your power. Remind us that you equip and endow us to be your body in the world so that all may flourish and experience abundance. Amen.**
- ~ Words of Grace
- ~ First Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:15-22
- ~ Testimony and Prayer of Joy:
- ~ Hymn of Joy: **(*) # 414 I Know That My Redeemer Lives vs. 1&2**
- ~ Psalm Reading: Psalm 99
- ~ Share our Concerns and Prayers: (At this time you are invited to share your prayer requests with the congregation. When you are finished you may say **“This is my Prayer”** The congregation will then reply **“Lord hear our prayer”**)
Pastoral Prayer / Moment for reflection and meditation / Lord's Prayer
(Please use the wording that is the most meaningful to you)
Gloria Patri: Hymn# 734 (Laminated Sheet)
“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen!”
- ~ Focus Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:12-23 “Living Messages”
- ~ Morning Offering Dedication and Blessing:
- ~ Hymn of Gratitude (*) 688 We Give Thee but Thine Own
“We Give Thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be : All that we have is thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee.”
We ask that you leave your generous donations in the collection plate as you enter or exit the sanctuary we do not pass a collection plate but do rise in the spirit of prayer as we dedicate these gifts together (*)
~Prayer of Dedication: **(All) God of good and perfect gifts receive our humble gifts of time, talent, and treasure. May they contribute to a world of abundance and your kingdom come. May we experience the joy and privilege of giving as a gift in and of itself. Amen.**
~Hymn of Dedication: 147: .Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Laminated Sheet)
- ~Closing Hymn: *** # 453 Christ Be My Leader**
- ~Benediction and invitation to fellowship:
- Please Join Us Downstairs after Worship for Coffee and Fellowship!**



Service closes in song to the tune of Amazing Grace

"Through Christ you are a child of God, who dearly loves us all. Go forth in peace to share God's love. Rise up to heed that call, Amen!"

We are delighted to Worship with you today!



What's Happening at the FCCOW This Week and Beyond

Handbell Practice: Monday evenings 6: pm

Brown Bag Bible Group: Meets after Sunday Worship (11:30) bring a snack or brown bag lunch.

Island Getaway Group: Thank you for all your continued work on our adopted island.

Quilting / Crafting Circle: Thursdays at 6pm

(Please See the church office if you would like your event or group meeting added to this calendar at least 2 Sundays before the event)

Do you need a visit? A meal?

Someone to pray with?

Contact Pastor Michael, a Deacon,

or a member of our Care&Prayer Team!

Pastor Michael Ashe – Call or Text (401)391-8647

Clerk: Sandra Ashe – OliveOil61761@Gmail.com

Treasurer: Leslie Zanella – FCCWRITreasurer@gmail.com

Deaconess Sue Lapinski



Scan this
QR code
to **SECURELY**
donate



Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver is the Area Conference Minister of the Southeast Region of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. She also serves on faculty of the Interim Ministry Network. She previously served six churches as an Intentional Interim Pastor, two churches in settled pastoral positions, and as the Academic Dean of PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc., a Regional Theological Education Program of the UCC. Rev. Shaver was ordained at and is once again a member of Second

Congregational Church UCC in Attleboro, Massachusetts, and is

the former Moderator of the Old Colony Association. She holds a BA and an M.Div. from Boston University and a D.Min. from Lancaster Theological Seminary. She loves the Muppets, Monty Python, cooking, reading, singing, and playing handbells. She resides in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Did You Know? When Moses asks God to show him His glory, God doesn't just hide Moses in the rock—God also says He will proclaim His Name while passing by. In ancient Hebrew thought, a name wasn't just a label; it was the essence of a person. So in this moment, Moses isn't simply seeing a glimpse of God's "back"—he's being given a revelation of who God is at the deepest level: God's goodness, mercy, and grace are the first things God chooses to reveal about Himself.

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

REV. DR. RUTH SHAVER

as our new Area Conference Minister for the Southeast Region of the Southern New England Conference, UCC!

AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH • 3:00 PM

UCC NORWELL

460 MAIN ST, NORWELL, MA

A pop up choir will rehearse at 2:00 p.m. please indicate on your RSVP if you'd like to join.

Help us celebrate with a reception treat:

- Barnstable — Drinks
- Old Colony — Savory Snacks (cheese & crackers, chips & dip)
- Pilgrim — Dessert (with gluten free options)
- Rhode Island — Fruit & Veggie Snacks (veggie platter, fruit salad)

RSVP at tinyurl.com/celebrate-ruth



 **Southern New England Conference**
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Questions? Contact riuccassociation@gmail.com



Matthew 22:15-22 A teaching about the emperor and God

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are the Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Psalm 99

Worship upon God's holy hill

Deacon: The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

All: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

Deacon: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

All: Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

Deacon: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

All: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees and the statutes that he gave them.

Deacon: O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

All: Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy.

Exodus 33:12-23

God's glory revealed to Moses

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

Moses said, "Please show me your glory" And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live."

And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Prayer List of the People For the week of 10/11/26

Please note: Prayer requests can also be submitted by calling the Church Office at: (401)738-3377 or by e-mail to: OliveOil61761@gmail.com

Our Church, Nation, State, Military, Chad, Brian, Joe, Better health for my dad and continued life, Brian, Pastor Michael, Matt, Sandy, Leslie, Lynn, Brianna and her dad, Milissa, Lily, Maryanne, Brian, Kara, Cheryl, Gary, Pam, Aunt Ruth, Uncle Melvin, George, Sean, Harry, Julie, Gail, Ann, Cortney, Peace in Gaza and other places. Continued prayers for all veterans and those serving on active duty in the military both in the United States and abroad.



Please note: We, the church, are in constant prayer for our church family, our community, our nation, and our world. We are in need of prayer, all of us. It is what brings us together! If you have requested an addition to the prayer list, it is helpful for you to provide updates to the church office, whenever possible, or request that the prayer concern be removed as it is no longer a concern or the issue has passed. If we have removed a prayer concern and you would like it added back to the list because there is a great need to keep the prayer in the forefront of our hearts and minds, please go ahead and make this known to the church office. Thank you!



Shiny, Red Apple
by Kaji Douša | published
on Oct 8, 2026

[Jesus said,] “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit.” – Luke 6:43-44 (NRSV)

In apple-picking season around the U.S., the lure of fresh fruit overshadows a common shortcoming: most of us don't know how to pick fruit.

Sure, we might wander into an orchard with our own fruit-picking methodology. But we employ the wrong senses to discern what good fruit is. We pick by color alone or by reachability. Often we pick our fruit by manhandling it. This is not effective. (And yes, I'm just as guilty as the rest of us.)

What happens when we eat bad fruit? It messes up our insides. It makes us sick. It can even kill us.

Bad fruit, to Jesus, is spiritual poison.

But there are those who peddle bad fruit to us all the time. Just listen to a political ad in a hotly contested place. The airwaves are rife with toxic fruit, poisoned apples polished to a high gloss.

Don't pick your poison. Choose life. Choose love. Good fruit is love.

How do you bear good fruit?

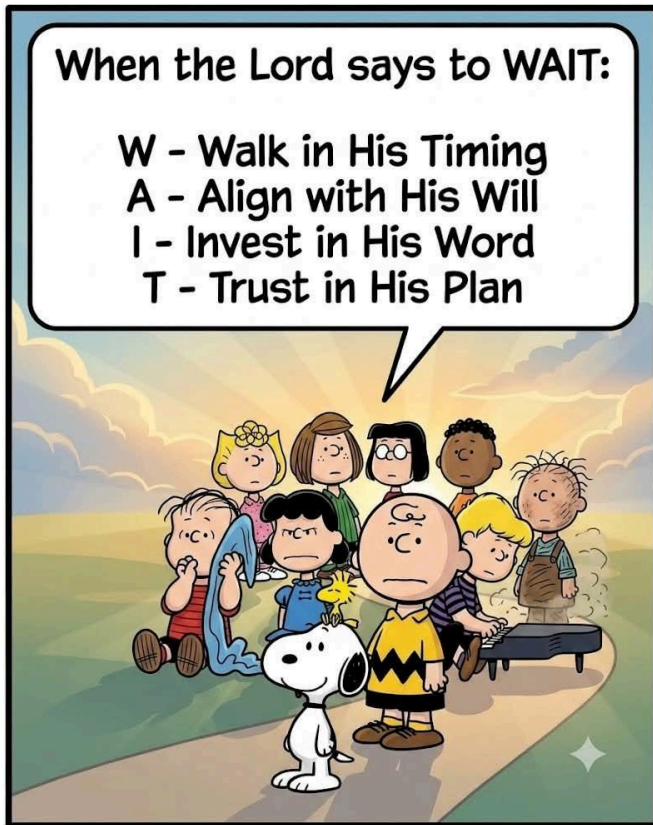
You love. You love first. You love powerfully. You love before you do anything else.



Prayer: May I be known for my love, O God. Thank you for your rapturous fruit. Amen.



Exodus 33: 12-23



Y	C	R	E	M	I	A	P	A	N	C	A	P
R	T	P	C	N	L	P	O	E	M	A	N	S
G	F	N	O	I	S	S	A	P	M	O	C	A
S	E	C	C	S	F	A	C	E	G	L	S	L
N	L	S	O	C	P	L	L	E	E	R	C	S
Y	C	A	O	C	A	A	E	R	S	O	S	E
N	A	M	E	M	Y	R	D	E	F	E	S	E
E	S	E	I	I	R	M	E	P	N	C	Y	E
E	E	M	N	A	O	R	M	D	S	N	M	S
H	E	O	F	L	L	I	O	N	O	E	M	A
A	E	S	A	C	G	O	I	O	N	S	A	B
N	R	E	V	O	G	R	R	K	N	E	L	P
D	O	S	O	R	G	O	C	R	N	R	R	O
O	C	K	R	P	M	E	G	C	S	P	E	E

MERCY
FACE
PROCLAIM
HAND
GOODNESS
CLEFT
COMPASSION
MOSES
BACK
PRESENCE
GLORY
NAME
FAVOR
ROCK

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/10000243/>

Wanna Hear Something Funny?

- ~What is a exodus of Cows called? A Moo-vement
 - ~Why couldn't Moses ignore the burning bush? It was the hottest conversation he'd ever had.
 - ~Pharoah kept saying "Tomorrow" apparently tomorrow is a horrible day to repent!
- Give your smile a workout and Pass it ON! Let's get our smiles in shape together!!!