

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 5, 2026**

**The First Congregational Church of Wareham, UCC**

**Gathered in Faith—1739**



**Loving God | Loving our Neighbors | As We Love Ourselves  
with Open Minds | Open Hearts | Open Hands**

# GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

**Bolded words are spoken by the Congregation**

\*Please stand as able

## CALL OF THE BELL

## PRELUDE MUSIC

Mr. Tony Furtado, Music Minister

(During the Prelude please enter a time of centering silence.)

## CANDLE LIGHTING

## CHORAL INTROIT

## OPENING WORDS & WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Philomena Hare

Beloved, let us sing of God's steadfast love.

**We offer our praise in songs of joy.**

## MOMENT OF CENTERING SILENCE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

In every age, in every place

**You call Your people to worship.**

In every hour of every day

**You invite us to rest in You.**

In this time and place, O God

**We worship and rest in You.**

## INVOCATION

Lord Jesus Christ, your promise rest to the weary and relief to the heavy laden: as we come to you today, may we find our rest in you, and may our spirits be restored and revived, so that we may enter a new week with new possibilities. We ask this in your name. **AMEN**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Wise and patient God, you offer us peace, yet we confess life often feels frustrating and unsettled. You offer us courage, yet we are timid and resentful when life is challenging. You offer us a mission with meaning and purpose, yet we are preoccupied with our own plans and desires. Forgive us, O God, and draw our attention back to you.

**AMEN.**

*A moment of silence is observed for personal reflection.*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Thanks be to God.**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

[Please share the peace of Christ with one another.]

**\*\* 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.**

**PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**First LESSON**

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Ms. Jean Smith

*The story of Abraham and Sarah continues as Abraham's servant journeys in search of a wife for Isaac. What begins as an ordinary task becomes a story of prayer, discernment, hospitality, and trust. As we listen, notice how God's faithfulness unfolds through the willingness of ordinary people to say, "Yes."*

## A reading from the Book of Genesis

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has.

My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' "I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" --let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'

She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left." And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and,

looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

**Romans 7:15-25a**

Ms. Jean Smith

*The Apostle Paul gives voice to a struggle every one of us knows. We long to do what is right, yet often find ourselves falling short. Rather than hiding our brokenness, Paul reminds us that God's grace meets us precisely there.*

A reading from the letter to the Romans

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
**CALLING ON GOD**  
**Responsorial reading from Psalm 148:8-14**

*Psalm 45 is a song of celebration, originally written for a royal wedding. As Christians, we hear in its words an invitation to covenant, faithfulness, and the joy of belonging to God.*

I will extol you, O my God and King,  
and I will bless your name forever and ever.  
Every day will I bless you,  
and I will praise your name forever and ever.  
**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The LORD is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.  
**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,  
and let your faithful ones bless you.  
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your might.  
**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and holy in all his works.  
The LORD lifts up all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.  
**I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.**

**The Gospel**

**MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30**

Rev. Philomena Hare

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

*Jesus speaks to people who have become weary. Wearied by expectations, by burdens, and by the demands of life. Yet his final word is not judgment but invitation: "Come to me." Listen for the gracious invitation Christ extends to each of us today.*

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' 'For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

This is the gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Rev Philomena Hare

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SERMON RESPONSE HYMN** Jesus Loves Me This I Know (verse 1) #113  
*[The Congregation remains seated]*

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

We see God's abundance in growing gardens and fresh produce on our tables. We witness need in God's world when disaster disrupts communities or drought threatens lives. So, we give out of gratitude for what we enjoy and compassion for those who are in need deeper than our own.

### **OFFERTORY**

#### **\*\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**AMEN**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, receive our gifts as tokens of our gratitude for your goodness to us. Bless them so that they become seeds of generosity, bringing needed gifts to others in Jesus' name.

**AMEN.**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Ms. Jean Smith

God of mercy, we pray for your Church throughout the world. Strengthen all who proclaim the gospel, encourage those who are weary, and help your people bear witness to your love with humility and joy.

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of peace,

We pray for the nations of the world. Where there is violence, fear, or division, raise up leaders who seek justice, pursue reconciliation, and protect the dignity of every person.

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of compassion,

We pray for those who are burdened by illness, grief, anxiety, loneliness, or uncertainty. Bring healing to the sick, comfort to those who mourn, and hope to all who feel overwhelmed.

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of abundance,

We give thanks for this congregation and for the many people who quietly serve with generous hearts. Bless our ministries, deepen our fellowship, and help us recognize where you are already at work in our community.

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of invitation,

As we gather around your table today, teach us again to receive your gifts with grateful hearts. Send us into the world refreshed by your grace and ready to share Christ's love with all whom we meet.

God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

*(The Congregation is invited to add their individual prayers, silently,  
whispered or spoken out loud)*

Into your hands, O God, we commend these prayers and the unspoken concerns of our hearts, trusting in your steadfast love through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## WE DEPART TO SERVE

### OUR DAILY COVENANT

Members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Wareham, United Church of Christ, let us affirm our intention to live in covenant together.

We, the First Congregational Church of Wareham, do covenant together with the help of God to:

**Listen respectfully**  
**Be patient and forgiving**  
**Speak honestly and humbly**  
**Avoid gossip**  
**Only speak for ourselves**  
**Listen for God's guidance**  
**Encourage gratitude and humor.**

### \*\*HYMN

Softly and Tenderly

#340

### BENEDICTION

Go in the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE



# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Betty Anne & John • Diane Stajduhar • Carl Wood • Jessica Raymondi • Linda Rand • Deb Siegert • Cindy Hayes, Lydia Costa and Les Costa • Phoebe & Leo Sherman • Sean Lewis • Cristine Raimonde • Sandy Belson •

Michael and Cindy Davin • Sylvia Weston • Christine Donahue • Phyllis Decas • The Family of Jeannie Watts • Joe Latham • Jeffrey Bergstrom & his wife Alison • Cassie Mattheson • Charmine Penn Johnson • Katherine Hanson • David Correia • Susan Kay • Carrie Lawrence • Linda Pfaff • John Donohue • Genevieve Woodson • Rosemarie Pina • Glenn Holt • Bob Whitcomb • Chris & Phil Markola • David Cunningham • Patty Newman • Mary Brunelle • Stalen Family • Elieen Maloney • Carol Wasserman • Andy & Candi McLean




**SAVE**  
*the* **DATE**

SERVICE OF  
**RELEASE & CELEBRATION**  
*honoring the ministry of*  
**REV. PHILOMENA HARE**

*Celebrating a Season of  
Shared Ministry  
between the Pastor & Congregation*

 **SUNDAY**  
**AUGUST 2, 2026**  
**2:30 PM**

 **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF WAREHAM, UCC**  
11 Gibbs Avenue  
Wareham, Massachusetts

 **RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**  
Friends, colleagues, community partners,  
and members of the wider community are  
warmly invited to join us in gratitude  
and celebration.







**11 Gibbs Avenue, Wareham, Massachusetts 02571**

**Phone: 508-295-1630**

**Website: [www.fccwareham.org](http://www.fccwareham.org)**

**Email: [fccwareham@gmail.com](mailto:fccwareham@gmail.com)**

### ***Our Team***

Pastor: Rev. Philomena Hare—Phone: 781-427-1094

Email: [fccwarehampastor@gmail.com](mailto:fccwarehampastor@gmail.com)

Moderator: Ms. Nancy MacNeill

Clerk: Ms. Dawn Reilly

Treasurer: Mr. Curtis Hall

Minister of Music: Mr. Tony Furtado

Facility Manager/Interim Sexton: Mr. Richard Cotton

Next to New Thrift Shop Manager: Ms. Chris Markola

Sales Associate: Ms. Susan Whitaker

Sales Associates: Ms. Rosemarie Pina