

DENNIS UNION CHURCH

an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 23, 2025

We claim as our mission the promotion of justice, human dignity, and peace. Thus we bind ourselves to follow where the Spirit of God shall lead, revealing God's will for our lives and the life of the Church.

Bells Toll the Hour

Prelude

"Sing Praise"

Howard Helvey

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Silence

*Call to Worship

Spirit of God, you have turned your face earthward
and opened your heart to your children,

And so, O God, do we turn to you now.

We turn to you for purpose, correction, and direction,

For joy and peace,

For a way out of despair and darkness,

For justice,

For forgiveness,

For love.

We turn to you, generous God for all these things offered

Through Jesus the Christ the One who is the light of the world. Amen.

*Hymn #718

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;

all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;

God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied;

come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,

all the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,

all that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,

all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores.

These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our blessings flow;

and for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise.

Come then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;

come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

*Invocation

O God of love, you have called us into the church. We thank you for opportunities to grow in understanding and concern for one another. May our congregation be an incarnation of your love within and beyond these church walls, wherever there is loneliness, injustice, or misunderstanding; through the Spirit of the Living Christ who is our strength and our redeemer we pray. Amen.

Word for the Young

Anthem

“Let Us Give Thanks”

Joseph Martin

Call to Confession

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer:

Prayer of Confession

We are unprepared to be honest with you God. We hope you see the good we do and the kindness we exercise yet we hope you are not looking when we are self consumed and turn away from your message of compassion and justice. We find ourselves this day aware that we have turned from you. We have eaten well without being grateful. We enjoyed clothing and shelter, mindless of the multitudes who lack these necessities. We take good health for granted, as our due. Forgive our ingratitude. Have mercy on us now.

Silence

Assurance of Grace

People of God, our transgressions are already known to God and he forgives. He calls us to mindful living, to pay attention to the ways of love and grace, to forgive as we are forgiven and he will delight in another new day with assurances of hope and mercy for the days ahead.

Thanks be to God!

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9: 2-7

Homily

“The Promise of More Light and Life”

*Hymn #714

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Verses 1 & 2

***For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;
for good gifts of every nation, thanks be to God;
for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.***

*In the just reward of labor, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.*

Call for the Offering

Offertory

"Samanthra"

C. Callahan

Litany of Giving

The Creator of all life and love has endowed our earth with bountiful blessings.

God has created humanity to share in the wonder of joy with these blessings.

All thanks be to God, giver and receiver of all that is good.

We return to God portions of what God has given.

May the giving from the fullness of our lives be acceptable in God's sight.

May the gifts we bring prove God's reign of love is at hand both now and to come.

God calls us to participate in the construction of a new reality.

We now dedicate these our offerings toward the enrichment of our life as a covenant community and towards the ministry God has given us.

We dedicate our labors, our time, and our commitment to God,
who calls us to discipleship and who surrounds us and sustains us with everlasting love.

Give God thanks and praise!

Response to Our Giving "Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring"

Hymn # 379

*Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay,
transform them into blessings on those we serve today.*

*Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill
the ministry disciples have, empower'd to do your will.*

Joys and Concerns of the Community

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

***O Holy One, 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. Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever. Amen.**

(+Our Father/Creator)

*Hymn #606

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

***Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.***

***Treasure too you have entrusted, gain thru powers your grace conferred;
or to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.***

***Sending Forth**

The Spirit of God is upon us.

**God has anointed us to bear good news to the afflicted
and to bind up the broken hearted.**

To proclaim freedom to the captives.

To open the prisons of those who are bound.

Before we leave this time of worship let us greet one another with the peace of Jesus the Christ, who seeks peace in broken relationships, who seeks healing in alienated persons, who seeks justice in oppressive structures.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you. (Please turn and acknowledge those around you).

***Benediction**

Recessional

"Let Us Give Thanks"

Ron & Linda Spruger

The congregation may be seated for the music or depart.

***Please rise in body or spirit.** Music for the service today reproduced with permission: One License #8-730116.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Dennis Union Church. Please feel free to contact the church at 508-385-3543 if you have any concerns, prayer requests, or desire a pastoral call.

Deacon of the Day: Joe Hesse

Ushers: Annmarie Gavin, Priscilla Hutchinson, Judy November

Greeters: Dottie Damon, Jeff Gordon, Emily Woudenberg

Flowers are provided today by Sarah Krueger

"In loving memory of Anne, Arthur, Jeff, David and Bob Stout"

Today we celebrate Thanksgiving and the culmination of our Stewardship program. We invite those pledges not already been submitted to be added during the offering. Many in our congregation have been generous with donations of food and gift cards in response to the increased need in our community. In the spirit of generosity, our communion table and chancel display our symbolic offerings to God a portion of what we have received. The collection of food will be added to our donations to Hands of Hope Outreach Center.

Thanks for the quick and generous response to the call for gifts
for the Salvation Army Christmas programs for families.
Please bring in wrapped gifts with the tag attached **by November 30.**



Our theme for the season of Advent this year is "What Do You Fear?"
Each week, the sanctuary will slowly fill with lanterns of light
as we anticipate and celebrate the arrival of the Christ Child.

Advent Bible Study

Mondays November 24 -- December 22 at 12:30 pm

Beginning tomorrow, we will offer a Bible study for 4 weeks discussing the passages of scripture that will be preached the following Sunday. We will take an hour to talk about, reflect on, and imagine what God is proclaiming in the text before us.

You don't have to bring anything unless you want to bring your own Bible.

- Open to all interested in conversation and reflection --

Service of Hope and Light

Thursday, December 4 at 7 pm

Cookie Sale to benefit the Colombia Project

Saturday, December 13 at 10 am

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Presented by Dennis Union Church & Seaglass Theater Company

Gian Carlo Menotti's beloved one-act opera will be presented by Maggie Bossi and friends
in conjunction with Seaglass Theater Company.

Performances at Dennis Union are Saturday, December 13 at 1 pm
and 4 pm with an additional performance December 14 at 3 pm.

at the Unitarian Memorial Church in Fairhaven.

The performances are free and all are welcome.

PRAYER LIST FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Ed Clough (Joan Buffington's son)
Bob Colpitts (brother of Nancy Aceti)
Edward & Maryann Czajkowski (Mary's brother)
Michael D. (friend of the Jasies)
Brent Damiano
Alyssa Davis (no calls please -- cards welcome!)
Jen, Andrew & Jeremy Frost (friends of Laurie Higgins)
Dave Henry and Eric Henry (Kathy Henry's brothers-in-law)
Larry Johnson (friend of the Jasie Family)
Annie Kiger (Ann Swaim's niece)
Peggy McAloon
Lori McGlothlin (friend of Heidi Wright)
Jean Otto
Charlie Pawlina (Joanne Ashby's brother)
Peni Plucker
Emilly Santos and Nelson Filho
Alexander Rosen-Schuh
Kristin Walters (friend of the Marchildons)

- Prayers for our country and its leadership: that divisions and hostility will end and stability and well-being return.
- Prayers for those living in the midst of war and famine.

Dennis Union Church Open and Affirming Covenant of Welcome

Believing that everyone is a child of God, it is with joy, and in the love of Christ, that we welcome all persons into the full life, ministry and mission of Dennis Union Church. We choose not to turn away anyone whom Christ would welcome. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person including, but not limited to, people of every race, ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, family structure or economic circumstance. We celebrate God's creative love shown in the wide diversity of humanity and the unique gifts each of us brings to the world.

It is our intention to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Dennis Union Church
713 Main Street (Route 6A at Old Bass River Rd.)
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Pastor: Rev. Nancy S. McHugh
Director of Music: Margaret Bossi
Director of Faith Formation for Youth & Adults: Doreen Mayer
Children's Ministries Coordinator: Evy Sirignano
Finance Secretaries: Elise Gordon and Doreen Mayer
Office Administrator: Jane Wilson
Sexton: Dave Crocker
Crib Room Attendant: Open