

JULY 26, 2026 | THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WORSHIP AT WESTFIELD

SERVICE OF WELCOME, FONT & WORD



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to complete the care pad in your pew.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.
Thanks be to God.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Small beginnings become mighty things in God's hands.

**We come expecting God
to do more than we can imagine.**

Hidden grace is already at work among us.

**We open our hearts
to the transforming power of Christ.**

The kingdom is a treasure beyond all price.

**We gladly seek what cannot be bought
but is freely given.**

Come, let us worship the God who is making all things new.

**We worship with joy, hope,
and grateful hearts.**

INVOCATION

God of hidden wonders,
You are always at work, even when we cannot see it.
Plant the seeds of your kingdom deep within us. Work
through our worship, our prayers, our songs, and our
lives until your love transforms us from the inside out.

Open our eyes to recognize the treasure of your
presence. Give us courage to let go of whatever keeps
us from following you fully, and fill us with joy as we
discover life in your kingdom.

In Christ we pray.

Amen.

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS US IN UNITY
ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK,
THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.

GATHER

*PLEASE RISE
IN BODY OR SPIRIT

***OPENING HYMN**
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple come, Raise the song of har-vest home!
 2. We our-selves are God's own field, Fruit un-to His praise to yeild;
 3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take His har-vest home
 4. E-ven so Lord, quick-ly come, Bring Thy fi-nal har-vest home;
 5. All is safe-ly gath-ered in Ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
 Wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, Un-to joy or sor-row grown.
 From His field shall purge a-way All that doth of-fend that day.
 9. Gath-er Thou Thy peo-ple in, Free from sor-row, free from sin.
 13. God, our Mak-er, doth pro-vide For our wants to be sup-plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap-pear;
 Give His an-gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast;
 There, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, In Thy pres-ence to a-bide;
 Come to God's own tem-ple come, Raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.
 But the fruit-ful ears to store In His gar-ner ev-er-more.
 Come, with all Thine an-gels, come, Raise the glo-rious har-vest home.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The kingdom of heaven is often hidden in plain sight—a tiny seed, a pinch of yeast, a treasure buried beneath our feet.

Yet how often do we miss what God is doing because we are looking for something bigger, louder, or easier? How often do we cling to what we have instead of trusting what God is growing within us?

God meets us not with condemnation, but with mercy. So let us lay down the burdens we carry, release the things we value more than love, and open our hearts to the transforming work of the Spirit.

Let us confess our sins before God
and one another.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Patient and persistent God,
You have placed treasures all around us,
yet we often chase things
that cannot satisfy.

We cling to comfort instead of courage.
We settle for convenience
instead of discipleship.

We overlook the quiet work of your Spirit
because we are searching for something
louder, bigger, or easier.

Forgive us when we underestimate what you
can do through small acts of love.

Forgive us when we value possessions more
than people, certainty more than faith, or
success more than compassion.

Plant your kingdom within us once again,
and shape us into people whose lives reflect
your grace.

Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

The good news is this:

The God who plants tiny seeds never gives up on the harvest.

The Christ who invites us to seek the kingdom also welcomes us when we lose our way.

The Spirit continues to work within us, quietly and faithfully, making us new.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, loved, and set free.

Thanks be to God!

*SUNG RESPONSE

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

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Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free!
As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Family of God

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I'm so glad I'm a part of the fam - 'ly of God
I've been washed in the foun - tain, wrapped in God's love!
Joint heirs with Je - sus as we trav - el this sod;
For I'm part of the fam - 'ly, the fam - 'ly of God.

SONG OF BAPTISM

You are Mine



GREETING

Members and friends in Christ,
we gather now to celebrate
the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism
There is one body and one Spirit.
There is one hope to God's call to us.

ADDRESS

...“yet you have come to me!”
Jesus said, “Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that
God requires.” So John agreed.

...like a dove and lighting on him.
Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son,
with whom I am well pleased.”

...to be God's people always.
This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life,
forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament,
promise your love, support, and care
to the one about to be baptized,
as she lives and grows in Christ?
We promise our love, support, and care.

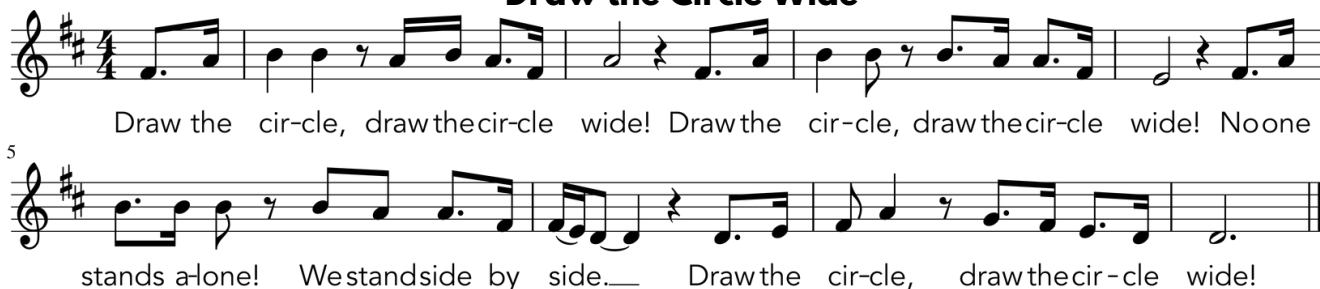
Do you believe in God? **I believe in God.**
Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ.**
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

GREETING

SONG OF WELCOME Draw the Circle Wide



Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide! Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide! No one
stands alone! We stand side by side. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide!

THE JESUS-Y QUESTIONS

THE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

THE COVENANT

Let us, members of the Westfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,
express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church.

**We promise you our friendship and prayer
as we share the hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.**

**By the power of the Holy Spirit
may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love
and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Evan Ferrando, Griswold, CT

I first came to Westfield a little over a year ago on June 21st for the Strawberry Supper. I half expected to be struck down. I watched people welcomed in like family, some paying for others who couldn't. I began my path of religion reading the Torah in Beth Jacobs Synagogue in Norwich, practicing the Passover Seder for instance as a young child. Been to mass at St Mary's in Norwich, Bethel Methodist in Griswold, and a few others. I found a home when Beth brought me here. I've worked for Norwich Housing Authority for ten years now, been head of grounds for the past three. I enjoy cars and trucks, the outdoors, animals, and piña coladas and getting caught in the rain.

SONG OF BLESSING Take, O Take Me



INVITATION

PRAYER

Creator God,
You formed us from the dust of the earth
and breathed your life into us.
Then you placed us in your world—
not simply to admire it,
but to cultivate it,
to mend what is broken,
to feed the hungry,
to welcome the stranger,
to create beauty,
and to love our neighbors.

Bless these hands.
Bless the hands that heal.
Bless the hands that build.
Bless the hands that teach.
Bless the hands that grow food.
Bless the hands that write,
paint, cook, drive, repair,
comfort, clean, serve, and create.

Bless the hands that are young,
still discovering their gifts.
Bless the hands that are worn,
bearing the wisdom of decades.
Bless the hands that ache.
Bless the hands that shake.
Bless the hands that no longer
do what they once could.
And bless these gloves we hold today.

May they remind us that our faith is not something
we leave inside the church.
When we slip them on, remind us that every act of
service can become an act of worship.
When they become dirty, remind us that your love
is meant to get its hands dirty.
When they become worn, remind us that lives
poured out in love are never wasted.
Whether we wear them in a garden, a workshop, at
a volunteer project, or while helping a neighbor,
may they call us back to the simple truth:
You have blessed our hands so that we might
become a blessing to others.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
whose carpenter's hands still bear
the marks of love.

Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

Friends, lift up your gloves.

These are more than a gift.

They are a reminder.

God has blessed your hands.

Now may God bless the work they do.

May these hands be strong enough to serve,
gentle enough to comfort,
creative enough to imagine,
and generous enough to share.

May they build what brings life,
repair what is broken,
grow what is good,
and reach out to those who need hope.

Go into the world wearing—not just these gloves
—but the love of Christ.
And may Almighty God,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
bless your hands,
your work,
and your life,
today and always.
Amen.

STUDY SUMMARY

Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a tiny mustard seed that grows into a great tree, a bit of yeast that transforms an entire batch of dough, a treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great value, and a net that gathers every kind of fish. The kingdom often begins unnoticed, quietly transforming lives from the inside out. Once its value is recognized, it is worth giving everything to embrace. Those who understand God's reign become stewards who bring out both old and new treasures for the sake of others.

NRSV

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

THE MESSAGE

Another story. "God's kingdom is like an acorn that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge oak tree, and eagles build nests in it."

Another story. "God's kingdom is like yeast that a woman works into the dough for dozens of loaves of barley bread—and waits while the dough rises."

"God's kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic—what a find!—and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field."

"Or, God's kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for exquisite pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it."

"Or, God's kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That's how it will be when the curtain comes down on history. The angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won't do any good."

Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?"

They answered, "Yes."

He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."

RESPONSE TO READING

Through this Scripture God is still speaking,
and we are listening.

SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan Chapman

CALL TO PRAYER Lead Me, Guide Me



SHARING OF CONCERNS

For all these persons
and all who are in need.
Hold your people near, O God.

SHARING OF JOYS

We give thanks to God
for these blessings.
Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVE

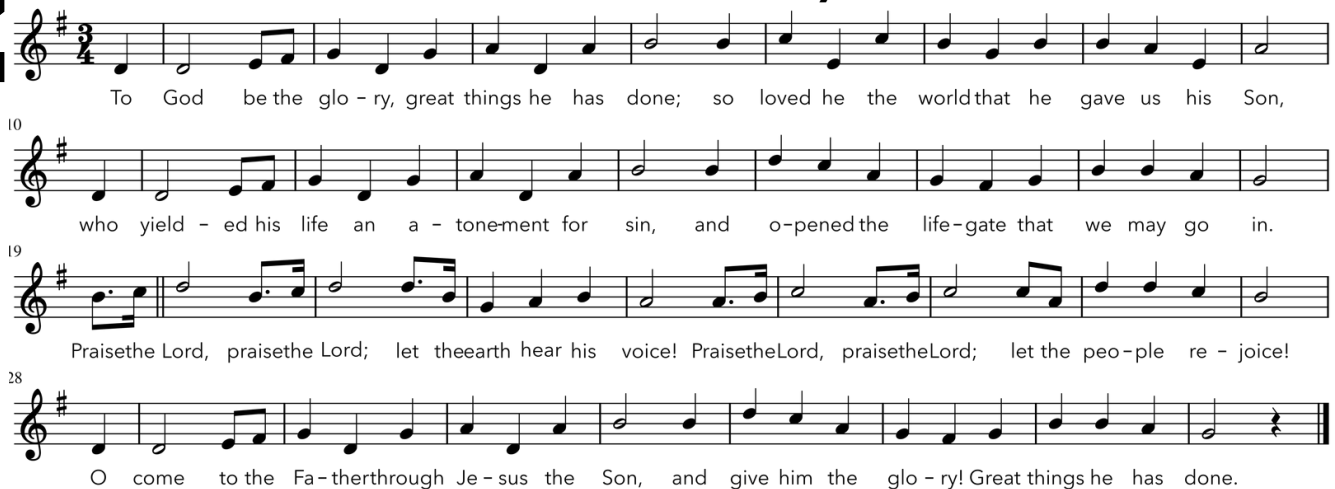
Jesus says the kingdom is a treasure worth everything.

Our offering is one way we invest in that treasure—not because God needs our gifts,
but because we believe in what God is growing here. Like a mustard seed,
even the smallest gift can bear abundant fruit.

Let us give with grateful and joyful hearts.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY To God Be the Glory



*CLOSING HYMN Graves to Gardens

4 *mf* I searched the world, but it could n't fill me.

8 Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough.

12 Then You came along and put me back to gether.

16 And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love.

20 *mf* Oh, there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You.

25 Lord, there's nothing nothing is better than You. *mf* I'm not afraid

33 to show You my weakness.

35 My failures and flaws, Lord, You've seen them all and You still call me friend.

39 'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.

43 There's not a place Your mercy and grace, won't find me a gain.

48 *f* Oh, there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You.

53 Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You. Oh, there's You.

62

GOD BLESSES US AND
SENDS US FORTH IN
MISSION FOR THE
WORLD.

SEND

*PLEASE RISE
IN BODY OR SPIRIT

66 *f* You turn mourning to dancing. You give beauty for ashes.
 You turn shame into glory. You're the only One who can. can.
 71 You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.
 75 You turn seas into high ways. You're the only One who can. You're the only One who can.
 81 *mf* Oh, there's nothing better than You. There's nothing
 86 better than You. Lord, there's nothing nothing is better than You
 91 Oh, there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You.
 96 Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than You.
 101 You turn graves into gardens. You turn bones into armies.
 105 You turn seas into high ways. You're the only One who can. can.
 You're the only One who can. You're the only One who can.

*BENEDICTION

...And do what?
Set them on fire!

PLANT. WATER.
GROW.

REGISTER HERE!



RETREAT

JULY 31-AUG 2

SEASON OF BLESSING

8/2 Blessing of the Caregivers

8/9 Blessing of the Bibles

8/16 Blessing of the Keys

8/23 Blessing of the Animals

8/30 Blessing of the Backpacks

**BEACH PARTY
 BINGO! AUG 15**

**BE OUR GUEST
 JULY 31, 5P**

OUR FAITHFULNESS

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE 127
 JULY AVG ATTENDANCE 121

BUDGET NEEDED WEEKLY \$6,340
 OPERATING INCOME* LAST WEEK \$1,951

BUDGET NEEDED MONTHLY \$27,471
 OPERATING INCOME* JULY \$10,874

BUDGET NEEDED (YTD) \$183,860
 OPERATING INCOME* (YTD) \$165,058

PLEASE NOTE:
 All worship services
 are live-streamed.
 For the safety of our
 community, video
 surveillance is in
 use.

THE ONE LINK
 THAT RULES
 THEM ALL!



LINKTR.EE/WESTFIELDDUCC

*not including donations for the Major Needs
 Fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and
 designated funds

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

We LOVE kids at Westfield. Children are welcome to stay through the whole service. If your child is more active, relax! We believe God put the wiggles and giggles in children. Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of worship. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.



The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Chapman graduated from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in May 2019 with his Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Witness and Proclamation. His capstone work, *The Year of Mark*, received the People's Choice Award among his cohort. While at Candler for his Master of Divinity (May, 2010), he was active with the Office of Worship, and was awarded the Hoyt Hickman Award for Outstanding Liturgical Scholarship. Jonathan is a 2007 Congregational Fellow and 2006 Undergraduate Fellow with The Fund for Theological Education. He graduated from Elon University in 2007 with a degree in Religious Studies. At Elon, he was selected as a Leadership Fellow and was awarded the W. L. Monroe Christian Education and Personality Award in the 2007. While at Elon he joined Elon Community Church, United Church of Christ, the congregation in which he was ordained.

Jonathan joined Westfield in October of 2012 and was officially installed as Pastor and Teacher in May of 2013, presiding over its revitalization. In October of 2022, he celebrated a decade with Westfield.

He was selected to be a part of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, a program sponsored by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ that works with young clergy committed to parish ministry through a decade-long relationship. Dr. Chapman consults with congregations on a variety of topics ranging from revitalization to worship to marketing their churches. He married his husband, Greg (pastor of Enfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Enfield, CT), in December of 2014 at Westfield. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Westfield Cemetery and the Westcott-Wilcox Home, as well as on the Windham Association Council.

Rev. Jonathan's Onsite Hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am-12pm. His additional work days are Sunday and Monday, when he is available by appointment. His days off are Friday and Saturday.

Find time with Rev. Jon by scanning the QR code or going to calendly.com/revjonchapman

Contact info for Rev. Jonathan:

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(e) jon@westfielducc.org

Ministers
Pastor
Director of Welcome
Director of Music
Church Administrator
Director of Children
Facilities Caretaker

All of the Congregation
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Chapman
Kevin Williams
Sue Theroux
Jess Payette
Donna Bartholomew
Michelle Plasse

