

Scripture reading continued

8-9 Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly, things to praise, not to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

Meditation - Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musical Meditation

INVITATION to GENEROSITY

One: Praise God who calls us to imagine and believe that another world is possible.

Many: We praise the One who calls us into a covenant with one another.

Passing of the Plate

DOXOLOGY (Use whatever words are comfortable for you)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost (Creator, Christ, and Spirit One/Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). Amen. (turn over)

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING and DEDICATION (written by Rev. Jacob Nault)

God who loves as exactly as we are, thank you for this opportunity to celebrate the gifts of our disabled siblings. With these gifts of time, talent, treasure, and prayer, help us work with you to create a world where all your people can belong, and find peace in your presence. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who offers hope and liberation for all. Amen.

*SONG “God Be with You Till We Met Again”

#434

BENEDICTION (written by Rev. Dr. JJ Flag)

Friends, as we leave this place, we leave to do THE work. The work of welcome, the work of inclusion; full, unabashed, lavish even. The work of journeying alongside each other, the work of meeting needs when and where we can. The work of resting, the work of restoring those cast aside back to community, the work of setting tables and making sure that spaces at those tables are accessible to ALL, the work of making the road ahead a little easier to travel, the work of resting. Accompanied by grace and mercy, we have been called to and equipped for this work. May we do it with joy. Amen.

SUNG “Amen”(feel free to clap along!)

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Bold- Words in bold are said in unison.

Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!

Warm Birthday wishes go out to:

Eric Lidstone October 6th

Heidi Furman October 8th

Wanda Pane October 12th

Jamie McNamara Jr. October 24th

Pamela Dobeck October 31st

William Pane October 6th

Regan Bodak October 11th

Dianne Cummins October 14th

Jamie McNamara October 25th

Happy Anniversary go out to:

Heather & Jamie McNamara October 5th

Debora & David Wheeler October 13th

Access Sunday is often celebrated on the Second Sunday in October with the UCC. The UCC will join together and celebrate the gifts of persons with disabilities and the strides that the Church has made in being more inclusive and becoming more Accessible to All. It is also a day that we, the Church, acknowledge the journey yet to be taken with our siblings with disabilities.

During the First Hymn we have a collection for WHEAT. Thank you for your generosity!

For all joys and concerns mentioned in the Pastor's Tuesday email.

Remember in your prayers our special members: June and Edie K.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON

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The United Church of Clinton



October 11, 2026

Minister, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musician, Kate Lyczkowski

Lay Reader,

Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS (written by Rev. Laura Cannata)

Welcome everyone to Access Sunday! Today is the day we celebrate our disabled siblings in Christ. We acknowledge the hurts we the church and society in general have done to our disabled siblings. We propose new actions of justice and inclusion. We affirm that all bodyminds are created in the image of God and that disability is not a dirty word. We honor the gifts and lives of our disabled siblings and proclaim Christ’s good news for all.

RINGING of the BELL/TIME of CENTER

*CALL to WORSHIP (written by Pastor Greg Tre Harris)

Leader: The Divine is our Shepherd. We want not. Not missing anything. Nothing holy, forgotten, or left out.

Together: Created in love, We are one!

Leader: The world names us by what it believes we lack. The Divine always calls us whole. Our bodies, our minds, our spirits, created without hesitation, held without condition, beloved without exception.

Together: Created differently, we are one!

Leader: One Band. One Body. Many members. One Sound. One Song. Many voices. One Truth. One Spirit. Many stories. No life stands alone. No gift exists apart from another.

Together: Created creatively, we are one!

Leader: We are seen through the eyes of our neighbors. We are strengthened by one another’s veracity. We are healed through interconnected compassion. What the world calls weakness, the Divine transforms into common union.

Together: Our reality does not diminish. It binds us together, reveals Christ among us, and becomes the very place where grace is made known. Our collective vulnerability saves us all! Created in oneness, we are one!

*SONG of PRAISE and SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE

“They’ll Know We Are Christians” #494

*PRAYER of the DAY (written by Pastor Greg Tre Harris)

Holy Divine, everything we need, at birth we have. Each gift. Each story. Each body. Each way of moving through the world. Nothing lost. Nothing missing. Nothing wrong. Nothing without purpose. Designed with divinity in mind. When the world teaches us otherwise, remind us that You have always called us whole. Our aches and pains are not evidence that Love abandoned us. They are reminders that we live, that we love and are loved, that Ruach is precious, and that the Divine has remained by our side through it all. Our pain is our proof. As we gather in worship, help us recognize one another’s abilities and disabilities, honor one each other’s truths and identities, and discover Your presence within our shared humanity. May we remember that what the world often overlooks, You have always called beloved. May our worship reveal Christ among us, Your grace be made known through us, and our collective vulnerability become a testimony to Your abiding love. Amen.

*AFFIRMING and CONNECTING (Passing of the Peace) We sing: “Peace be with You”.

* 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. Amen. (Be seated)

Moment for All God’s Children

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 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 forever and ever. Amen.

*SONG “Give Thanks” #528

SCRIPTURE Psalm 106: 1-6 (The Message Translation)

1-3 Hallelujah! Thank God! And why? Because he’s good, because his love lasts. But who on earth can do it—declaim God’s mighty acts, broadcast all his praises? You’re one happy man when you do what’s right, one happy woman when you form the habit of justice. 4-5 Remember me, God, When you enjoy your people; include me when you save them; I want to see your chosen succeed, celebrate with your celebrating nation, join the Hallelujahs of your pride and joy!

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION and NEW LIFE (written by Pastor Maggie Guekauezian)

God, we confess—that we took the truth that we are each made in Your image, marked with sacred worth from the moment of our birth, and placed conditions upon that first act of Your love. That we, like the Israelites at Horeb’s foot, forgot Your works—our responsibility to love and care for each other—and shed some of life’s beauty to be melted into a golden calf, a false idol that we name “able bodied” –”neurotypical” “sane”--, and turned “expected” into “correct”, put it on a pedestal, and worshipped it. Forgive us, Holy One, forgive us. God, transform us— into unmakers of harm and workers of care, make of us advocates for each other, our siblings in humankind, like Moses who –through difficulties of speech–struggled for the good of Your people, first to Pharaoh and then even to You, O God! Into builders of the Kin-dom on Earth, repairs of the breach, removers of each other’s yoke and burden, restorers of the streets to live in, guardians of each other’s dignity and worth in all the ways God has called us into body, mind, and spirit! Change us, Holy One, change us. God, fill us with life anew— For the sake of the worth of all You’ve made, that it may endure. For the sake of Christ’s ministry of grace and mercy. For the sake of us remembering that the Holy Spirit is beneath and between every breath whether fired by our lungs or by machines that assist them. For the sake of making the conditions for every person’s thriving in the many and varied forms that a good life can take! Renew us, Holy One, renew us! Amen.

WORDS of GRACE (written by Pastor Maggie Guekauezian)

Beloved, receive the grace of God, The Good Shepherd: The boundless compassion of our Creator guides at our own pace through storm and stress to green fields, their lovingkindness sets us to rest by cool streams and eases any pain; Christ’s ever-extended hand of welcome and welcome back reaches out for the sake of every body, mind, spirit, and guides us on the soul-filling path; though the course of life—our conditions of being, our treatments by others, the barriers erected in our way—can bring us to fearful places upon difficult paths, the steadfast Spirit of God refuses to abandon us. Though we may feel judgemental stares upon us, hear the not-quiet-enough whispers of unkind questions, God has set us a table from generation to generation—Upon it: a feast of grace graciously made and meeting every need; Beside it: the presence of Christ anointing us with oil and salve; Around it: every kind person, fearfully and wonderfully made, signs of every adaptation and accommodation echoing back each other’s worth. Surely, we are each accompanied by the goodness, the mercy, the endless grace of the Holy One day by day.

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Phillipians 4: 1-9 (The Message Translation)

My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don’t waiver. Stay on track, steady in God. **Pray about everything.** 2 I urge Euodia and Syntyche to iron out their differences and make up. God doesn’t want his children holding grudges. 3 And, oh, yes, Syzygus, since you’re right there to help them work things out, do your best with them. These women worked for the Message hand in hand with Clement and me, and with other veterans—worked as hard as any of us. Remember their names are also in the Book of Life. 4-5 Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, *revel* in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you’re on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute! 6-7 Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. (turn over)



Special Annual Meeting Edition!

The Southern New England conference had record attendance at its 7th Annual Meeting Sept. 25 - 27 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA, and online. At least 800 people attended in person despite the nor'easter, and more than 200 were online.

The following is a brief recap of event highlights that delegates are invited to share with their congregations. Detailed articles, videos, presentation decks and photos will be shared over the next two weeks as staff pull them together. They will all be posted at www.sneucc.org/2026AM as they become available.

Business

On Saturday, delegates were asked to consider three separate motions accepting the legal mergers of the historic Rhode Island Conference, the historic Massachusetts Conference, and the Missionary Society of Connecticut into the Southern New England Conference. Each historic board and the SNEUCC Board had previously approved the proposed mergers. Approval by SNEUCC's voting membership was an additional required step.

The Rhode Island motion was considered first. A proposal to postpone consideration for one year, with conditions concerning additional listening and healing, did not pass. Delegates then voted on the merger itself. In total, 381 delegates voted yes, 259 voted no, and there were 19 abstentions. Because the resolution required approval by a two-third margin, it did not pass.

Delegates next considered the Massachusetts motion, with amendments and further amendments offered during discussion. During a pause in business, the SNEUCC Board decided to withdraw both the Massachusetts and Connecticut merger motions from further consideration, meaning neither merger proceeded to a final vote.

On Friday, delegates approved the election of the new slate of officers and Board of Director members.

Rev. Raphael Warnock

U.S. Senator the Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock spent an hour with the 35 youth attending the Woven Youth Collective program on Saturday morning, gave a rousing keynote address on Saturday afternoon and participated in a book signing, and on Sunday preached at Conference-wide worship service. That service was livestreamed, and was viewed by more than 1,100 people on Vimeo and the SNEUCC website - in many of those cases, the viewing was by congregations and groups - and was seen by another 3,400 people on Facebook.

Strategic Vision Report

Delegates heard a presentation by the strategic planning consultants Yvette Wynn and Dr. Edith Guffey, who walked through the four priorities for the SNEUCC moving forward that they said surfaced most among participants in listening sessions and a survey.

Those reviewing the report are being asked to fill out a questionnaire by

Oct 1 - that can be found at: www.sneucc.org/stratplan.

Other Highlights

Other highlights of the meeting included a busy Marketplace, a screening of *Walking the Journey with You: Imani Village*, a packed house for a storytelling event, and multiple workshops. Delegates also received printed [Impact Reports](#) - two for each delegate, and they are asked to share in their local congregations.

Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin and outgoing Board Chair Persephone Hall also gave addresses. Recordings, transcripts, videos, articles and other materials about the meeting will be posted here as they are prepared: www.sneucc.org/2026AM.

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