



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
Church of Hamilton

## Order of Service April 19, 2026

### Prelude:

### Welcome and Announcements

*“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”*

*- 1 Timothy 18:18-19*

\* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 111:2-5 ..... Pastor Matt Schubert

Leader: Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

**People: Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.**

Leader: He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

**Unison: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.**

\* **Song of Worship:** High in the Heavens

\* **Invocation** ..... Pastor Matt Schubert

\* **Song of Response:** ..... Here Is Love

On the mount of crucifixion,  
Fountains opened deep and wide,  
Through the flood-gates of God’s mercy,  
Flowed the vast and gracious tide;  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers  
Poured incessant from above,  
Heaven’s peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all your love accepting,  
Love Thee, ever all my days;  
Let me seek Thy kingdom only  
And my life be to your praise;  
Christ alone will be my glory,  
Nothing in the world I see;  
You have cleansed and justified me,  
You alone have set me free.

**Children’s Message** ..... Lisa Clay

**Story of Grace** ..... Amira

**Pastoral Prayer** ..... Pastor Oli van Ruth

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 18:18-30 ..... Jonathan Heppner

A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'" "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!" "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

\* **Doxology**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost  
Amen

**Sermon:** "*The Last Leaving*" ..... Pastor Kevin Baird  
Luke 18:18-30

• **Hymn:** Be Thou My Vision

• **Call to Prayer and Benediction** ..... Pastor Kevin Baird

**Postlude**

## **Warrant for the 2026 Mid-Year Congregational Meeting**

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Greetings:

A Special Business Meeting of the congregation will be held Monday, April 27, at 7:00 pm at First Congregational Church of Hamilton in Heritage Hall to consider the following Articles:

**Article 1:** To receive the recommendation of the Search Committee, as endorsed by the Board of Elders, to call Lisa Clay, a member of our Church, to serve as Director of Women's Ministry and take any action thereon.

**Article 2:** To receive the recommendation of the Board of Elders that the congregation affirm the calls of the current Executive Director (Cece Gough) and the Directors of the Children's Ministry (Chrysa Bliati) and the Music Ministry (Hana Lee) and take any action thereon.

The meeting will also include presentations by Lead Pastors Kevin Baird and Oli van Ruth, as well as by the Board of Elders and other standing committees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walker Martin  
FCCH Clerk

## High in the Heavens

by Judy Gresham

High in the heavens, exalted,  
name above all other names,  
Lord over all of creation,  
worthy of power and praise.

Blessing and honor and glory  
are his eternal reward;  
let every knee bow before him  
and every tongue say he is Lord.

*Refrain*

*Jesus, you are exalted and glorified.  
Jesus, name above all names, we'll lift you high.*

Clothed in the splendor of heaven,  
Jesus, eternally God,  
emptied yourself, came as nothing,  
choosing the road to the cross.

Lord, you were found in our likeness,  
shedding your glory to serve;  
humble, not claiming advantage,  
you laid down your life for the world.

*Refrain*

Let us be found in your likeness,  
learning to serve as you served,  
filled with your Spirit, your fullness,  
the fragrance of grace on the earth.

You love the heart that is humble,  
you desire worship that's true;  
voices that sing for your glory  
and lives that bring honor to you.

*Refrain*

*Offertory Lyrics*

**She Must and Shall Go Free**

by William Gadsby, Derek Webb, and Sandra McCracken

Mercy speaks by Jesus' blood;  
Hear and sing, ye sons of God;  
Justice satisfied indeed;  
Christ has full atonement made.

Jesus' blood speaks loud and sweet;  
Here all Deity can meet,  
And, without a jarring voice,  
Welcome Zion to rejoice,  
Welcome Zion to rejoice.

*Chorus*

*All her debts were cast on Me,  
And she must and shall go free.  
All her debts were cast on Me,  
And she must and shall go free.*

Peace of conscience, peace with God,  
We obtain through Jesus' blood;  
Jesus' blood speaks solid rest;  
We believe, and we are blest.  
We believe, and we are blest.

Should the law against her roar,  
Jesus' blood still speaks with power,  
All her debts were cast on Me,  
And she must and shall go free.  
She must and shall go free.

# Be Thou My Vision 344

What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Phil. 3:7

Irish hymn, c. 8th century  
Trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905  
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

SLANE 10 10 10 10  
Traditional Irish melody  
Arr. by Donald P. Hustad, 1973

## Unison

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;  
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son;  
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.  
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.  
High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.  
Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

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HOPE AND ASPIRATION



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
Church of Hamilton

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 19, 2026

**Our mission** is to rejoice in God, grow in the gospel, and point people to Jesus.

Signup for events



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Today - Sunday Dessert, 6:30 pm
- April 21 - Missions Prayer, 7:45 am
- April 24 - Community Conversations, 7:00 pm
- April 24-26 - LAF Spring Getaway Weekend
- April 25 - Spring Cleanup Work Day, 9:00 am
- April 26 - Community Conversations, 9:45 am & 7:00 pm
- April 27 - Mid-Year Congregational Meeting, 7:00 pm

## NEW TO OUR CHURCH?

**Welcome!** We are glad you chose to join us this morning! If you have questions please ask an usher.

**For families we provide children's church.** During our 8:30 am service, our supervised Nursery is for infants through age 3, and our Little People's Church (LPC) program is for children age 4 through 1st grade. LPC meets following the Children's Message. During the 11:00 am service, the Nursery room is staffed as a combined space for infants and toddlers.

### Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 am

- Infants, preschool and kindergarten age children gather in the Meetinghouse
- Elementary age children meet in the lower level of the Ministry Center
- Middle schoolers meet in the Ministry Center, Room 11
- High schoolers meet in the Barn
- Adult classes
  - *Becoming a Sanctuary* with Yuka Langlais and Lisa Clay, Meetinghouse Chapel
  - *So Great a Salvation* with Dr. Jack Davis, MC Room 21
  - *Loving God with Head, Heart, and Hands* with Dr. Kerilyn Harkaway-Krieger, MC Room 23/24
  - *Understanding 1st & 2nd Corinthians* with Dr. Eckhardt Schnabel, MC Room 22

Download our app



**Additional resources:** We have the Deacons fund, prayer chain, helping hands ministry, meals ministry, pastoral counseling, and other resources to help. Contact us at [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org).

**Hearing-Assist Devices and Large-Print Bibles:** We have hearing-assist devices that help reduce ambient noise when listening to the sermon in the sanctuary; we also have large-print bibles. Please see an usher for assistance.

## SUNDAY DESSERT

We're inviting those new to our church to a Sunday Dessert tonight at 6:30 pm, hosted by Blair and Sarah Villa at their home in Wenham. It's a time to get better acquainted with our church and vice versa! If you're new and would like to attend, email Cece Gough, [cmgough@fcchamilton.org](mailto:cmgough@fcchamilton.org).

## MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting is Monday, April 27, at 7:00 pm in Heritage Hall. We will discuss and vote on several items, including Lisa Clay's candidacy for Women's Ministry Director. We will also hear ministry updates from Pastor Kevin, Pastor Oli, and boards and committees. We hope you can join us.

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The elders are hosting Community Conversations as a follow-up to the church survey. We encourage you to come and share your thoughts and ideas as we enter a new and exciting season of ministry at FCCH. You do not need to have submitted the survey to attend. Choose a date that fits your schedule. We have intentionally scheduled two options during the Sunday School hour for those who might prefer a daytime meeting. Sign up using the QR code above.

## **NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

We invite you to join our New Members class, held in two sessions: Sunday, May 3, from 9:45 to 10:45 am, and Wednesday, May 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Wigglesworth-Cutler House. Find out what it means to be a member of our FCCH community. Sign up using the QR code above or email [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org).

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Join us on Saturday, May 2, for the Men's Breakfast in Heritage Hall from 8:00 to 10:30 am. Dr. Glenn Butner will speak on *Bible Ethics: A Toolbox for the Christian Man*. This is a free and catered event. Registration is due by Monday, April 27. Sign up using the QR code above.

## **DEVOTE YOURSELF TO THE PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE**

Join us from 9:00 am to noon on Saturday, May 16, in the Meetinghouse Chapel for an engaging program on reading scripture in public. Dr. Jeff Arthurs will teach us how to prepare spiritually, mentally, and emotionally for public reading while sharing biblical insights and best practices. Sign up using the QR code on the front page.

## **SNACK DRIVE STUDENTS SAY THANK YOU!**

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders extend their heartfelt thanks for the generous donations to their snack drive. With your support, students and teachers assembled 70 snack packs for Beverly Bootstraps. Before delivering them, the students took time to pray over the snack packs—asking that those who receive them would feel encouraged, supported, and surrounded by the love of Jesus.

## **GRIEFSHARE**

GriefShare meets on Mondays at 7:30 pm on Zoom. The group is still accepting members for this session. All who are grieving the loss of a loved one are welcome. The GriefShare group provides a safe, confidential, and Christ-centered place to share and to listen. For further information, please contact John Clark at (978) 375-6329. To register for the group, visit [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) and search for First Congregational Church of Hamilton.

## **WATCH THE CHOSEN WITH US!**

You're invited to gather and watch the film series *The Chosen* on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, at the home of Jack and Robin Davis (57 Lois Street, Hamilton). David Horn leads the discussion of this historical drama about the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Contact Robin Davis with questions, [redrobindavis@gmail.com](mailto:redrobindavis@gmail.com).

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

- **Spring Cleanup Work Day:** Phil Best is looking for volunteers to help with outdoor spring cleanup on our campus on Saturday, April 25, from 9:00 am to noon. Contact Phil Best, [facilities@fcchamilton.org](mailto:facilities@fcchamilton.org), for details.
- **AV Team:** Want to help our church with technology? We're looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday Service sound and livestream. No experience needed—training provided! If interested, contact Jay Foss, Director of Sound and Technology, at [av@fcchamilton.org](mailto:av@fcchamilton.org).
- **Children's Ministry:** We need volunteers to staff our Nursery during the 11:00 am worship service. We also need one adult helper to work alongside the lead teacher during the Preschool Sunday School class. Contact Chrysa Bliati at [cbliati@fcchamilton.org](mailto:cbliati@fcchamilton.org) to help.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

- Parents of first- and fifth-grade children are invited to attend the Parenting Milestone class on Sunday, May 3, at 9:45 am. Learn more about the upcoming *Word/Invitation* Milestone and workshop practical ways to help children engage with God's Word. You'll also be able to inscribe your child's Bible, which will be presented on Sunday, May 10.
  - **Word Milestone:** First-graders will receive a Bible on Sunday, May 10, during our 8:30 am service.
  - **Invitation Milestone:** Fifth-graders will receive a new, age-appropriate Bible on Sunday, May 10, during our 11:00 am service.
- **Vacation Bible School** is back this summer, July 13–17, from 9:00 am to noon, for children from preschool through entering grade 5. Registration is now open! We're also looking for volunteers to help make VBS a great experience. Use the QR code on the front page to register a child or sign up to volunteer.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

There is no high school or middle school youth group this week due to April break.

- Explore registration is open! Students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited to join us as we explore the North Shore and our faith this July 13–17, from 9:00 am to noon. Register using the QR code on the front page.

## **COLLEGE-AGE MINISTRY**

Our College-Age Group meets on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the van Ruths' home in Hamilton. This season, we'll discover the compelling, beautiful, counter-cultural manner of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Use the QR code on the front page to access the college WhatsApp.

## **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

Our Young Adults Group meets on Mondays at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Pastor Matt at [mschuberth@fcchamilton.org](mailto:mschuberth@fcchamilton.org).

*If you would like to receive our weekly email, sign up at [fcchamilton.org](http://fcchamilton.org) or email the church office at [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org).*

*If you signed up and are not receiving it, check your spam folder and add [info@fcchamilton.org](mailto:info@fcchamilton.org) to your address book.*

***All submissions for the announcements must be received in the church office by Wednesday at noon. Thank you!***