



*Rejoicing in God
Growing in the Gospel
Pointing people to Jesus*

August 16, 2026

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Hamilton. For many years, people have gathered here to rejoice in the gift of life, hope, and comfort we have through Jesus Christ. We hope as you gather with us today, you will encounter his beauty, mercy, and wisdom for your life, no matter who you are or what you're going through.

New To Our Church?

Welcome! We're glad you chose to join us this morning! If you have questions, please ask an usher.

For families, we have the Nursery and Little People's Church (LPC) during the 10:00 am worship service.

- **Nursery:** Check-in/ drop-off starts at 9:50 am in the Meetinghouse.
- **LPC:** Check in on arrival at the Ministry Center entrance. Following the Children's Message, children ages 4 to 7 will be escorted by adult leaders to the LPC room (Meetinghouse-lower level).
- **Moms' Alcove** in room 11 is available for nursing moms.
- **Sermon Notes** for children are available at the Welcome Desk.

First time here? Use the QR code on the back to let us know you visited.

For large-print Bibles, please see an usher.

If you need of prayer after the service, meet with an Elder and Deacon at the platform in the front.

Join us for iced tea, lemonade, and popsicles outside on the lawn after the service.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Oli van Ruth

Preparing Our Hearts

"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." - Ezekiel 36:25-26

* Call to Worship: Romans 8:31-34

Susan Gross

Leader: What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

People: He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Leader: Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

Unison: Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

COMING WITH PRAISE

* **Hymn:** Praise to the Lord the Almighty (Insert)

* **Invocation, Confession of Sin, and Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor Oli van Ruth

* **Song of Response:** Blessed Assurance (Insert)

Children's Message

Lauren Sager

Please accompany children forward for the message, then exit to the hallway where your child (ages 4 to 7) will be escorted across the parking lot to Little People's Church.

DRAWING NEAR FOR PRAYER

Story of Grace

Summer Serve Testimony

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Matt Schuberth

Musical Offering: *This Is Not the End*

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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:1-14 (ESV)

Susan Gross

Sermon: *"The Renewed Life"*

Pastor Oli van Ruth

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Song of Worship:** Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me (Insert)

* **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Pastor Oli van Ruth

Postlude

Our Ministry Leaders will be available at the front for prayer after the service:
Susan Gross, Elder; John Clark, Deacon

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

by Joachim Neander, arranged by Norton Hall Band

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near, join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been. Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the amen sound from His people again; gladly forever adore Him.

Blessed Assurance

by CityAlight

All my attempts to be satisfied
Were vain and empty
Until the moment You rescued me
And Your love filled me

My soul sings now my soul sings

Chorus (x2)

What blessed assurance

I've found in You I've found in You

I won't be shaken I will not be moved

How steadfast Your strong hand

Is keeping me is keeping me

I won't be shaken I will not be moved

(O blessed assurance)

Offertory

This Is Not the End

by The Grey Havens

It's the end of the line
Words that I said to myself so many times
I've been so low, found myself going down
Sinking like, sinking like stone

Tried to fight
I have stepped in the ring
With a darkness in my mind
You can lose sight

It's the end of the line
Throwing these words at the darkness this time
You've been so wrong
Time after time after time

[Chorus]

*Might be back on the ropes
Might be down in the ring
Oh death, you're a fighter
But you've lost all your sting
So the more that you hit me
The more you can't win
You can knock me down, drag me out
But ring the bell for one more round
I'll get up again, 'cause this is not the end*

It's the turn of the tide
Out of breath, nothing left
But I can see the sunrise
Bring in some light

Chorus

So, listen closer, it's not over
I'm not leaving the scene
You're just a poser, no title holder
You've got nothing on me
So, listen closer, it's not over
I'm not leaving the scene
You're just a poser, no title holder
You've got nothing on me

Chorus

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

by CityAlight

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer
There is no more for Heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior, He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley, He will lead
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future's sure, the price, it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus, now and ever is my plea
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day, I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat,
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me"

SERMON TEXT & NOTES

Colossians 3:1-14 (ESV)

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Announcements

- **Worship at Asbury Grove Today!** Join us at Asbury Grove (15 Lee Park, South Hamilton) on Sunday, August 16, at 4:00 pm to hear Pastor Oli preach during the outdoor vespers service.
- **Sunday Scribbles for Kids!** FCCH Children's Ministry highly recommends this interactive journal designed to help children actively listen during Sunday worship services. Use the QR code to find out more about purchasing your own *Sunday Scribbles*.
- **Nursery & LPC Summer Break Schedule:** There will be no Nursery or Little People's Church offered during the worship service on Sunday, August 30, and Sunday, September 6. A breakout space for toddlers, preschool children, and their parents will be available in Room 11, across from the café.
- **The Alpha Course Is Back!** Invite someone to join you on Monday, September 14, at 6:30 pm for dinner (free) and launch night. Week 1: "Is There More to Life Than This?" For invitation cards and volunteer sign-ups, see the table in the hallway or contact Diann Lloyd-Dennis at dldennismn@gmail.com.
- **Women's Bible Studies:** We will study the book of Romans, using the *N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides*. SonLight begins on Tuesday, September 15, at 9:45 am, and NightLight begins on Thursday, September 17, at 7:00 pm. Sign up with the QR code, or in person after the worship service.

Signup for events



August Events | For details, scan the QR code above.

- 16 **Vespers Service with Oli van Ruth** | 4:00 pm, Asbury Grove, under the pines
- 22 **Summer Something Brunch** | 9:30 to 11:00 am, Ministry Center Café
- 23 **Night of Prayer and Worship** | 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Meetinghouse Sanctuary
- 23 **Youth Worship Night** | 5:00 to 7:00 pm, First Congregational Church of Boxford
- 27 **Children's Ministry Sunday School Volunteer Orientation** | 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Ministry Center Café
- 30 **Nursery Volunteers Orientation** | 11:00 to 12:00 pm, Ministry Center Café
- 30 **Youth Worship Night** | 5:00 to 7:00 pm, First Congregational Church of Boxford

Kevin Baird, *Lead Pastor of Care & Outreach*
Oliver van Ruth, *Lead Pastor of Preaching & Teaching*
Matthew Schuberth, *Pastor of Youth & Young Adults*
Chrysa Bliati, *Children's Ministry Director*
Lisa Clay, *Women's Ministry Director*
Cece Gough, *Executive Director*

Hana Lee, *Music Director*
Jay Foss, *Audio-Visual Manager*
Jill VanderWoude, *Administrative Assistant*
Phil Best, *Facilities Manager*
The People of God, *Ministers to the World*

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