



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

August 30, 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.

**Please Note:** There is no Nursery or Little People's Church during the worship service today, August 30, and Sunday, Sept. 6, to give our volunteers a brief pause to rest and recharge. Regular nursery and Little People's Church will resume on Sunday, Sept. 13.

- **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

*"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." - Romans 12:9-10*

### \* Call to Worship: Psalm 148:7-13

Chrysa Bliati

**Leader:** Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,

**People:** **you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,**

**Leader:** kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,

**People:** **young men and women, old men and children.**

**Unison:** ***Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.***

## COMING WITH PRAISE

\* **Hymn:** Would You Be Free from the Burden verses 1, 2, and 4

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

Jonathan Heppner

\* **Song of Response:** Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

**Children's Message**

Cec Horn

*Please accompany children forward for the message; they can return to their seats with their caregivers to remain in the worship service. A breakout space for toddlers or preschool children and their parents is available in room 11, across from the café.*

## DRAWING NEAR FOR PRAYER

**Prayers for Our Church Family**

Pastor Matt Schuberth

**Musical Offering:** *My Soul Finds Rest*

Grace Bigus

**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 3:18-4:1

Jonathan Heppner

**Sermon:** *"Jesus, Lord of My Relationships"*

Pastor Oli van Ruth

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* **Song of Worship:** The Power of the Cross

\* **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Pastor Oli van Ruth

**Postlude**

*Our Ministry Leaders will be available at the front for prayer after the service:  
Jonathan Heppner, Elder; Kornilios Lazaridis, Deacon*

# Would You Be Free from the Burden 255

*In whom we have redemption through His blood . . . Col. 1:14*

POWER IN THE BLOOD 10 9 10 8 Ref.

Lewis E. Jones, 1899

Lewis E. Jones, 1899



1. Would you be free from the bur - den of sin? There's pow'r in the blood,
2. Would you be free from your pas - sion and pride? There's pow'r in the blood,
3. Would you be whit - er, much whit - er than snow? There's pow'r in the blood,
4. Would you do serv - ice for Je - sus your King? There's pow'r in the blood,



pow'r in the blood; Would you o'er e - vil a vic - to - ry win? There's  
pow'r in the blood; Come for a cleans - ing to Cal - va - ry's tide? There's  
pow'r in the blood; Sin - stains are lost in its life - giv - ing flow; There's  
pow'r in the blood; Would you live dai - ly His prais - es to sing? There's



## Refrain



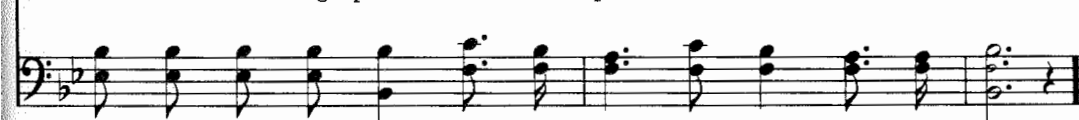
won - der - ful pow'r in the blood. There is pow'r, pow'r, won - der - work - ing pow'r  
there is



In the blood of the Lamb; There is pow'r, pow'r,  
In the blood of the Lamb; there is



won - der - work - ing pow'r In the pre - cious blood of the Lamb.



## Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

Holy Spirit, living breath of God  
Breathe new life into my willing soul  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
To renew my heart and make me whole  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me  
Give me faith for what I cannot see  
Give me passion for Your purity  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me

Holy Spirit, come abide within  
May Your joy be seen in all I do  
Love enough to cover every sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude  
Kindness to the greatest and the least  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace  
Turn my strivings into works of grace  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do

## *Offertory*

### **My Soul Finds Rest** *Psalm 62*

by Sandra McCracken

O my God hear my cry,  
From the depths I call out to you  
You give Your mercy and light,  
In the dark, in the wilderness

#### *Chorus*

*My soul finds rest in God alone  
My salvation comes from Him  
My soul finds rest—God is my hope  
I will not be shaken, I will not be shaken*

You are my shield and strength,  
Trim my feet for this battle  
Our God is mighty to save,  
I will wait, I will wait for Him

#### *Chorus*

O my Strength, I sing praise to You  
In joy, or pain, I sing praise to You  
Night or day, I sing praise to You

#### *Chorus*

# 349 May the Mind of Christ My Savior

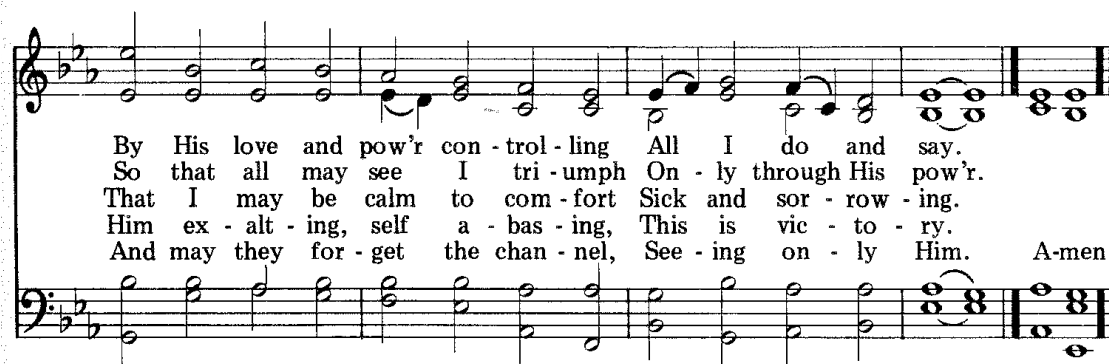
*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus . . . Phil. 2:5*

Kate B. Wilkinson, 1925

ST. LEONARDS 8 7 8 5  
A. Cyril Barham-Gould, 1925



1. May the mind of Christ my Sav - ior Live in me from day to day,  
2. May the Word of God dwell rich - ly In my heart from hour to hour,  
3. May the peace of God my Fa - ther Rule my life in ev - ery - thing,  
4. May the love of Je - sus fill me As the wa - ters fill the sea;  
5. May His beau - ty rest up - on me As I seek the lost to win,



By His love and pow'r con - trol - ling All I do and say.  
So that all may see I tri - umph On - ly through His pow'r.  
That I may be calm to com - fort Sick and sor - row - ing.  
Him ex - alt - ing, self a - bas - ing, This is vic - to - ry.  
And may they for - get the chan - nel, See - ing on - ly Him. A-men.

## SERMON TEXT & NOTES

## Colossians 3:18-4:1

**18** Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. **20** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **21** Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. **22** Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. **23** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. **25** Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

**4:1** Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal 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

Signup for events



- **Sunday Scribbles for Kids!** FCCCH 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*.
- **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](mailto:dldennismn@gmail.com).
- **Women's Bible Studies:** We'll 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 service.
- **Pilgrim's Pint:** We often celebrate the American Revolution as a great triumph of freedom from tyranny, taxation, and a corrupt king (or was it his ministers?) But what is freedom for? Join theologian and GCTS professor Dr. Christian Cuthbert as he examines the competing visions of freedom that shaped the emerging republic, on Monday, September 14, at 7:00 pm at the Post (16 Bay Road, S. Hamilton). Sign up using the QR code above.
- **Fall Kickoff:** Sunday morning worship services return to the Meetinghouse at 8:30 am and 11:00 am on September 13. Sunday school for children and youth also begins. Adults are encouraged to join us in Heritage Hall on September 13, at 9:45 am, for a Ministry Fair. This is an opportunity to learn more about our many ministries and ask questions. Prayerfully consider ways you might serve our church family this year. We look forward to seeing you there!

## August Events

- 30 **Nursery Volunteers Orientation** | 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, MC Café
- 30 **Youth Worship Night** | 5:00 to 7:00 pm, First Congregational Church of Boxford
- 31 **Alpha Team Training** | 7:00 to 9:00 pm, MC Café

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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*

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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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Scan to let us  
know you  
visited!

## **Fall 2026 Children's Ministry**

Our goal in all our ministry to children is to point them to the person and work of Jesus. Through intentional relationships and gospel-centered teaching, we seek to help children grow in their faith, be empowered in their spiritual journey, and discover and use their God-given gifts to serve others. We look forward to serving your family this year!

Chrysa Bliati, Children's Ministry Director, [cbliati@fcchamilton.org](mailto:cbliati@fcchamilton.org)

| <b>Class at 8:30 am</b>                           | <b>Teachers</b>  | <b>Location</b>                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nursery/Toddlers<br>(Infant - Age 3)              | Rotating Leaders | Church Nursery                  |
| Little People's Church (LPC)<br>(Age 4 - Grade 1) | Rotating Leaders | Church Lower-Level<br>Classroom |
| <b>Class at 11:00 am</b>                          |                  |                                 |
| Nursery/Toddlers<br>(Infant - Age 3)              | Rotating Leaders | Church Nursery                  |

## **Children's Sunday School - 9:45 am**

**Nursery (Infant - 18 months)** Church Building, Infant Room

### **Toddler (19 months - Age 3):**

Through brief lessons and multi-sensory learning, our babies and toddlers experience Jesus' love and all that He provides for us.

Teachers: Karen Guay, Bonnie Mower Church Building, Toddler Room

### **Preschool/Kindergarten:**

Early childhood will journey chronologically through the Bible, discovering friendship with Jesus throughout God's story. The class will be using the *Simply Loved* curriculum by Group.

Teacher: Elizabeth Bellucci Church Building Lower Level, LPC

### **Grades 1 - 5:**

All of our elementary classes will be using *The Biggest Story* curriculum by Crossway. Through this curriculum, our children will be led on an exciting journey through the Bible, discovering how the whole story points to Jesus. This year, we will continue our journey through the Old Testament, focusing on the books of History, Poetry, and the Prophets.

Grades 1 & 2 Teachers: Beth Burrridge, Keith Welch Ministry Center Room L4

Grades 3, 4, & 5 Teacher: Debbie Bateman Ministry Center Room L1

## **Hamilton Youth Ministry**

**Middle School Sunday School (Grades 6 - 8)** This year, Middle School Sunday School will do a biblical survey of the Old Testament using the framework of *CASKET* developed by Dr. Carol Kaminski to see how the Old Testament is crucial to knowing who God is and His plan of salvation.

Ministry Center Room 11

## **Hamilton Youth Ministry, continued**

**Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6 - 8)** This year, we will read through the Gospel of Matthew, as we explore the life of Jesus and His teachings. Matthew is especially useful for understanding how the life of Christ was the fulfillment of the Old Testament, a concept that students will study in Middle School Sunday School. Through studying this Gospel, students will encounter Jesus as promised Messiah and Savior. Join us on Tuesday nights for a time of games, worship, lesson, and Bible study!

Begins Wednesday, September 17

Heritage Hall/The Barn

**High School Sunday School (Grades 9 - 12)** This year, High School Sunday School will explore the topic of "Community." When God saves someone from their rebellion, they are saved into a community. God gives us instructions on how to thrive as a family of faith all across Scripture. The Bible also makes it clear that the way we live as a Christian community is vital to our gospel witness. Let's grow as a Christ-centered community together!

The Barn

**High School Youth Group (Grades 9 - 12)** Have you ever wondered: "Is there a guide to help me live my Christian life?" This fall, the High School Youth Group will do a deep dive into the practical and spiritual wisdom in the book of James. Join us on Tuesday nights for a time of games, worship, lesson, and Bible study!

Begins Tuesday, September 16

Heritage Hall/The Barn

## **Adult Sunday School Classes Begin Sept. 20, at 9:45 am**

***Economics and the Bible*** – The Bible was written to address real-world issues, and that includes economics (the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services). In class, we will see how an understanding of economics is critical for a fully-formed Christian perspective on life.

Dr. Sean McDonough, Dr. Glenn Butner, Dr. Robert Gough, Jr. Chapel

***The Church, The Spirit, and Union with Christ*** – In New Testament teachings on the church, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were personally and actively present, and consciously experienced. How can we continue to experience this supernatural presence, power, and love today? The historical context of FCCH's congregational form of government and experiences of revival during the Great Awakening will be noted, as well as today's context of social media, phones, and AI.

Dr. Jack Davis

Ministry Center Room 21

***Forgiveness*** – In the class, we will analyze the theme of forgiveness in Scripture, looking at the most important of the some five-hundred passages in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation that speak of God's forgiveness, the forgiveness granted by Jesus, and of interpersonal forgiveness.

Dr. Eckhard Schnabel

Ministry Center Room 22

***Exploring Your Marriage*** – "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Charles Dickens' describes well the delights but also the difficulties we find in the amazing God-ordained relationship we call 'marriage.' This fall, eight couples in the church will facilitate a conversation on the ways we can best nurture godly marriages in our church. Topics will range from the various stages in marriage and addressing ways to better communicate and resolve conflict to home finances. And where do hospitality and service fit in? Plan on a class filled with transparency and authenticity.

Priscilla Masterson, NP, Pastor Kevin Baird, Dr. David Horn and more! Ministry Center, Room 23/24