



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

September 13, 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 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 ages 4 through Grade 1. 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.

Sermon Notes for children are available at the Welcome Desk.

Sunday School for children and youth 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.

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 prayer after the service, an Elder and Deacon is available to pray with you at the front.

Join us for our Ministry Fair at 9:45 am in Heritage Hall. There will be coffee & treats.

Church parking lot is reserved for visitors, individuals with mobility needs, and families with young children.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lisa Clay

Preparing Our Hearts

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

- Romans 1:16-17

* **Call to Worship:** Hebrews 1:1-4

Pastor Kevin Baird

Leader: In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

People: **whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.**

Leader: The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Unison: ***So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.***

COMING WITH PRAISE

* **Hymn:** To God Be the Glory

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

Pastor Kevin Baird

* **Song of Response:** Pass It On

Children's Message

Cec Horn

Please accompany children forward for the message, then take the elevator to the lower-level classroom to check into Little People's Church (ages 3 to grade 1).

DRAWING NEAR FOR PRAYER

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 12 (ESV)

John Rendall (8:30), Priscilla Masterson (11:00)

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Matt Schuberth

Musical Offering: *Keep on Asking*

Jared and Noni Mason

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

Sermon: *"This is Our Story: Rejoicing in God"*
1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)

Pastor Oli van Ruth

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Song of Worship:** T10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

* **Call to Prayer and Benediction**

Pastor Oli van Ruth

Postlude

Our Ministry Leaders will be available at the front for prayer after the service:
John Rendall (8:30) and Priscilla Masterson (11:00), Elders
Sarah Villa (8:30) and Beth White (11:00), Deacons

40 To God Be the Glory

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name. Psal. 29:2

Fanny J. Crosby, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11 11 11 11 Ref.

William H. Doane, 1875



1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He
2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, To ev - ery be - liev - er the
3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our re - joic - ing thro'



gave us His Son, Who yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for sin, And o - pened the
prom - ise of God; The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves, That mo - ment from
Je - sus the Son; But pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be Our won - der, our



Life - gate that all may go in.
Je - sus a par - don re - ceives. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His
trans - port, when Je - sus we see.



voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the



Fa - ther thro' Je - sus the Son, And give Him the glo - ry, great things He hath done.



Pass It On

by Kurt Kaiser

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's Love,
Once you've experienced it,
You spread his love to everyone
You want to pass it on.

That's how it is with God's Love,
Once you've experienced it,
You spread his love to everyone
You want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found;
You can depend on him. It matters not where you're bound,
I'll shout it from the mountain top – PRAISE GOD!
I want the world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on.

Offertory

Keep On Asking *Matthew 7:7-11*

by Jared Mason

Keep on asking it'll be given
Keep on seeking you will find
Keep on knocking the door will open

You parents
If your children ask for a loaf of bread
Do you give them a stone instead?
Or if they ask for a fish do you give them a snake?
Of course not

If you sinful people know how to give
Good gifts to your children
How much more will your Heavenly Father give
Good things to those who ask him?

Keep on asking it'll be given
Keep on seeking you will find
Keep on knocking the door will open

Everyone who asks, receives
Everyone who seeks, will find
Everyone who knocks, the door will be open to you

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

by Matt Redman

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul

O my soul

Worship his holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I'll worship your holy name

The sun comes up

It's a new day dawning

It's time to sing your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger

Your name is great and your heart is kind

For all your goodness I will keep on singing

10,000 reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing your praise unending

10,000 years and then forever more

Chorus

SERMON TEXT & NOTES

Isaiah 12 (Scripture Reading) (ESV)

1 You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. 2 "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. 5 "Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. 6 Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

1 Peter 1:3-9 (ESV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

Announcements

Signup for events



- **Fall Kickoff Today!** Sunday School for children and youth also begins. Adults are encouraged to join us for our Ministry Fair in Heritage Hall at 9:45 am. This is an opportunity to learn more about our many ministries and ask questions. We look forward to seeing you there!
- **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 Study:** 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 using 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.

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

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| 13 | Fall Kickoff 8:30 am · 9:45 am · 11:00 am, Meetinghouse & Ministry Center |
| 14 | Alpha Begins 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall |
| 14 | Pilgrim's Pint 7:00 to 8:00 pm, Post restaurant, South Hamilton |
| 15 17 | Women's Bible Study Begins Tues., 9:45 am Thurs., 7:00 pm, Ministry Center |
| 22 23 | Youth Group Begins 7:00 pm, Ministry Center & Barn (Tues., HS; Wed., MS) |
| 26 | Men's Breakfast 8:00 am to 10:00 am, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall |
| 26 | Family Apple Picking Event 10:00 am to noon, Russell Orchards, Ipswich |

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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fcchamilton.org



Scan to let us
know you
visited!

Children's Ministry

Fall 2026

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

Class at 8:30 am

Nursery/Toddlers
(Infant - Age 3)

Teachers

Rotating Leaders

Location

Church Nursery

Little People's Church (LPC)
(Age 4 - Grade 1)

Rotating Leaders

Church Lower-Level
Classroom

Class at 11:00 am

Nursery/Toddlers
(Infant - Age 3)

Rotating Leaders

Church Nursery

Children's Sunday School Begins Sept. 13, 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 lessons 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 use *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 Teachers: Debbie Bateman, Krisie Brown, Alice Fraser

Hamilton Youth Sunday School Begins Sept. 13, 9:45 am

Middle School Sunday School (Grades 6 - 8) This year, Middle School Sunday School will conduct 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.

Teachers: Cece Gough, Mike Whalen, James Wong

Ministry Center Room 11

Hamilton Youth Ministry, continued

Fall 2026

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6 - 8) This year, we will read 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 Wednesday nights for a time of games, worship, lesson, and Bible study!

Begins Wednesday, September 23, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

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!

Teachers: Jean Chan, Rich Schonewald, Matt Schuberth

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 22, 7:00 to 8:45 pm

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 22

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 21

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 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