FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

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

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NOVEMBER 8, 2026

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Kevin Baird

Preparing Our Hearts

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." - 2 Peter 3:9

* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 24:1-5 Jonathan Heppner (8:30), Priscilla Masterson (11:00)

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Leader: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

People: for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Leader: Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

People: The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

Unison: They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior.

COMING WITH PRAISE

* **Hymn #36:** The God of Abraham Praise

* **Invocation, Confession of Sin, and Assurance of Pardon** Pastor Oli van Ruth

* **Song of Response:** The Heart of Worship

King of endless worth
No one could express
How much You deserve?
Though I'm weak and poor
All I have is Yours
Every single breath

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

I'm comin' back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You
It's all about You, Jesus

Children's Message (8:30 am) Lisa Clay

Please accompany children forward for the message, then take the elevator to the lower-level classroom to check into Little People's Church (ages 4 to grade 1).

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9 (ESV) Jonathan Heppner (8:30), Priscilla Masterson (11:00)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

DRAWING NEAR FOR PRAYER

* **Song of Worship:** The Lord Almighty Reigns

There's an endless song
Waiting to be sung
With the voice of every tribe
The sound of every tongue

When the bride of Christ
On that day of days
Brings with joy unto the Lamb
A multitude of praise

Like the roar of mighty seas
And rolls of thunder
Hear His people sing

Hallelujah, hallelujah
For the Lord Almighty reigns
Hallelujah, hallelujah
For the Lord, our God, the Almighty reigns

We will join the feast
Rest from battles won
Tell with great rejoicing
All the wonders God has done

And like the roar of mighty seas
And rolls of thunder
All the church will sing

Hallelujah, hallelujah
For the Lord Almighty reigns
Hallelujah, hallelujah
For the Lord, our God, the Almighty reigns
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, He reigns!

Certain of that day
Christ we will proclaim
Oh, that more would share the prize
Salvation in His name

Then greater will the anthem ring
A mighty chorus rising to the King

Hallelujah, hallelujah
For the Lord Almighty reigns
Hallelujah, hallelujah
For the Lord, our God, the Almighty reigns

Prayer for Hana

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Kevin Baird

Offertory: *Jesus, the Very Thought of You* Dr. David Rox

"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." - 1 Peter 1:8 (ESV)

* **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: *"Silent Before Him"* Pastor Oli van Ruth

Habakkuk 2:6-20 (ESV)

6 Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say,"Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own—for how long?—and loads himself with pledges!" **7** Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them. **8** Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

9 "Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm! **10** You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life. **11** For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond.

12 "Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! **13** Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? **14** For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

15 "Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink—you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness! **16** You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the Lord's right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory! **17** The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

18 "What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! **19** Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, Awake; to a silent stone, Arise! Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it. **20** But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* **Hymn #260:** Just As I Am, Without One Plea

* **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 (8:30) and Priscilla Masterson (11:00), Elders
Jean Ayles (8:30) and Sarah Seiler (11:00), Deacons

Announcements

Signup for events

- **New! Family Room:** FCCH is excited to offer a Family Room for families with young children! The first-floor classroom (downstairs, across from the bathrooms) has been designated as a comfortable, welcoming space where families can enjoy worship together. The Family Room is available during both services: at 8:30 am, the livestream will be available, and at 11:00 am, a recording of the service will be available. If your little one isn't quite ready for the nursery or LPC, or has outgrown LPC, the Family Room is a wonderful option! It's a place where children can move, play, and be themselves while parents and caregivers stay connected to the worship service.
- F**all New Members Class:** Join us today for our second session, from 9:45 to 10:45 am in the Wigglesworth-Cutler House.
- **LifeShare Dresser Project**: This year's dresser project recipient is a mom, who is a full-time student in need of many items for her baby boy, born in June. Place your unwrapped gift in the dresser by November 15. Questions to LuBeth Kuemmerle, *lubethkuemmerle@gmail.com*.
- **Annual Meeting:** Our Annual Meeting is Monday, November 16, at 7:00 pm in Heritage Hall. We will begin with a time of prayer and worship at 6:30 pm. The proposed 2027 operating and missions budgets and the nominations slate will be voted on by the adult members of FCCH. The 2026 Annual Report was emailed. Printed copies are also available at the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Foyer.
- **Women on Their Own (WOTO):** WOTO hosts their annual "Friendsgiving" dinner on Saturday, November 21, at 4:00 pm, at the home of Linda Coonrod (47 Lincoln Ave., Hamilton). WOTO are single, widowed, or divorced women who come together monthly for fellowship, faith, and fun. Join us and bring a dish to share if you're able. For more information, please contact Linda Coonrod, *lcoonrod47@gmail.com*.

November Events | *For details, scan the QR code above.*

9	**Alpha Course**	6:30 to 8:30 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall
15	**LifeShare Dresser Project Ends**	Place your unwrapped gift in the dresser today!
16	**Annual Meeting**	7:00 to 8:30 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall
21	**Front Porch Stories**	7:00 to 8:30 pm, Barn **WOTO Friendsgiving**	4:00 pm, Home of Linda Coonrod
23 30	**Alpha Course**	6:30 to 8:30 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall
25	**Thanksgiving Eve Service**	7:00 pm, Meetinghouse Sanctuary

Warrant for the 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting

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

Greetings:

This year's meeting will be held Monday, November 16, at 7:00 pm at First Congregational Church of Hamilton in Heritage Hall to consider the following Articles:

Article 1: To receive the 2026 Annual Report of the Clerk

Article 2: To receive the 2026 Annual Reports of the Pastors, Ministry Directors, Officers, Boards, Standing Committees, and Ministry Teams of the Church

Article 3: To approve the slate of nominees to serve as Officers and as Members of Boards and Committees in 2027 presented by the Nominating Committee

Article 4: To approve the 2027 Missions Budget presented by the Missions Committee

Article 5: To approve the 2027 Operating Budget presented by the Stewardship Committee

Please note: Prayer and hymn singing will begin at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Walker Martin
Clerk

New to Our Church?

Welcome! We're glad you could join us this morning! If you have questions, please ask an usher or visit our Welcome Desk downstairs.

For families, we provide children's church. During our 8:30 am service, our supervised Nursery serves infants through age 3 (until their 4th birthday), and our Little People's Church (LPC) program serves children ages 4 through grade 1. LPC meets following the Children's Message in the lower level of this building. 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 downstairs at the Welcome Desk.

Sunday School for all ages is at 9:45 am. Classes are found throughout our campus in this building (the Meetinghouse/MH), the Ministry Center (MC), and the Barn. The Barn and Ministry Center are located across the parking lot.

- Infants, preschool, and kindergarten-age children gather in the Meetinghouse downstairs.
- Elementary ages meet in the lower level of the Ministry Center.
- Middle schoolers meet in the Ministry Center Room 11.
- High schoolers meet in the Barn.
- Adults
  - *Economics and the Bible* with Dr. Sean McDonough, Dr. Glenn Butner, Dr. Robert Gough, Jr., Chapel (behind the sanctuary)
  - *The Church, the Spirit, and Union with Christ* with Dr. Jack Davis, MC Room 22
  - *Forgiveness* with Dr. Eckhard Schnabel, MC Room 21
  - *Exploring Your Marriage* with Priscilla Masterson, NP; Pastor Kevin Baird, Dr. David Horn, MC Room 23/24

For large-print Bibles, please see an usher.

If you need prayer after the service, an elder and a deacon are available to pray with you at the front.

Join us for coffee and tea after both services in Fellowship Foyer.

Scan to let us know you visited!

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*
John Bigus, *Audio-Visual Manager*
Jill VanderWoude, *Administrative Assistant*
Phil Best, *Facilities Manager*
The People of God, *Ministers to the World*

630 Bay Road, South Hamilton, MA 01982
P.O. Box 213 Hamilton, MA 01936
978-468-1940 info@fcchamilton.org
fcchamilton.org