



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CANTON CENTER, CT**

July 12, 2026 ~ 9:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

In Person & Live Streamed

*Lead
With Love*

Though we are incomplete, God loves us completely.

Though we are imperfect, He loves us perfectly.

~C.S. Lewis

Do you really accept the message that God is head over heels in love with you?

~Brennan Manning

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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

Please stand if able. **Bold denotes unison response.*

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. Those wishing to make an announcement are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcement period.

PRELUDE

There is Faint Music

Nancy Buckley & Dan Forrest

CALL TO WORSHIP

Good morning, church family! We are gathered here today because the love of God has led us; some of us joyfully, some of us sleepily, and some of us just finishing our morning coffee.

But we made it, and God's love brought us here! We come with open hearts, ready to worship the God whose love always leads us forward.

God's love calls us, shapes us, and sends us, even when we don't feel ready.

Lord, we're ready to grow. Shape us today with Your love. Make us people who lead with love wherever we go.

*HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

Chalice (Blue) #494

*GATHERING PRAYER & *THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, as we come together, may we be grateful for the love that has carried us through another week. Remove distractions, calm our minds, and fill this place with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Shape us into people who reflect Your heart. Open our hearts and minds to Your Word and strengthen our hands for Your service. Let Your love lead us in all we do. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, Amen.*

PRAYER SHAWL & SQUARE BLESSING

OFFERING

In John 15, Jesus tells us that when we abide in Him, we bear fruit that lasts. One of the ways we bear fruit is through generosity. Your giving today helps this church love, serve, and reach people in ways that matter. Let your offering be a seed of love planted in faith and an act of love that leads others to Christ. We will now receive our Sunday morning offering.



OFFERTORY



Just Over in the Glory Land
Soloist ~ Jim Todd

James W. Acuff, Emmett S. Dean

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious and Loving God, we come before You today with hearts full of gratitude. Everything we have reflects Your boundless grace and the unconditional love. You pour into our lives every single day. Today, we bring our offerings not out of obligation, but as a joyful expression of our love for You and for our community. We pray these gifts will provide our church to help feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, shelter the homeless, and strengthen our connection with the community creating a place where everyone feels seen, valued, and loved. In the name of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE



Romans 12:9-21

John 15:1-17

SERMON

Love that Leads

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Moment of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Chalice (Blue) #540

*BENEDICTION

As you go into this week, may the love of God lead your steps.

May love guide us wherever we go.

May the peace of Christ steady your heart and calm your mind.

May His peace rest on us and flow through us.

May the Spirit empower you to shine light in dark places.

**We go as light bearers, led by love. We go with God,
ready to love and ready to serve.**

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen

*POSTLUDE

Festival Alleluia

Allen Pote

Worship is ended ~ Our Service Now Begins