Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received.
Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling.
Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.
~ Henry Van Dyke

** Indicates all who are able may stand. Please silence your cell phones*

November 22, 2026 **Thanksgiving Sunday** **9:30 a.m.**

Prelude — Keith Ciccone, organ

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Karen E. Gale

Passing the Peace
Peace be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pass the peace with one another...

*Introit *Give Thanks*
Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong!"
Let the poor say, "I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks. Give thanks.

*Litany of Thanks c.Steve Brown, adapt.
For apples, aardvarks and Alaska
For blueberries, blue skies and birds
For cranberries, cousins and cats,
For dads and dark chocolate,
Thank you, God!

For elephants, Europe and eggs,
For figs, Fridays and fortune cookies,
For gigabytes, gorillas and the Great Lakes,
For happiness, hummingbirds and the Holy Spirit,
Thank you, God!

For ice cream and iguanas, juice and jam
For kangaroos and kale, for love, laughter and light
Thank you, God!

For marshmallows and moose, newts, noses and nebulas
For ostriches, ospreys and owls
For the color purple, and people
For quiet...[silence]....and quilting
Thank you, God!

Continued…

For rest, reassurance and relaxation
For seasons and symphonies,
For toddlers, tea and turkeys,
For umbrellas and the universe,
Thank you, God!

For violets, and vacations, wallabies and wolves
For xylophones and xrays, yaks, yogurt, and zebras,
For all things created by your hands.
Thank you, God!

*Hymn 552 *We Gather Together*

Unison Prayer

O God, sometimes we take you for granted.
We take for granted that you will answer our prayers,
that you will heal us and make us whole.
We take for granted that you love us.
Forgive us for not appreciating
your grace and presence in our lives.
Help us to be more thankful.
Give us faith to see you in everything
and everyone around us,
so that we may be truly grateful.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

A Time for All Ages

Scripture:

Deuteronomy 26-32 (abridged)
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it,

God throws caution to the winds,
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.
God's right-living, right-giving ways
never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. God gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

*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.

Sermon "Thanksgiving" Rev. Karen E. Gale

*Hymn 285 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Prayer of the People/Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father (Creator), 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.

Musical Reflection

Dedication of the Offering

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures, here, below.
Praise God, above, ye heav'nly hosts. Creator,
Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving, living God, be among us now.
Show us your ways. Guide our steps.
Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful faith.
Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours.
Help us remember that all we are and all we see, all that passes through our hands, are gifts from you to be shared in service and love.
Holy One among us, help us be a holy people
who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

*Hymn 283 *Now Thank We All Our God*

*Benediction

Postlude

Deacon of the Day: Don Bisset
Coffee Hour Host: Barbara Larsen



The First Congregational Church of Braintree is an Open & Affirming Congregation working in partnership with all churches of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all God's children into Christian faith regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, political stance or theological perspective, national origin, mental health status, physical and cognitive abilities, and the many diverse forms of family configurations. We proclaim and affirm that full and equal participation in the life and leadership of our church is open to all. We seek to continue learning and growing together as the inclusive Body of Christ. We are committed to spreading the light and love of Christ into the world through worship and service.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Rev. Karen E. Gale, Interim Pastor ❖revkarengale@gmail.com
Keith Ciccone, Director of Music ❖keciccon@aol.com
Mattie Gietman, Dir. Children's Ministry ❖mattie@firstchurchbraintree.com
Deb McMartin, Administrator ❖office@firstchurchbraintree.com
Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper ❖finance@firstchurchbraintree.com

First Church Braintree Announcements



TODAY! Sunday, November 22nd - "Deck the Halls"
Decorate the Sanctuary after worship
We will decorate the Sanctuary this Sunday after worship because, believe it or not, next Sunday, November 29th is the First Sunday of Advent!

Turkey Drive

We brought 11 frozen turkeys to the Marge Crispin Center this week. They were very appreciative. How wonderful that eleven Braintree families will enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner because of your generosity!



Sunday, November 29: First Sunday of Advent
Church Council Meeting following worship

Sunday, December 6: Memorial Hymn Sing (see reverse side)

Sunday, December 20, 11am: Caroling
3pm: Longest Night Worship Service (*aka* Blue Christmas)



First Congregational Church of Braintree

Memorial Christmas Hymn Sing
Sunday, December 6, 2026
at 9:30 AM



To sponsor one or more of the following hymns *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* a loved one, please indicate your name (given by), their name, your hymn choice and amount of donation. Suggested donation per hymn is $10 but any amount is appreciated.
To ensure your request is included in our special bulletin, please return this request form to the church office or place it on the collection plate *no later than* ***Sunday, November 29.***

Choice of Hymns:

1. *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
2. *What Child is This?*
3. *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
4. *Silent Night*
5. *Angels We Have Heard on High*
6. *The First Nowell*
7. *Hark, The Herald Angels Sing*
8. *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*
9. *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*
10. *Joy to the World*

Please PRINT the names below *exactly* as you wish them to appear in the bulletin.

Given by: _____
(Write your name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

Hymn #	Hymn Name Abbreviate if necessary	Circle One	*In Memory of* or *In Honor of* (Please print name clearly, exactly as you wish it listed.)	Amount Donated (Suggested amount is $10 per hymn.)
		Memory Honor		$
		Memory Honor		$
		Memory Honor		$
		Memory Honor		$
		Memory Honor		$
	Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church of Braintree. Please write "Hymn Sing" in the memo.		**Total**	

Thank you for your support.