"[Many Christians] demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. … I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere. 'Blessed are the merciful' in a courtroom? 'Blessed are the peacemakers' in the Pentagon?"

~ Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

November 8, 2026 **Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost** **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.

*Call to Worship
O Holy God, you faithfully keep the promises you made to our ancestors.
You lead your people into the future, providing hospitality on the way.
Help us who inherit the pilgrim life to journey faithfully at your command,
That we may be a band of disciples called to serve all people in your name.
Amen.

*Hymn 245 — *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

Unison Prayer
Liberating God, you give us commandments not as a burden to bear, but as an invitation to live the life you have for us.
We are thankful that you are so patient with us.
We run away, and you seek us.
We make foolish choices, and you teach us the better way.
We hurt you and others, and you forgive us.
Grant us open hearts ready to accept your invitation, that we might become a people who live out the new life you invite us to embrace. Amen.

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

A Time for All Ages

Scripture Exodus 33:12-18

Moses said to God, “Look, you tell me, ‘Lead this people,’ but you don’t let me know whom you’re going to send with me. You tell me, ‘I know you well and you are special to me.’ If I am so special to you, let me in on your plans. That way, I will continue being special to you. Don’t forget, this is your people, your responsibility.”

God said, “My presence will go with you. I’ll see the journey to the end." Moses said, “If your presence doesn’t take the lead here, call this trip off right now. How else will it be known that you’re with me in this, with me and your people? Are you traveling with us or not? How else will we know that we’re special, I and your people, among all other people on this planet Earth?”

God said to Moses: “All right. Just as you say; this also I will do, for I know you well and you are special to me. I know you by name.”

Exodus 20: 1-17

Moses told the people:
God spoke all these words:
I am God, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of a life of slavery.
No other gods, only me.
No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don’t bow down to them and don’t serve them because I am God, your God, and I’m a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I’m unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.
No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won’t put up with the irreverent use of God’s name.
Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don’t do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, God blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as a holy day.
Honor your father and mother so that you’ll live a long time in the land that God, your God, is giving you.
No murder.
No adultery.
No stealing.
No lies about your neighbor.
No lusting after your neighbor’s house—or wife or servant or maid or ox or donkey. Don’t set your heart on anything that is your neighbor’s.

Mark 12:28-31

One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he asked: “Which is most important of all the commandments?”

Jesus said, “The first in importance is, ‘Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.’ And here is the second: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ There is no other commandment that ranks with these.”

*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 "Commandments" Rev. Karen E. Gale

*Hymn 347 *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

Honoring Our Veterans

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 c.Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries

Faithful God, you call us beyond what we have been and toward who we are becoming. As we lay these gifts before you, turn our eyes toward the future you are unfolding. Let our giving press us deeper into mercy, widen the circle of belonging, and shape us into people who embody your justice and grace. Keep us moving; keep us growing; keep us following. We press on toward your kingdom, trusting you to lead. Amen.

*Hymn 359 *Blessed Assurance*

*Benediction

Postlude

Deacon of the Day: Jean Opie
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

Sunday, November 15: Congregational Conversation

Next Sunday there will be another Congregational Conversation after worship. This gathering is not a voting meeting, but a time for Council and Search Discernment members to clearly state the difficult challenges facing our church and their recommendation for how we move forward. We will look at the three main components that are necessary for a church to function: People, Capacity and Money.



Tuesday, November 17: Deadline to participate in the Turkey Drive

Once again, we are assisting the Marge Crispin Center with their annual Turkey Drive. First Church is collecting frozen boneless turkey breasts of any size (generally 5-8 pounds) and/or full-sized frozen turkeys (10+ pounds).

Please get your donated turkeys in to the church **by Tuesday, November 17.**

Thursday, November 19th @ 7pm on Zoom: **Book Discussion**

Kate Bowler's Everything Happens for a Reason And Other Lies I've Loved.

Sunday, November 22: Thanksgiving Sunday

"Deck the Halls"  **Decorate the Sanctuary after worship**

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.