



"When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."

~ Harriet Beecher Stowe

November 16, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

Prelude *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* Keith Ciccone, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Karen E. Gale

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you!

Peace be 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 c. The UCC Mental Health Network

God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves;

the one who is weak and the one who is strong,

The one who is happy and the one who is sad,

The one whom we understand and the one we don't,

The one who is enjoying mental wellness today

And the one who is struggling with mental illness today,

The one who is embraced and the one who is shunned,

The one who is like us and the one who is different.

Come, let us worship together!

We come, trusting God's abundant love!

*Hymn 553

Gather Us In

* Indicates all who are able may stand.

Please silence your cellphones.

Unison Prayer c. Cindy Holtrop

God our Creator, you give breath to each person you made.

You treasure the gifts of each unique person.

But when life becomes a burden rather than a gift, God of life, hold us.

When darkness strangles the will to live, when days become endless nights,

God of light, shine on us.

When no one seems to understand, when we walk and wait alone, God of love,

embrace us with your presence.

Where there is despair, bring hope; where there is shame, give value and

worth; where there is emptiness, bring fulfillment; where there is suffering

in mind and body, bring healing. God of hope, hear our prayer for life. Amen.

Children's Time

Scripture

Psalm 88:1-9, 13-18

God, you're my last chance of the day. I spend the night on my knees before you.

Put me on your salvation agenda; take notes on the trouble I'm in.

I've had my fill of trouble; I'm camped on the edge of hell.

I'm written off as a lost cause, one more statistic, a hopeless case.

Abandoned as already dead, one more body in a stack of corpses,

And not so much as a gravestone—I'm a black hole in oblivion...

...I'm caught in a maze and can't find my way out, blinded by tears of pain and frustration.

I'm standing my ground, God, shouting for help, at my prayers every morning, on my knees each daybreak.

Why, God, do you turn a deaf ear? Why do you make yourself scarce?

For as long as I remember I've been hurting; I've taken the worst you can hand out, and I've had it. Your wildfire anger has blazed through my life; I'm bleeding, black-and-blue.

You've attacked me fiercely from every side, raining down blows till I'm nearly dead.

You made lover and neighbor alike dump me; the only friend I have left is Darkness.

Romans 8:37-39

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Christ who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*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

"A Faith-filled Response to Suicide"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Musical Reflection

Be Not Afraid

Prayers 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 for ever. Amen.

*Hymn 389

Be Still My Soul

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

**God of today,
On my own, what I have to give doesn't amount to much in the light of all you have given to me and in the face of so much need.
Put together as a congregation, what we offer you here in love becomes more, not simply added together, but somehow multiplied in its usefulness.
We ask you to bless our gifts and with the addition of your blessing there is enough for all. Amen.**

*Hymn 265

Lord of All Hopefulness

*Benediction

Postlude

My Hope is Built



If you're thinking about suicide or are worried about a friend or loved one, call or text 988 at any time.





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.**



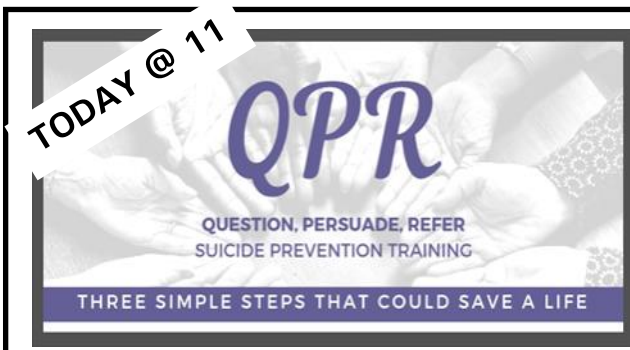
**BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD IN
THE WORLD**



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

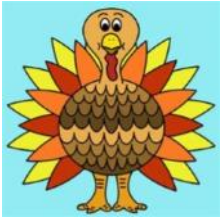


First Church Braintree Announcements



QPR (Question Persuade Refer) TRAINING **Sunday, November 16 @ 11:00 AM**

Question Persuade Refer (QPR) is a 90-minute session where participants will learn three simple steps to help prevent suicide, and how to provide resources for someone who might be struggling.



Frozen Turkey Collection - Once again, we will assist 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 donations in to the church **by TOMORROW - Monday, November 17.**

Upcoming Meetings

Book Club - Thu, Nov 20 @ 7pm on zoom

Leadership - Tue, Nov 25 @ 7pm on zoom **NOTE DATE CHANGE**

Drive & Drop - Wed Dec 3 @ 5-6:30 in front of the church

Prudential - Thu, Dec 4 @ 10am in pastor's office

Bible Study on Revelation - Pastor Karen is leading a class on Revelation on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30am in the Chapel. The next class is on December 11.

Stewardship Drive

To love is to be a good steward. To be a good steward is to stand with, stand for, stand beside, and just be with people wherever they are.

Please fill out your pledge card for 2026 so we can formulate a budget based on the expected income. Pledge cards will be collected and consecrated on November 23rd.



Here's a summary of upcoming happenings at First Church.

Sunday, November 16 @ 11-12:30 - QPR Training

Monday, November 17 - Deadline to bring frozen turkey breast or monetary donation for Marge Crispin Center turkey drive

Wednesday, November 20 - Book Study Group on Zoom

Stewardship Sunday, Nov 23 - Pledge Cards get submitted & consecrated

Sunday, November 30 - Deadline to donate hats & mittens for the DCF

Sunday, November 30 - Deadline to submit Hymn Sing form (see reverse side...)

Friday, December 12 - Deadline to submit poinsettia orders (more info next week)

Please note: You are not expected to participate in each and every one of these opportunities... Just pick the ones that are right for you!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRAINTREE

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS HYMN SING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
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 30.**

Choice of Hymns:

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

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	<u>Circle One</u> Memory Honor	<i>In Memory of or In Honor of</i> (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.