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First Church of Christ Congregational
12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107

(860) 233-9605

www.whfirstchurch.org

To Give Online: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give>

First Church's worship services are live streamed every Sunday downstairs in our church library, the John P. Webster Library. Watch church while your toddler plays in our children's area or if you need a separate place to worship for any other reason.



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 8, 2026
10 o'clock

Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor
Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts
Amanda Bethune, Director of Faith Formation

PRELUDES

Selections by the Hot Cat Jazz Band

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of love and life, speak to our hearts this day.
Many: Speak words of wisdom and faith.
 One: Open our hearts and minds to receive wise counsel,
Many: even when it is hard to hear.
 One: Strengthen our spirits to answer your call,
Many: even when we don't feel confident or capable.
 One: Be our hope, our faith, and our love,
Many: that we may bless the world with hope, faith, and love!

Liz Oman-Wilfrid

†HYMN 261

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

(sing twice)

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

†OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, pour your presence into our midst this morning. Bless us and be with us. Supply us with your power so that it circulates within us and radiates from us. Be patient with our impatience and our perfectionism. Forgive us and fill us with your grace, that we might offer forgiveness and grace to others. Reassure us that your love never ends. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

ANTHEM

His Love Never Fails

Pamela Martin, arr. Craig Courtney

The First Church Choir and Hot Cat Jazz Band

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NT p.212-213)†RESPONSE (HYMN 264)*Where the Spirit of the Lord Is*

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace.
 Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.

There is comfort in life's darkest hour, there is light and life, there is help and power in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.

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SERMON

Love Never Ends...

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 548

The Old Rugged Cross

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

As a sign of our love for God, God's church, and God's creation, let us share our gifts and offerings.

OFFERTORY

That Old-Time Need of Prayer

arr. Craig Courtney

The First Church Choir and Hot Cat Jazz Band

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†OFFERTORY PRAYER

We offer these gifts, O God, not out of obligation, but as expressions of love. Paul has taught us that faith, hope, and love abide – that the greatest of these is love. So, we pray that our gifts may reflect your love for the world. May they be used to build your kingdom, and to serve others. Amen.

†HYMN

Put Your Hand in the Hand
(next page)

Gene MacLellan

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Amen
The First Church Choir

Richard Smallwood

POSTLUDE

Selections by the Hot Cat Jazz Band

The Hot Cat Jazz Band consists of:

Ross Tucker, trumpet
Chris Coulter, tenor sax
Tom Boates, trombone
Sonny Landolfi, guitar
Don Wallace, bass
Sal Ranniello, drums

Hymn

Put Your Hand in the Hand

Chorus:

**Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself, and you can look at others differently
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee**

Verse:

**Every time I look into the Holy Book, I want to tremble
Or when I read about the part where the carpenter cleared the
temple
For the buyers and the sellers were no different fellas than what I
profess to be
And it causes me shame to know we're not the people we should be
(Chorus)**

Verse:

**My mama taught me how to pray before I reached the age of seven
She said, "There'll come a time when there'll probably be room in
Heaven"
But I'm feeling kinda guilty 'bout the number of times to do what
we must do
But we forget what He said when we figure that He'll still make
room (Chorus)**

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