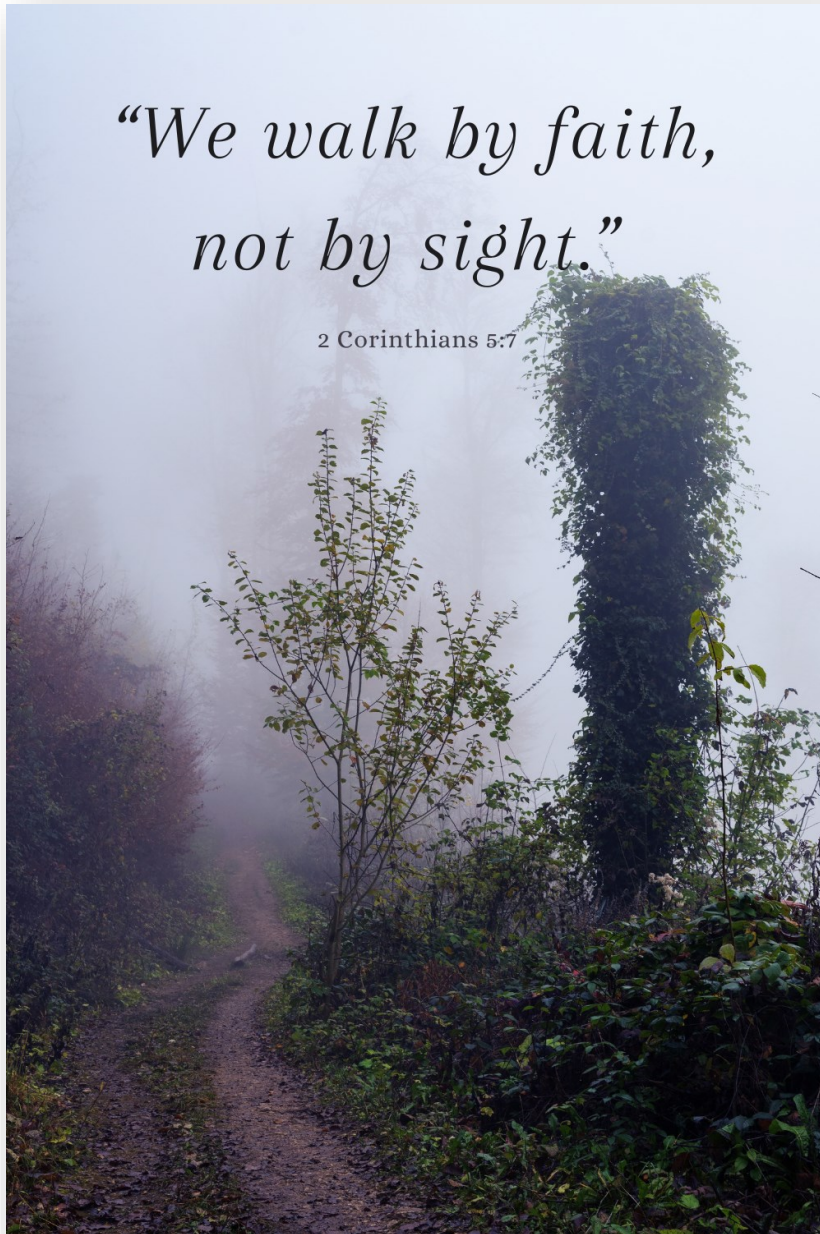


*“We walk by faith,  
not by sight.”*

2 Corinthians 5:7



*Second Congregational Church in Wilton,  
United Church of Christ  
Open and Affirming*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**Last Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Reign of Christ**  
**November 26, 2023**

Welcome to the worship of God at the  
Second Congregational Church in Wilton,  
United Church of Christ.

We are glad you are here today!

**Bold print means congregational participation.**  
An asterisk (\*) indicates to please stand, if you are able.

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER**  
Words of Welcome and Announcements

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**      *responsively*      Isaiah 40:28-31

L: Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

**P: God does not faint or grow weary.**  
**The Lord gives power to the faint,**  
**and strengthens the powerless.**

L: Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the Lord  
shall renew their strength.

**All: They shall mount up with wings like eagles,**  
**they shall run and not be weary,**  
**they shall walk and not faint.**  
**Let us worship God!**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”      No. 82

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*unison*

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, yet as close as our own breath: Help us trust in you, rather than rely on our own strength. Give us faith as deep and strong as Abraham's and Sarah's, that we may follow you through all our days, as did Christ our Lord, until at last we arrive at our heavenly home. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*unison*

Forgive us, O God, when we forget your presence in our busy days. Forgive us when we forget the needs of those around us and fail to be the people you call us to be. Give us the grace to grow more and more in your likeness and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**MISSION POSSIBLE COLLECTION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**HYMN** "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" No. 391

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

**\*DOXOLOGY** (tune: Old Hundredth)

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*unison*

Gracious God, you have given us the precious gift of life; we have all that we need. In response, we now bring our gifts as expressions of our gratitude. Use these gifts for the well-being of others who are in need, those who suffer, those who carry heavy burdens, and do not have what they need to enjoy life. Help us to be faithful by loving and serving others, in your name. Amen.

**ANTHEM**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**The New Testament Reading** Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible....

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. Abraham and Sarah set out, not knowing where they were going. By faith Abraham stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith Abraham and Sarah received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because they considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore...descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had

opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

**SERMON** "By Faith"

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" No. 501

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Praising God's Glory, the flowers are presented by  
Lori Dick in celebration of friends and family.



## *On The Calendar/Announcements*

- Deacons Meeting, November 27, 7:00 PM via Zoom
- Christmas Fair is December 2 - need help setting up, working and cleaning up. Also need help with baked goods and crafts please think about what you may be able to donate. Talk with Loretta if able to help on December 2
- Memorial Service for Dick Carlson,  
Friday, December 8, 10:00 am

**Sign Up Sheets for Advent Readers and Scriptures Readers**  
for December are on the back table.  
Please sign up if you'd like to read

**Gifts of Flowers for December are needed -**  
signup sheet on bulletin board in Parish Hall by coffee pot

### **PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Gary Klingsporn, Pastor  
Stephanie Ouellette, Liturgist  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
Congregation, Ministers to the World

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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