THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MANSFIELD
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NOVEMBER 2026



NEWSLETTER

THE ORTHODOX CHRONICLES

Fall Sermon Series
The Shape of Discipleship

11/1 - The Shape of Holiness
11/8 - The Shape of Readiness
11/15 - The Shape of Stewardship
11/22 - The Shape of the King (Mission Sunday)
11/29 - Advent of Hope

Church Calendar



11/3- Intentional Discussions (Book of Psalms) 7 pm, Parlor
11/8 - Veteran's Luncheon, 11:30 am, Vestry
11/8 - Old Colony Association Fall Meeting, 2 pm - 4 pm, Sanctuary
11/17 - Intentional Discussions (Book of Psalms) 7 pm, Parlor
11/21 - Annual Holly Fair, 9 am - 1 pm
11/22 - Hanging of the Greens following service
11/29 - Carols and Cider following the Mansfield Christmas Parade

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holly Fair 2026
Saturday, November 21, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Our annual Holly Fair is one of our church's favorite traditions, but it takes many hands to make it a success! While we have wonderful volunteers who help the day before and on the day of the fair, we also need people to help with planning and preparation in the weeks leading up to the event. There are many ways you can help:

Planning and organizing before the fair
Decorating and setting up
Baking for the Bake Table or Cookies for the Cookie Walk
Crafting items to sell
Sorting donations
Working in an area during the fair
Helping with the raffle baskets
Cleaning up after the fair

Grandma's Attic Sale Area -
We appreciate your donations to help make our Holly Fair a success! Please donate items that are clean, gently used, and in good working condition, things you would be happy to give to a friend or neighbor.

We are looking for:
Household items
Home décor
Kitchen items
Toys and games (complete and in good condition)
Seasonal decorations
Jewelry and accessories
Pocketbooks

Please do not donate items that are broken, stained, missing parts, or excessively worn. We are unable to accept items that cannot be sold. Please no books, electronics, clothing or furniture.

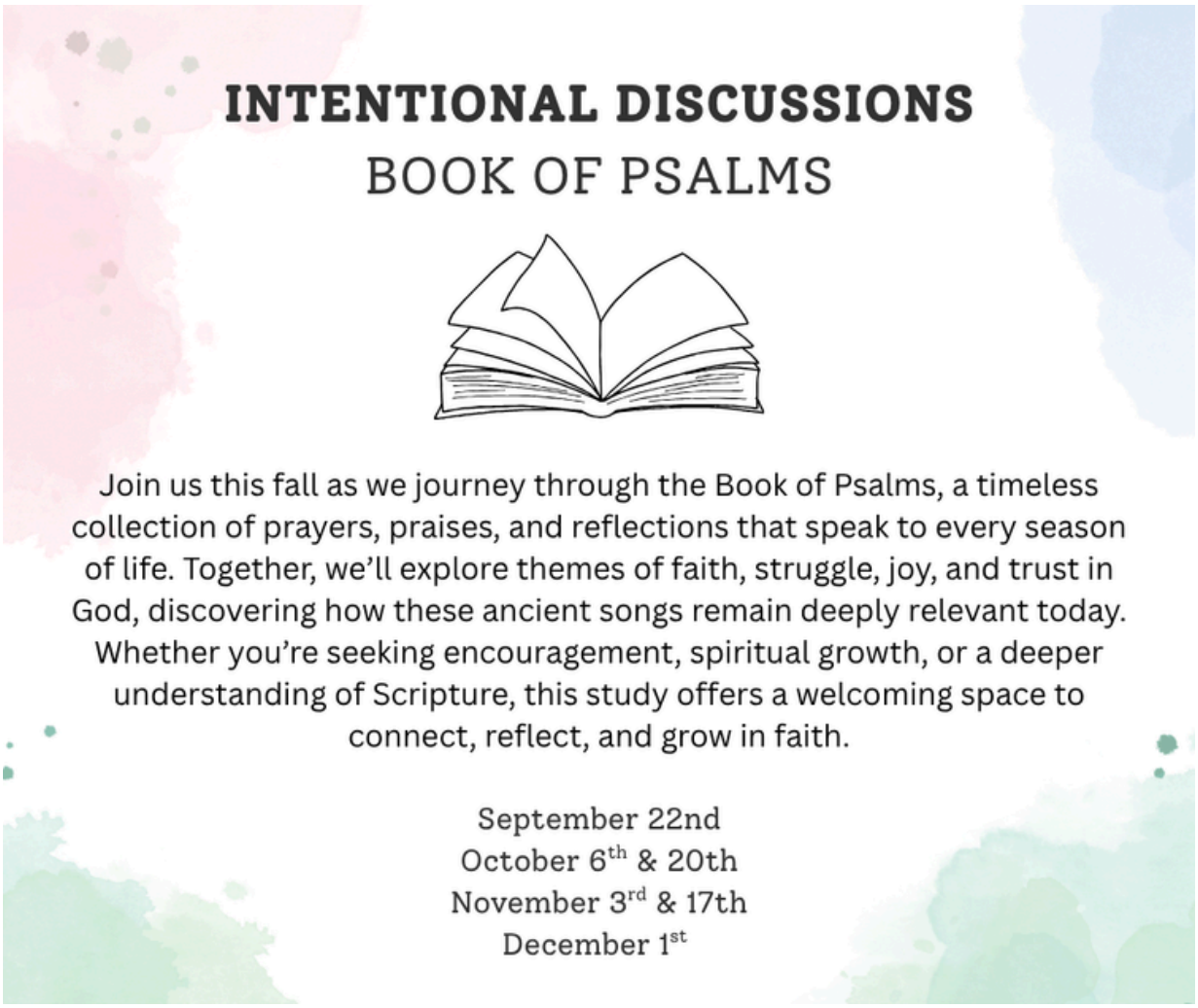
Questions? Contact a member of the Holly Fair Committee:
Dick Kelsay, Andrea Kelsay, Kerrie Schlager, Annie Schwehm , Jane Conley, Kathy Harsch, or Amy Pierce.

Together, we can make the 2026 Holly Fair a wonderful success!

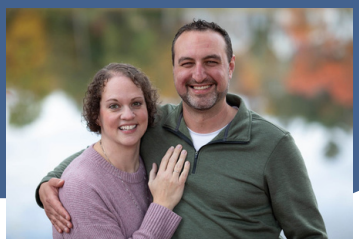
DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Sermon Series:
The Shape of Discipleship

This fall series explores how Jesus forms ordinary people into faithful disciples. Through worship, prayer, humility, generosity, forgiveness, justice, hope, and faithful stewardship, we discover that discipleship is less about mastering information and more about allowing Christ to shape every part of our lives.



Pastor Marissa Rapoza



A November Reflection: The Practice of Gratitude

November invites us to slow down and notice the blessings around us. As the days grow shorter, we are reminded that gratitude is not about having a perfect life, but about recognizing God's presence in our ordinary, imperfect, and beautifully human lives.

Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances." Faith doesn't ask us to ignore life's hardships, but to look for the places where love continues to show up, in a neighbor's kindness, a shared meal, or a community that reminds us we are not alone.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, may we turn our gratitude into action through kindness, generosity, and care for our neighbors. May the church continue to be a place of welcome, hope, and belonging for all.

A Prayer for November:
Gracious God, open our eyes to the blessings we might overlook. Help us meet life's challenges with courage and share your love through our words and actions. May our gratitude shine brightly in the world. Amen.



Emma Ceurvels, Music Director

Happy November!
The choir has been working on lots of new music for coming weeks, and we are excited to begin preparing music for the Advent season. This is a wonderful time to join the choir! If you can only join for the Advent season, that is just fine. Please come make music with us at 7pm Wednesdays and 9am Sunday mornings prior to our service.

I'd also love for us to sing the music that is most meaningful to you this Advent season. If you have a favorite Christmas hymn you'd like to hear, please email me at office@occmansfield.org and I will make sure we incorporate it into one of our worship services!

On another note, I thought I'd just share a song that I came across this week that I find particularly meaningful. Charles Kelley, a member of the band Lady A, was just diagnosed with multiple myeloma. They decided to do an early release of a song that will be on their new album this week- it's called "Bigger Picture". You can watch it by clicking **here**.

"It's hard to believe it, when all that we're seeing is one little frame at the time. We all have our version of our picture perfect, but He has one better in mind. There's days when I doubt it, got questions about it, but God knows I got to believe...he's painting a bigger picture for me."

Love to you all!!
Emma

Sunday School/Children's Ministry



Sunday School Schedule

November 1: No Sunday School (Intergenerational Sunday)
November 8: Sunday School
November 15: No Sunday School
November 22: Sunday School
November 29: No Sunday School



Meghan Rego, Children's Ministry

Hello Sunday School Families,

The kids have been having a wonderful time making Veterans Day cards for the veterans attending the luncheon. It has been heartwarming to watch them show love to their veteran neighbors!

In November, we'll finish up the Life Shapes series of lessons and then kick off the Advent season with Illustrated Ministries' Thrill of Hope themed lesson series. We'll also begin preparing for the Christmas Pageant, which will be held on Sunday, December 20.

Since we'll be rehearsing for the pageant on our Sunday School dates, regular attendance on November 22 and December 13 will be especially helpful. Please reach out if you have any questions, and we look forward to a joyful Advent season together!

Looking forward to seeing everyone!
Meghan

Church Council and Ministry Leaders

<u>Council</u>
Moderator - Peter Ham
Treasurer - Kim Greenberg
Clerk - Rick Haines

<u>Deacons</u>
Chair - Eric Greenberg
Nate Adkins
Kerrie Schlager
Deb Svenson
Dick Kelsay

<u>Parish Relations Team</u>
Co-Chair - John Partridge
Co-Chair - Peter Ham
Laurie Geminiani
Krista Young
Will Reynolds
Kerrie Schlager

<u>Ministry Leaders</u>
Christian Ed. - Meghan Rego
Hospitality - Annie Schwehm
Prayer Team - Mary Hourigan
Missions - Dick Kelsay, Kathy Harsch, Rick Haines

<u>Trustees</u>
Nicole Reynolds
Carol Ham
Dick Kelsay

<u>Staff</u>
Office Administrator - Emma Ceurvels
office@occmansfield.org
Sexton - Ed O'Connell

<u>Electronic Ways to Give</u>
QR Code (paypal)
<u>E-Giving (forms in office)</u>

PayPal
Scan. Pay. Go.

The Congregational Church of Mansfield
An Open and Affirming United Church of Christ Congregation

Leadership Communication

As we move through this new program year, we are aiming to provide streamlined communication for the congregation to our leadership team. Please refer to the following contact information if you need to contact a member of our leadership team.

Leadership Preferred Method of Communication
Contact information Update

Pastor Marissa Rapoza - pastor.marissa@occmansfield.org or 508-207-7803 (cell)

Office Admin/Music Director, Emma Ceurvels - office@occmansfield.org
To schedule an event at the church, order flowers for the communion table, sign up for coffee hour, and anything music related, please contact Emma using the office email to ensure all information is in one place.

Council Officers

Church Moderator, Peter Ham - peterwham@comcast.net
Treasurer, Kim Greenberg - kim.greenberg12@gmail.com
Clerk, Rick Haines - jalama23@gmail.com

Ministry Leadership

Head Deacon, Eric Greenberg - greenberg.eric101@gmail.com
PRT Co-Leader, John Partridge - partridge_john@wheatoncollege.edu 508-243-0019 (cell)
Prayer Team, Mary Hourigan - Omahourigan@yahoo.com
Sunday School, Meghan Rego - meghanrego233@yahoo.com
Hospitality, Annie Schwehm - annieschwehm@gmail.com

Trustees

For all building related issues, please contact a trustee

Carol Sosman Ham - Sosham@comcast.net 774-266-6220 (cell)
Nicole Reynolds - 508-951-2036 (cell)
Dick Kelsay - dickkelsay@yahoo.com