THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MANSFIELD
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SUMMER 2026

NEWSLETTER

THE ORTHODOX CHRONICLES

Summer Sermon Series
Rooted: Growing Deeper in Faith

6/21 - Planted in Christ
6/28 - Watered by the Word
7/5 - Pruned for Purpose
7/12 - Bearing Fruit in Every Season
7/17 - Faith that Moves Mountains
7/26 - Rooted in Community
8/2 - Deep Trust in Dry Times
8/9 - Weeds in the Garden
8/16 - Rooted in Identity
8/23 - Faith that Overflows
8/30 - Rooted for Mission
9/6 - Standing Strong in the Storm

Church Calendar

6/14 - Childrens and Choir Sunday
7/14 - Strawberry Shortcake booth at Family Fun Night 6-9pm
7/14 - Soup Kitchen 4-5:30
7/25 - Lumos experience: Coldplay, In the Sanctuary (details forthcoming)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion Practices

Thank you to Eric Greenberg for creating a helpful video and reminder of our communion practices.

Serving and being served.
A communion how to.

Link to video

Celebrating being named Scouting in America's Chartered Organization of the Year and Pack of the year by the Northeast Distric of the Narragansett Council

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holly Fair 2026

Grandma's Attic:
It's *never* too early to think about the Holly Fair! With the new year upon us, many of us are organizing and cleaning out—and the Holly Fair Committee wants to remind you that we need your stuff! We are happily accepting good-condition, unwanted items to help make Grandma's Attic a success. If you have items you'd like to donate, please email **Amy Pierce** at **AmyC1013@verizon.net** or text **617-512-0991** to arrange a convenient drop-off day and time.

Crafters Wanted!
We would love to support our craft table by adding new, handmade items—and we need your help! If you are a crafter by trade or simply enjoy crafting as a hobby, we invite you to join us. We are hoping to host a monthly Fellowship Craft Night at the church. These gatherings will not only help us create items for the craft table (which supports church fundraising), but will also provide a fun, social evening to connect and get out of the house during the season. As the saying goes, *many hands make light work*—so let's come together and enjoy a creative night out! If you're interested in hosting a craft or would like more information, please contact **Amy Pierce** at **AmyC1013@verizon.net** or text **617-512-0991**.

Raffle Baskets:
It's never too early to start thinking about raffle baskets! Have you ever received a gift and wondered, *"What will I do with that?"* Unused or unopened items can be the perfect start to a great basket. Do you know someone with a small business or a crafting talent? We would love some help gathering donations—whether it's an item or a gift card. Even clearance sections at stores can spark ideas for creating wonderful baskets while saving money! Baskets can be any theme, any holiday, and for all ages and interests.

We are blessed with so many creative, talented, and generous people in our church. Let's work together to make **Holly Fair 2026** a great success! We would love to welcome more committee members and volunteers of all ages.
If you would like more information about the Holly Fair, please reach out to **Nicole Reynolds, Kerrie Schlager, Dick Kelsay**, **Andrea Kelsay, Kathy Harsh, Jane Conley, Annie Schwehm, or Amy Pierce,**
Thank you for supporting the Holly Fair—we truly appreciate your generosity! 💛

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

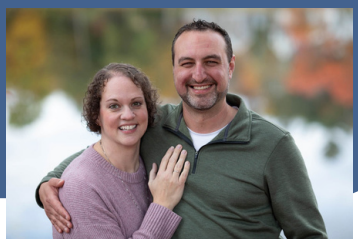
Summer Sermon Series:
Rooted: Growing Deep in Faith

This summer we'll explore what it means to build a strong, enduring life in Christ. Through Scripture, we'll be guided from being planted in Jesus and nourished by God's Word to experiencing spiritual pruning, bearing lasting fruit, and growing through both community and challenge. Each week emphasizes deepening trust, strengthening identity in Christ, and learning to live on mission, so that we are anchored firmly enough to stand through life's storms. Join us this summer in the vestery at 9:30 am June 21st - September 6th

Fall Intentional Discussions

Coming this Fall for our Intentional Discussion Bible study journey through the Book of Psalms, a timeless collection of prayers, praises, and reflections that speak to every season of life. Together, we'll explore themes of faith, struggle, joy, and trust in God, discovering how these ancient songs remain deeply relevant today. Whether you're seeking encouragement, spiritual growth, or a deeper understanding of Scripture, this study offers a welcoming space to connect, reflect, and grow in faith.

Pastor Marissa Rapoza



Rooted: Growing Deeper in Faith

Summer is a season of growth. I enjoy being out in my garden, watching the plants stretch towards the sun, roots growing deeper into the dirt, and seeing those first fruits come to life. In my garden, hope begins to flourish. In the same way, our faith is not meant to remain shallow or seasonal; it is meant to take root, deepen, and bear fruit over time.

This summer, we're invited to engage together as a community through our summer sermon series, Rooted: Growing Deeper in Faith. It's simple but profound: to move beyond surface-level belief and into a life anchored in Christ. Just as strong roots sustain a tree through heat and drought, a deeply rooted faith sustains us through uncertainty, change, and challenge.

Colossians 2:6–7 reminds us, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him." Being rooted is an ongoing process; it's not a one-time event. It requires intentionality, nourishment, faith, and trust.

This summer, I encourage you to slow down and make space for growth. Spend time in Scripture. Cultivate prayer. Stay connected to the community. These are the ways our roots go deeper, drawing life from the One who sustains us. John 15:1-8 reminds us that God is the gardener and Jesus is the vine. Vines cannot grow where they are not deeply rooted. Jesus is our source of nourishment through his teachings and examples. He teaches us what it means to be a citizen of the kin-dom of God and encourages us to follow him and to remain in him.

As we journey together, may we become people who are not easily shaken, but firmly grounded, growing in faith, hope, and love.

Let this be a season where your roots go deeper than ever before.

Emma Ceurvels, Music Director

It's hard to believe we are already entering the summer months! Children's and Choir Sunday on June 14th will be the last time the choir sings together until September.

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for what has truly been a wonderful season of music-making at the OCC. Week after week, our choir has offered their time, talent, and dedication in service to God and to this congregation. I am so grateful for their commitment and blessed to be surrounded by such loving, gifted people who I look forward to making music with each week!

Thank you also to the congregation for your encouragement and support. It is a privilege to make music together, and I am continually reminded of the power of music to unite us, comfort us, and draw us closer to God. As I've said many times, there are few places where I feel closer to God than at that Steinway piano in our beautiful sanctuary.

In the summer months, we'll be trying out some newer hymns as well as some more contemporary music. If there's a song you'd love for us to sing as a congregation, please let me know!

With gratitude,
Emma

Sunday School/Children's Ministry

Sunday School Schedule

6/7 - Intergenerational Sunday/ No Sunday School
6/14 - Children's Sunday/ No Sunday School

Sunday School will resume September 20th

Meghan Rego, Children's Ministry

It has been a joy working with the children this year! We will be wrapping up the Sunday School year on Sunday, June 14 with Children's Sunday, where the children will lead the service. If your child would like to participate but hasn't been with us these past few weeks, please let me know as soon as possible and I will make sure to include a part for them.

The children have been working hard to prepare a fun and meaningful service, and we hope you can join us. To celebrate all of their hard work this year, we will have an ice cream bar in the vestry following the service. We'll be sending out a Sign Up Genius link in the coming days. If you plan to attend and are willing, please consider signing up to bring a topping for the celebration.

We hope all of the children and their families have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to kicking off the next Sunday School year in September!

Best,
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