



Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, October 25, 2026 | 10 O'Clock in the Morning

40 School Street | Post Office Box 436 | Cotuit, MA 02635

www.cotuitfederatedchurch.org | 508-428-6163

Cover Art:

The Velveteen Rabbit by William Nicholson

Poem: A Blessing

By James Wright 1927 – 1980

Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota,
Twilight bounds softly forth on the grass.
And the eyes of those two Indian ponies
Darken with kindness.
They have come gladly out of the willows
To welcome my friend and me.
We step over the barbed wire into the pasture
Where they have been grazing all day, alone.
They ripple tensely,
they can hardly contain their happiness
That we have come.
They bow shyly as wet swans. They love each other.
There is no loneliness like theirs.
At home once more,
They begin munching the young tufts
of spring in the darkness.
I would like to hold the slenderer one in my arms,
For she has walked over to me
And nuzzled my left hand.
She is black and white,
Her mane falls wild on her forehead,
And the light breeze moves me to caress her long ear
That is delicate as the skin over a girl's wrist.
Suddenly I realize
That if I stepped out of my body I would break
Into blossom.

GUEST INFORMATION: Thank you for worshipping with us today! Pick up a welcome brochure to learn more about our church. Join us for coffee hour following today's worship — just follow the crowd to our community room (Hamilton Hall). Both our sanctuary and community room are handicapped-accessible at the High Street entrance. Handicapped parking is available on High Street. Please ask a Greeter or Deacon to answer any questions.

FELLOWSHIP PADS: Whenever you have questions or comments, feel free to note them in the red fellowship pads available at each pew. Everyone — guests and regular attenders alike — are asked to sign the fellowship pads when passed during the offering. If you are a first time visitor, please include your email or physical mailing address.

PRAYER CARDS: You will find prayer request cards at the Welcome Center and in the pew racks. You are invited to fill out a card and place it in the offering basket.

OUR E-LIST: The “*Weekly Word*” is an e-mail newsletter for our members and friends. If you do not receive it and would like to, please complete the Newcomer form available in the Welcome Packet, or call the Church Office at (508) 428-6163 or e-mail office@cotuitfederatedchurch.org to sign up.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to donate flowers on any given Sunday, please sign up on the Sign-Up Sheet or contact Shannon in the office—(508) 428-6163— with your dedication.

Please join us today for coffee and refreshments following the service.

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Passing of the Peace is the oldest part of the Christian liturgy and is a special way we welcome each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. You are invited to greet members with a handshake or hug, or contactless with your hands over your heart, waving or giving the peace sign.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Loughran

One: God is the giver of all good things.

**Many: God generously makes the world,
and creates humankind in God's image.**

One: Come, let us delight in God's gifts.

Come, let us delight in God's goodness.

(Continued On Next Page)

Many: **Come, let us live in God's image,
generously giving, hosting, caring for the world.**

All: **Come, let us worship God!**

***OPENING HYMN**

The United Methodist Hymnal #408

Please join in singing.

The Gift Of Love

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jennifer Loughran

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jennifer Loughran

**All: Forgive us, O God.
We have taken your gifts for granted,
failing to shower them on others
as freely as you gave them to us.**

(Continued On Next Page)

**All: Give us love enough to give ourselves away.
And by our testimony of joyful giving,
may the whole world know that you are good.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Daniel Smith

CHORAL ANTHEM

CFC Choir

A Place In The Choir

Arr. Ed Harris

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY

David Miller & Lallie Lloyd

(CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO CHURCH SCHOOL)

***HYMN**

The Faith We Sing #2222

Please join in singing.

The Servant Song

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Jennifer Loughran

Isaiah 43: 1-4

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Rev. Daniel Smith

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

SERMON

Rev. Daniel Smith

Because You Are Dear

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. John Terry

Prayer in Song:

*All things bright and beautiful
all creatures great and small,
all things wide and wonderful
You, our God, made them all.*

Gathering of the Prayers

Celtic Lord's Prayer

*Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring,
May love rise again in us today.
With food for every table,
Shelter for every family,
And reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love,
And free us from all falseness.
That the light of our souls may shine,
And the strength of our spirits endure.
For Earth and all its people.
This day, tonight, and forever.*

Prayer in Song:

*All things bright and beautiful
all creatures great and small,
all things wide and wonderful
You, our God, made them all.*

OFFERTORY

Invitation To Offering

Offertory

***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*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***CLOSING HYMN**

The Faith We Sing #2130

Please join in singing.

The Summons

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please join us for coffee hour in Hamilton Hall after worship!



Call To Worship by SALT Project

TODAYS SERVERS

Ministers: *The People of Cotuit Federated Church*

Pastor: Rev. Angela Menke Ballou | Community Minister: Rev. Daniel Smith

Deacon: Jen Nash | Director of Music: Megan Anthony

Lay Reader: Jennifer Loughran | Greeters: Brian Kenna & Cindy Kenna

Director of Christian Education: Lynne Belfiore

Admin. Assistant for Ministry: Shannon Boon

TODAYS HAPPENINGS

- Worship 10:00
- Sunday School 10:15
- Coffee Hour 11:15



ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGING WITH GRACE with Dan Smith and Martha Ross

Mondays, Sept. 21, Oct. 5 & 19, Nov. 2 & 16 | 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., Kraft Room.

A five-session small group for those navigating the challenges, changes, and gifts of aging. Gather for reflection, prayerful silence, soulful check-ins, and conversation about the wisdom and resources our faith may offer. Please contact Dan at communityminister@cotuitfederatedchurch.org or sign up in Hamilton Hall. Participants are encouraged to attend most or all sessions.

MENS FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Thursday, November 19 | 8:00 a.m.–9:15 p.m., Hamilton Hall.

Men of CFC and friends are invited for breakfast, fellowship, and conversation about life, faith, and the wider world. This first gathering will also help us imagine what a monthly Men's Breakfast might look like. Friends and newcomer's welcome! Questions, ideas, or suggestions for a better meeting time? Sign up in Hamilton Hall.

PLEDGE SUNDAY

Sunday, November 8 at 10:00 a.m. Worship

We'll celebrate all creatures big and small on October 26 at our Stewardship Sunday service. Please bring your pledge cards and your prayers. This one's not to be missed! Looking forward to seeing you there. And thank you!

Cotuit Federated Church Justice Forum

***“Our” Story: How the Wampanoag Village of
Patuxet Became Plymouth Colony
and the Thanksgiving Myth***

with PAULA PETERS

Tuesday, November 17 · 6:30–8 p.m.

Cotuit Federated Church
40 School St, Cotuit, MA



The Mayflower arrived in 1620, but the critical backstory of Plymouth Colony is rarely told. In this presentation, Paula Peters will talk about the kidnapping of 20 men from Patuxet in 1614 by English explorers, the introduction of an epidemic disease that wiped out tens of thousands of Wampanoag, and why the return of one of those stolen men was so important. She will also examine how the treaty with Plymouth Colony undermined the sovereignty of the Wampanoag people and why 100 Wampanoag warriors crashed the colonists' first harvest feast.

The event is free and open to the public.

About Paula Peters

Paula Peters is a politically, socially and culturally active citizen of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. For more than a decade she worked as a journalist for the Cape Cod Times and is now co-owner of SmokeSignals, a Native owned and operated creative production agency. She is a founding and former board member of the Native Land Conservancy and now serves as the NLC Communications and Programs Manager. She is also an independent scholar, writer of Native, and particularly Wampanoag history, exhibit designer and film producer. Paula lives with her husband and children in Mashpee, Massachusetts, the Wampanoag ancestral homeland.





Can We Talk...[®]

A COMMUNITY SHARING OF PAIN AND HEALING

We are holding space for you.

Sunday, November 15, 2026

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Cotuit Federated Church
Hamilton Hall, 40 School St., Cotuit

Can We Talk[®] is a spiritually-inspired, community-based, clinically-supported space for the sharing of painful stories in a loving community.

*A space to share your story through
loving words, poetry, song or silence.*

All are welcome.

For more information contact Linda at rockyluke@comcast.net.