



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Church Family and Fellow Co-workers in God's Kingdom

September 2026

I'm sure you have read or heard that there is an upsurge of people returning to church seeking faith. Many feel the need for a human connection instead of watching live or recorded services at home. In 1968, Harry Nilsson wrote the song, "One is the Loneliest Number", that became a major hit a year later when Three Dog Night released their popular cover version. There are a lot of people who are lonely. They may not have family or close friends. They may just find it difficult to make connections with people.

Believe it or not, this also happens in the church. New people in search of a connection with the Lord and other Christians go church shopping. They may stay for a while, but then they stop coming because they could not make a connection with the people in the church. Why? They may not have found people who welcomed them and made them feel comfortable. They may have felt they didn't fit in with the congregation and were often left to sit alone. I have talked to different people who became part of our church and asked them what it was that made them stay and call this church their home. Almost always, they said it was the people in the congregation.

Think about this. If you go down to coffee hour, take a moment to look at the tables. One table is all men, another is almost all the women, then there are two tables at which there are about 4-5 members sitting. But what about those tables where a newcomer or a family sits alone? Do you know them? Have you introduced yourself to them?

All of us should ask ourselves some questions. Are we aware of those around us, old and new alike? Are we willing to step out of our comfort zone to make newcomers welcome and engage in conversation with them? Have we invited someone to come and join us for coffee? When was the last time you invited someone to come to church with you? Am I willing to leave the table of those who I am familiar with and go introduce myself to someone new? None of us are too old to be a friend to someone new. The next time you are in church, think before you sit. Is there someone sitting alone, someone that is new, or someone you see every week but never acknowledge?

Pastor Doug

AUGUST SERVICES

Facebook Live Stream

www.facebook.com/fccromwell

SUNDAY, September 6th
9:30 A.M.

Communion Sunday
“Did God Really Say...?”

SUNDAY, September 13th
9:30 A.M.

“Who Do You Say I Am?”

SUNDAY, September 20th
9:30 A.M.

“What Is Truth?”

SUNDAY, September 27th
9:30 A.M.

Mission Sunday
“Pivot Ministries”

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2026-2027

PROGRAM BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13TH
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY
CURRICULUM

We will be using maps from Bible days
and comparing them to present day maps
as we learn new Bible stories!

Please Sign up to assist us in our new
larger, air-conditioned Sunday School
Classroom! The sign-up sheet will be on
the Bulletin Board on the left side of the
classroom. We appreciate your willingness
to spend time with us!

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Begins on Tuesday

September 15th

6:30-8:00 P.M.

Romans: The Gospel of Grace

Dr. David Jeremiah

Follow Dr. Jeremiah through the book of Romans in a chapter-by-chapter study that will help you understand what it meant to the people at the time it was written, and what it means to be Christians today.

Romans reads like a first-century course in theology, culminating in the incredible truth that God has made a way—through the sacrifice of Christ—for all to find salvation.

All men are welcome to attend. To ensure we have the correct amount of materials, please call the church office at 860-635-4806 to register for this program.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

First Congregational Church

Fireside Room

10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

All are welcome!

Materials provided

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER



All are welcome!

**Join us for this special time of
focused prayer with the Lord.**

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Saturday, September 12th

The Men will meet at
Mitchell’s on Main in Cromwell
at 8:00 A.M.

All men are welcome!

LADIES DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies Daytime Fellowship will meet on
Wednesday, September 2nd at noon. Please
bring a bag lunch. Dessert, coffee, and tea
will be provided. All women are welcome.

MISSIONS BOARD

Carol Culbertson and her husband are planning a move to Washington State over the next few months. They will be building a pre-fab home on property that belongs to her husband. The Florida weather has been tough and they are looking forward to retirement in their new home. Carol hopes to come visit our church in December. She plans to stay active and volunteer wherever she can by of service.

Wheelchairs are still being collected by Marshall, Cindy, and Ken. August was their best of month of the year with a total collection of 128 wheelchairs. The year-to-date total is 632 chairs. If you know of any wheelchairs that people are willing to donate, contact Marshall (savior4youth@gmail.com)

The 250,000th was just delivered to this child. Congratulations to Joni and Friends who make a difference in the world for those in need of wheelchair assistance.



The next Missions Board meeting will be on Sunday, September 13 at 10:45 AM in the large children's classroom.

DEACON'S CORNER

One afternoon, a few weeks back, I traveled to the Newington Stop N' Shop to purchase a few needed items. I was packing my grocery bags as the attendant was passing them to me, when a gentleman spoke out to me, "Hey, nice socks!"

It took me a few moments to take that in and looked at my socks and him. He replied, "I'm a Viking fan too!" For the next ten minutes or so, we talked about the probability of Minnesota to go far this coming season, as if we were friends for years!

Later, as I was driving home, sports being a motivator of dialogue, I thought how wonderful it would be to cheer for Jesus with pom-poms and confetti.

Think about it...Jesus was born as a heavy underdog living under roman dominance.

As an adult, Jesus moved up in the standings in just three years! People listened to His amazing words and witnessed His miraculous acts.

When it looked like He would make it to the top, Jesus appeared to be crushed on a Friday afternoon, only to win for us all in a three day overtime! Isn't that something to cheer about? Let's go out and be loud and proud for the true champion of Love, Jesus Christ Our Savior!

Marshall Dunbar for the Deacons

SUNDAE SERVICE

Sunday, September 13th

Please join us for ice cream following the 9:30 A.M. Church service. Tim Farrell will be bringing his ice cream truck for everyone to enjoy!!! This will kick off the new Sunday School year as well as Bible Studies and hopefully other new activities as well. See you there!!!

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will meet on **Thursday, September 17th 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** Reports will be given from the board chairs. We will review the church budget. New church business will be discussed.

If you have any issues that you would like to be discussed at the meeting, please contact a member at large.



NUTMEG FAIR UPDATE TAG SALE NEWS

Donations/items will **ONLY** be accepted **from September 1st to September 30th.**

We are **NOT** accepting books, furniture, electronics of any kind, CDs, tapes, records, or clothing. It would be helpful to our small number of volunteers if the items donated were clean. **Place your donations in the tubs outside of the tag sale room.** Please **DO NOT** put them in the room. Items in the room are already sorted and priced.

CRAFTERS

If you do a craft, knit crochet, sew, etc. and would be willing to donate a few of your items to the fair please speak to either Nancy Clayton or Ginny Pierson. Your items will be sold from the church craft table. If you, as a church member, would like to have your own table from which to sell your craft (\$25 for a 6-foot table), talk to Nancy or Ginny.



PIVOT will be here 9/27!

The Missions Board invites you to hear the joyful songs and heartfelt testimonies of men who are healing from addiction thru the power of Christ!!

Invite a friend, and bring a dish to share at the potluck brunch after the service!

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you are interested in providing flowers for any **open dates**, please call the church office at 860-635-4806.

SEPTEMBER

6 – Ginny and Cliff Pierson
13 – John Tomasulo
20 – RoseMary Frederick
27 – **OPEN FLOWER DATE**

OCTOBER

4 – **OPEN FLOWER DATE**
11 – Pat Czerwonka
18 – Nancy and Tom Clayton
25 – **OPEN FLOWER DATE**

STAFF PARISH



ALICIA DZIOB

FCC Church Office Manager

When you stop by the church during office hours, make sure to take the time to introduce yourself and welcome her to our church family!



MUMS FOR MOM & EVERYONE ELSE!

**Saturday, September 12
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church
Parking Lot**

Sale to benefit Church budget!

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE

It was a busy summer with several internal projects completed. The emergency exit signs and lights in the education wing and basement required maintenance. Several of the units needed new wiring for power and new brighter lights were added to existing units. In the girl's bathroom in the education wing many of the ceiling tiles needed to be refastened to the ceiling. Routine maintenance was also done on the church's lift to keep it operating smoothly and efficiently. A new dishwasher hot water booster system was ordered, and we are awaiting new quotes for some of the outside repair work (front brownstone step repointing, south side walkway retaining wall, and front sidewalk repair).



Military Whist Card Party

Thursday, October 8th

Bring your own team or play with new friends. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Games begin at 6:30 p.m.

If you can provide a raffle or door prize, please give it to Nancy Clayton or Pat Whitney by Sunday, October 4th.

We also **need volunteers** to make sandwiches or finger desserts, help distribute raffles and clean up. A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	2 12:00 P.M. Ladies Luncheon 6:30 P.M. Prayer Time	3 10:30 A.M. Cromwell Clergy	4	5
6 9:30 A.M. Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Coffee Hour	7 Labor Day Office Closed!	8 10:00 A.M. Bible Study	9 1 6:30 P.M. Prayer Time	10	11	12 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast at Mitchell's 9:00 A.M. Mum Sale
13 Rally Day! 9:30 A.M. Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Ice Cream Social 10:45 A.M. Mission's Bd. 10:45 A.M. Fundraising Meeting	14 6:30 P.M. Deacon Board	15 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 6:30 P.M. Men's Bible Study	16 6:00 P.M. Blue Star Moms 6:30 P.M. Prayer Time	17 7:00 P.M. Executive Board Meeting	18	19
20 9:30 A.M. Worship Service 10:30 A.M. Coffee Hour	21	22 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 6:30 P.M. Men's Bible Study	23 6:30 P.M. Prayer Time	24	25 28 1:15 P.M. South Farms	26 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. N.E. Showtune Rehearsal
27 9:30 A.M. Worship Service – Pivot Ministry 10:30 A.M. Potluck Luncheon 3:00 P.M. N.E. Showtune Concert	28	29 10:00 A.M. Bible Study 6:30 P.M. Men's Bible Study	30 6:30 P.M. Prayer Time			