



Sunday July 26, 2026

"When Life Throws A Curveball"

Ruth Buxton

Welcoming All.
Growing Together.
Following Christ.
centre-church.org



a just
world
for all
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CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940

Children can go directly to room 14 for our summer program, Animal Crackers, focusing on HEIFER. Each week the children will learn about a different animal and its benefits.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ruth Buxton

Call to Worship

Phil Fisher

Leader: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing

People: Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God

Leader: Do not quench the Spirit

People: Hold fast to what is good

Leader: May the God of peace make you holy and keep you

People: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and forevermore.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Phil Fisher

We are gathered here by God,

We are gathered here by God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are gathered here to rest – to find the refreshment the Spirit offers us,

We are gathered here to hear again Christ's words of life,

We are gathered here because the Father has had compassion on us.

Come, let us worship our God. Amen

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

Phil Fisher

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

***Hymn:** *"When Peace Like a River"*

#438

1 When peace like a river, uphold me each day,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,
let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has paid life and blood for my soul: **[Refrain]**

3. My sin - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought -
my sin - not in part, but the whole -
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! **[Refrain]**

4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,
"even so" - it is well with my soul. **[Refrain]**

Hebrew Testament Reading

Phil Fisher

Psalms 121 (*The Passion Translation*)

I look up to the mountains and hills, longing for God's help.
But then I realize that our true help and protection
is only from the Lord,
our Creator who made the heavens and the earth.
He will guard and guide me, never letting me stumble or
fall.
God is my keeper; he will never forget nor ignore me.
He will never slumber nor sleep;
he is the Guardian-God for his people, Israel.
Yahweh himself will watch over you;
he's always at your side to shelter you safely in his
presence.
He's protecting you from all danger both day and night.
He will keep you from every form of evil or calamity
as he continuously watches over you.

You will be guarded by God himself.
You will be safe when you leave your home,
and safely you will return.
He will protect you now,
and he'll protect you forevermore!

Call to Offering

Offertory

Ruth Buxton

***Hymn of Praise (in unison)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Living God, whom we adore.**

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Ruth Buxton

Gospel Reading

Phil Fisher

Matthew 14:22-33 *(The Passion Translation)*

As soon as the people were fed, Jesus told his disciples to get into their boat and to go to the other side of the lake while he stayed behind to dismiss the people. After the crowds dispersed, Jesus went up into the hills to pray. And as night fell he was there praying alone.

But the disciples, who were now in the middle of the lake, ran into trouble, for their boat was tossed about by the high winds and heavy seas.

At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came to them, walking on the waves! When the disciples saw him walking on top of the water, they were terrified and screamed, "A ghost!"

Then Jesus said, "Be brave and don't be afraid. I am here!" Peter shouted out, "Lord, if it's really you, then have me join you on the water!"

"Come and join me," Jesus replied.

So Peter stepped out onto the water and began to walk toward Jesus. But when he realized how high the waves were, he became frightened and started to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he cried out.

Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and lifted him up and said, "What little faith you have! Why would you let doubt win?"

And the very moment they both stepped into the boat, the raging wind ceased.

The disciples said in adoration, "You are truly the Son of God!"

Message: *"When Life Throws A Curveball"* Ruth Buxton

***Hymn:** *"Great Is Your Faithfulness"*

#423

1 Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
all of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is your faithfulness!
Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **[Refrain]**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. **[Refrain]**

Benediction

Ruth Buxton

Postlude

Our ushers today are Jeff Langill and Scott Barke.

Our Coffee Hour host is Annmarie Pendola.

ADVANCE NOTICE

THE CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED FROM
THURSDAY 30TH JULY
TO SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST

FOR ANY PASTORAL OR URGENT NEEDS DURING
THIS TIME THERE WILL BE AN OPTION ON THE
CHURCH TELEPHONE NUMBER TO BE PUT
THROUGH TO THE APPROPRIATE PERSON

Worship Notes.

Music licenses: One License with license #A-733437, and CCLI License #A-2267261 and Streaming #CSPL169342, Size A

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An Open and Affirming Church

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940

781-334-3050

www.centre-church.org

Rev Tom Bentley - Pastor

Douglas W. Hodgkins - Organist / Choir Director

Leah O'Brien - Director of Tower Day School

Ruth Buxton - Faith Formation & Community Engagement Director