Welcome to Harwich United Methodist Church

October 18, 2026
21st Sunday After Pentecost

~~Thought for the Week~~

You cannot make progress without making decisions.

Jim Rohn

~~Gathering & Welcome~~

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Prelude
Call to Worship

L: We are chosen children of God , bound together by the Holy Spirit.
P: We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.
L: The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.
P: We belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.
L: The Spirit inspires us to receive God's Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.
P: We belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.
L: Come, let us worship in the assurance of God's love that chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.
P: We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026.

***Opening Hymn** **"Morning Has Broken"** **#145**

Morning Prayer

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

Written by Mary Scifres on the Ministry Matters website.

Prayer of Confession

P: God of Grace, we know that you have chosen us, but we often forget that you have also chosen others. You call us to be imitators of Christ, yet many times we are imitators of the world. You challenge us to turn from our idols, but we are tempted to turn back to them again and again.

Rescue us, Lord, from ourselves. Show us your way. Guide our every action, that we may live as you call us to live.

Prayers of silent confession

Words of Assurance

L: Beloved children of God, receive this good news: God loves us, chooses us, Forgives us, and renews us to live in love and service of God and neighbor.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

Adapted from Amy Loving, The Worship Closet.

Passing the Peace

Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 99** **#819**

~~The Church Proclaims the Word~~

Scripture Readings **Exodus 33:12-23** **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Anthem **"In the Shadow of Your Wings"** **R. Harris**

Gospel Lesson **Matthew 22:15-22**

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message **"Between a Rock and a Hard Place"** **Pastor Dianne**

***Hymn** **"Rock of Ages"** **#361**

~~Response to the Word~~

***Affirmation from I Timothy** **#889**

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

Offertory
Offering
***Doxology** **"Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"** **#94**

***Prayer of Thankfulness**
Gracious God, you choose ordinary people and weave them into a community that shines with your love. We thank you for the gift of belonging—for the call to live our faith in ways that ripple outward into the lives of others. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our willingness to be witnesses to your grace. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, welcome the searching, and strengthen your church as a living example of hope. May our shared life together always point to Christ, whose love calls and sends us. Amen.

~~The Church Goes Forth~~

***Hymn** **"Hymn of Promise"** **#707**
***Benediction**
***Parting Hymn** **"God Be With You till We Meet Again"** **#672**
Postlude

You are welcome here. No matter who you are. No matter what.

Liturgist: Mary Dulemba
Ushers: Becky & Kevin Di Gesu
Fellowship Time: Becky & Kevin Di Gesu

Scripture for October 25, 2026

Deut 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Acts 10:44-48; Matthew 22:34-46

Calendar

Today	Administrative Council Meeting 11:15am
Thurs Oct 22	Potluck Dinner 5pm
Sun 11/1	All Saints Sunday
Sun 11/1	All Church Conference 2:30-4:30pm at South Yarmouth United Methodist Church 318 Old Main Street, South Yarmouth

Announcements

- Please start collecting Attic Treasures and Jewelry to donate and/or consider baking for our Christmas Fair (Nov. 21)
- Please see Pat Thayer to purchase Stop & Shop or Shaw's Gift Cards.
- Let us know what your favorite hymns are: fill out the cards in the pews and place in the collection plate or email the church office at harwichumc@gmail.com.
-Write on your attached Sticky note anyone you would like included in our All Saints Day Service on November 1, 2026.

Committee Chairs Please make sure to have your Church Conference reports into the office by Monday October 19th (Tomorrow)

Prayers: Joan Felahi, Don Gould, Dan & Lil Murphy, Ruth Zeller, Jim Mulligan & Mary Dulemba, Roger & Gerry Di Gesu, Kathleen Sullivan (re: Carolyn Dickinson), Laurie Bonin; Bill Bly & Maryanne Timmins, Kathie (re: Mary Dulemba), Michael Chatham
People around the world caught in war & unrest.

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Marisha Dubiel, Music Director