

# First Congregational Church of Pelham

## United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Church - Sharing What God's Love Looks Like*  
**February 8, 2026 Overcoming Obstacles To Peace: From Death to Life**  
*+Please rise in body or spirit.*

TOLLING THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT

"Christ Has Broken Down The Wall"

Mark A. Miller

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Micah declares "In the days to come,"

**God's promises of peace will be fulfilled: a world where fear is a thing of the past, in which weapons will be traded for gardening tools, and all fear will fade away.**

Micah says "in the days to come..." which seems too vague a timeline!

**Lord, may that day be today.**

+HYMN

"We've A Story To Tell To the Nations"

insert

PRAYER OF APPROACH

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill this space with your presence. Today, we gather with hearts burdened by the violence and unrest surrounding us, longing for the life-giving peace only you can provide. Where hatred and division sow death, breathe new life into us. Soften our hearts and guide our hands to build, heal, and restore. Where there is brokenness, let us be agents of wholeness; where there is suffering, let us bring hope. Teach us to find life in your love, turning us away from the destructive pursuit of power and control. Draw us closer, God, to the breath of your Holy Spirit, so we can breathe life into a world longing for peace and renewal. Renew us from the inside out. Raise us from the shadows of death into the light of Christ's abundant life. We pray in the name of Jesus, who conquered death and gives us life eternal. Amen.**

CELEBRATING SCOUTING

WHAT'S IN THE SUITCASE?

+SINGING PRAISES TO GOD

"Gloria Patri"

#558

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

SCRIPTURE

Micah 4:1-5

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Children Of The World"

David Julian Michaels

*"Refrain: Children of the world join hands. Let it circle every land. Hold fast, let love be the bond that connects us. Right here and now take a stand. There's strength in love; there's strength in peace; there's strength in tranquility. There's power in quiet; there's power in silence; love can bring the victory. Refrain. And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war any more. Refrain."*

REFLECTION

+HYMN

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

#265

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE  
SUNG CALL TO PRAYER  
SILENCE  
SHARING OUR PRAYER REQUESTS  
PRAYER  
THE LORD'S PRAYER (*SUNG*) #412

"Lord I Lift Your Name On High"

#71

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD  
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING  
OFFERTORY  
+SUNG RESPONSE

"The Doxology"

#563

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.*

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION  
**God of Peace, you transform that which brings destruction into life-giving experiences. We offer these gifts as our commitment to learn from your ways. Let us walk in the path of our God now and always. Amen.**

+HYMN "O God of Love, O King of Peace" #312  
+BENEDICTION  
+SUNG BENEDICTION "One Bread, One Body" #525  
*"We are one body in this one Lord."*

POSTLUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gather on the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present, who have ongoing cultural and spiritual connections.. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the aki (land), nebi (water), olakwikak (flora), awaasak (fauna) and the aln8bak (people) who have been stewards of these throughout the generations.

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Pastor: Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight  
Director of Music: Tom Seniow  
Bell Choir Director: Sharon Hone  
Sexton: Lupe Nova

Seminarian: Heather Ivone Milliken  
Accompanist: Carolyn (Sue) Howard  
Administrator: Stephanie Noel  
Deacons: Cheryl Andrews and David Wilkerson.



**venmo**