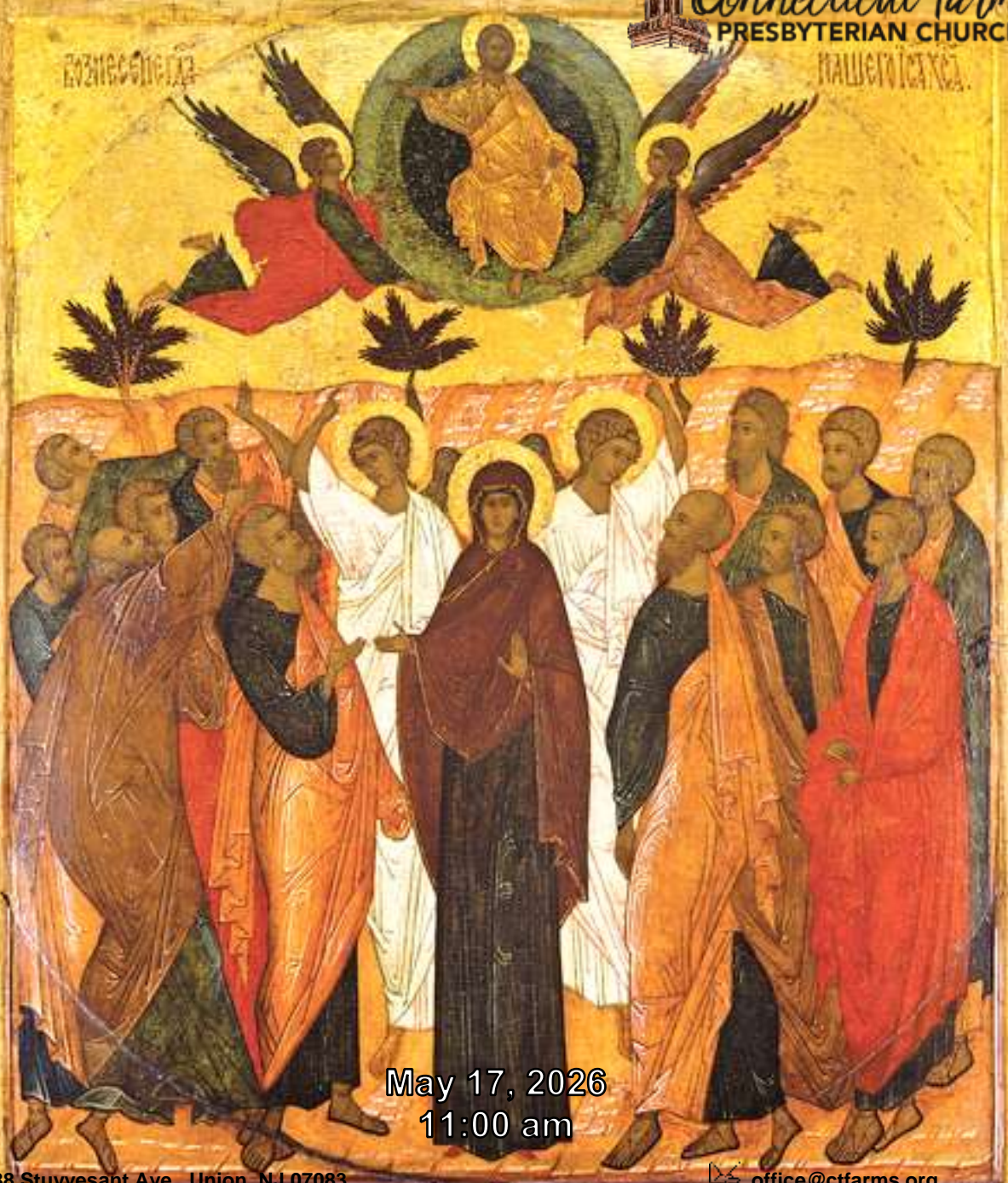




Connecticut Farms
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ВЪЗНЕСЕНИЕ

ВЪЗНЕСЕНИЕ



May 17, 2026
11:00 am

888 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083

 908.688.3164

 office@ctfarms.org

 www.CTFarmsChurch.org

The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, 16th Century, Moscow School



May 17, 2026
11:00 am
Celebrating Ascension Day

An **asterisk** * in the bulletin invites all to **stand**. If unable to do so, please remain **seated**.
Childcare is available during worship service at the Nursery on the left side of Sanctuary.
Please fill out the information in the **RED WELCOME FOLDERS** and leave the filled pages on top of folder.
Please find the **blue BIBLE AND HYMNAL** in the pew racks.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Leader, **People**)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
And also with you.

INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

adapting John 20: 11-18

Sometimes we stand with Mary Magdalene, outside the empty tomb.
We have expected something, and God provides us something new.

Two angels ask Mary, “why are you weeping?”

She says, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

Then she turned and saw Jesus standing there, but did not know it was him.

Supposing him to be the gardener, she asked to care for Jesus’ body.

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” Then she cried out with joy, “Rabbouni!”

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold me... But go to my disciples and say to them,

‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord.”

May we also meet the Risen Christ who is now throughout the world in the Spirit.

Let us worship God.

*HYMN NO. 483, *Hymnal*

“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Indwelling God,

We live and know ourselves in dialogue with You and other human beings.

Help us to abide in the truth which is essential to trust.

We are defensive when our good works are questioned.

Help us hear the cry for connection even in criticism, so we may respond from a place of grace.

Save us from silos of rationalization;

forgive us when we scorn the ignorant and naïve, or neglect the mistreated

Give us the wisdom to challenge wrong without creating enemies;

temper our righteous zeal so that we make space in your beloved community.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

(Time for silent prayer)

[Pouring water that recalls our baptism, and symbolizes our cleansing and renewal]

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS.

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ lived for us, died for us, and rose for us.

Christ reigns in the Spirit to redeem the world.

By the loving power of the Incarnation and resurrection, we are forgiven, renewed, and restored.

* PRAISE TO GOD, *Hymnal No. 579*

"Gloria Patri"

**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. Amen.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL RESPONSE

"I am Loved"

**I am loved, I am loved, I can risk loving you
For the one who knows me best loves me most
I am loved, you are loved. Won't you please take my hand
We are free to love each other. We are loved! We are loved!**

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

New Testament p.118, Bible

WORD TO THE CHILDREN

SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-14

New Testament pp.249-50, Bible

SERMON

What Comes Down Must Go Up

Rev. Christian Iosso

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Westminster Confession, Chapter 22, par. 2 & 4 abridged*

2. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from human doctrines and commandments which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it in matters of faith or worship.

So that to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commandments ... is to betray true liberty of conscience; ... and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.

4. Because the powers which God hath ordained, and the liberty which Christ hath purchased, are not intended by God to destroy, but mutually to uphold and preserve one another;

they who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, shall oppose any lawful power,... whether it be civil or ecclesiastical, resist the ordinance of God. And for their publishing of such opinions, or maintaining of such practices, as are contrary to the light of nature, or to the known principles of Christianity, whether concerning faith, worship, or conversation;... [such] are destructive to the external peace and order which Christ hath established in the church; they may lawfully be called to account..."

*HYMN NO. 368, *Hymnal*

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

*DOXOLOGY, *Hymnal No. 592*

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PASTORAL PRAYER, PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 NO. 261, *Hymnal*

"God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us"

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Family of God"

**I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood.
Join hands together as we travel this sod.
For we're part of the family, the family of God**

*POSTLUDE

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Grace and Peace to all of you in worship this morning!

We hope you experience a warm welcome and nourishment for your spirit by word, music and prayer.
We invite you to refreshments at the Westminster Hall after the worship service.

Rev. Christian Iosso, PhD, Interim Minister
Dewey Moss, Choir Director
Olin Jackson, Jr., Liturgist
Linda Durning, Head Usher

Scan to Give



P R A Y E R R E Q U E S T S



Rebecca Abam Michael Augustitus Gordon Blake

Deissy Cardoza Jerry Chinchar Joseph Cioffi Doris Costleigh

Amaya Costleigh Matthew Disano Holly Folgia

Karl Fomundam Joseph Gannon Mario Garofalo Carolin Grace

John Griffin Jerry Marinzulich Madelyn Palm Mike Petrie

Michele Raspa Betty Riker Carrie Riker Jessica Rosenberg

Doreen Rossi Harold Scheidegger, Sr. Suzanne Surbeck

Mary Jane Tierney Pete Villano Leana Bonnie

PRAYER REQUESTS can be picked up from the Sanctuary piano or in the Narthex. Please fill in and drop it in piano basket. Prayer request forms are also at the office.



C A L E N D A R

May 10-May 16

Sunday	May 17		
	9:00 am	Choir Practice	Choir Room
	10:00 am	Bible Study	
	11:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
	12:00 pm	Fellowship	Westminster Hall
	12:15 pm	Christian Education Committee	
Monday	May 18		
	7:00 pm	Troop 168	Westminster Hall
Tuesday	May 19		
Wednesday	May 20		
	7:00 pm	Troop 68	GYM
Thursday	May 21		
	7:00 pm	Pastor Nominating Committee	
Friday	May 22		
Saturday	May 23		



CHURCH NEWS AND FUTURE EVENTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING is set on **May 17, Sunday**, after worship.

BOOK CLUB meets on **May 28 at 7:30 pm** to discuss our latest book, *The Correspondent*.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to elect news classes of church officers will be held on **May 31, Sunday**, after worship.

CONFIRMATION DAY Mark your calendars as we celebrate the confirmands on **June 7 during worship**.

SUMMER PICNIC It's never too early to plan for summer! Summer picnic is set for **June 14,**



Sunday, after worship. . Catch up and spend time with your church family! Please RSVP by *May 24*. Please call Ginny (215)688.6179 or Velinda (908)688.3164.

WEBSITE GIVING Visit www.CTFarmsChurch.org and choose the *Giving* link. Debit or credit cards are accepted. Thank you for your generosity!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Share your talents! The Church invites all with technical skills, creative abilities, physical prowess and big hearts to maintain and elevate our church activities

WEBSITE LIVESTREAM Visit www.CTFarmsChurch.org and click the *Livestream link* to watch the latest Sunday worship livestream. Tap into previous worship recordings on FB: www.facebook.com/ctfarms/ or YouTube

www.youtube.com/@ConnecticutFarmsChurch

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Mark the dates! **July 27-31**. For kids entering Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Registration starts soon! Open to the Community. More details to follow soon. Volunteers much needed.



Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church presents...

Vacation Bible School 2026

July 27-31

Bible Stories Creative Crafts Exciting Games

Come with us on our journey into the lush wild forest to discover the nature of God as our Creator and Refuge



CELEBRATING
250
YEARS
IN GOD'S SIGHT

Free and Open to the Public

Presbyterian Heritage and the American Revolution

Join Us for a Special Community Event at the historic

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD

MAY 30, 2026
DOORS OPEN AT 12:30
EVENT 1:00 - 3:30

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Live story telling in "Slavery Slam" format.
- In-depth Q&A with panel of regional and academic historians.
- Photo-op and Confetti Celebration with our Continental Soldier Statue.
- Live Music and Refreshments.

LOCATION: First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, 210 North Av., Springfield, NJ 07081

MORE INFORMATION: www.springfieldpresbyterian.org, 973-379-4120, www.springfieldpresbyterian.org

HONORING THE PAST. CELEBRATING THE PRESENT. INSPIRING THE FUTURE.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Christian T. Iosso, Ph.D.,
Interim Pastor

Dewey Moss, Music Director

Robert Hoffman, Treasurer, Clerk of Session

Linda Bullock, Financial Secretary

Cheryl Burger Nursery School Director

Velinda Harjono, Church Secretary

Deacons, Fellowship Coordinators

Nancy Disano, Counting Committee

Janis Lewis, Counting Committee