

# First Church

SANDWICH, UCC

*Where There's a Seat For Everyone*



Rev. Tina Walker-Morin, Senior Minister  
Rev. Jennie Valentine, Minister of Faith Formation and Service  
Dr. Roy Gernhardt, Director of Music  
Kathy Gernhardt, Accompanist  
Casey Simon, Administrator

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 31, 2026

*Continuing God's Story Together*

“Let this little message be but a reminder,  
and I will continue with the story.”

2 Maccabees 6:17

## Worship Participants

Deacons: Mary Beers

Welcomers:

Reader: Cheryl Johnson

Announcer: Mary Beers

## Prelude

## Welcome

**Opening Song**      *Here I Am to Worship*

## Opening Prayer (unison)

*\*adapted from Mishkan T'filah: Shabbat, transliterated, A Reform Siddur by Rabbi Elyse D. Frishman*

## Deacon

One: We begin with a prayer of gratitude for all that is holy in our lives.

**All: God needs no words, no English or Hebrew, no semantics and not services. But we need them.**

One: Through prayer we sense our inner strength, inner purpose, inner joy, capacity to love.

**All: As we reach upward in prayer, we sense these qualities in our Creator.**

One: To love God is

**All: to love each other**

One: To love God is

**All: to love the work God crated and work to perfect it.**

One: To love God is

**All: to love dreams of peace and joy that illumine all of us, and to bring that vision to life. We gather to love and worship God.**

## Music

*Remind Me Who I Am*

## Scripture

*2 Maccabees 6:1, 3, 5-6, 12-17*

**Cheryl Johnson**

**6** Not long after this, the king sent an Athenian<sup>[a]</sup> senator<sup>[b]</sup> to compel the Jews to forsake the laws of their ancestors and no longer to live by the laws of God,

<sup>3</sup>Harsh and utterly grievous was the onslaught of evil.

<sup>5</sup>The altar was covered with abominable offerings that were forbidden by the laws. <sup>6</sup>People could neither keep the Sabbath nor observe the festivals of their ancestors nor so much as confess themselves to be Jews.

<sup>12</sup>Now I urge those who read this book not to be depressed by such calamities but to recognize that these punishments were designed not to destroy but to discipline our people. <sup>13</sup>In fact, it is a

