

October 11, 2026

10:00 AM

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN

COME WORSHIP THE LORD!



PREPARATION OF OUR MINDS

The perfect church service would be the one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God. But every novelty prevents this. It fixes our attention on the service itself; and thinking about worship is a different thing than worshipping. (C.S. Lewis)

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE + LIGHTING OF CANDLES: "Savior. Like a Shepherd Lead Us" R. Powell

CALL TO WORSHIP, INVOCATION & LORD’S PRAYER (debts)

* HYMN: “Morning Has Broken” Hymnal #362

* THE PEACE

OFFERTORY PRAYER & ANTHEM: "Canon of Praise" N. Sleeth
The Sherman Choir

DOXOLOGY Hymnal #808
*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*

(Children dismissed for “Jesus is F.U.N.” time)

* OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 33:11-16 Bible p.853

* GOSPEL: John 10:7-11 Bible p.1062

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(Sharing our joys and burdens in prayer.)

MISSION MOMENT: Operation Christmas Child

* HYMN: "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" Hymnal #330

SERMON: “The Abundant Life” Pastor Greg Flower

* HYMN: "Trust and Obey" Hymnal #523

* BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN
(*Congregation, please stand if able.)

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We gather to praise God and listen to God’s Word. We are a fellowship knit together by Jesus Christ, who has called us and seeks our worship each and every day. We are a people devoted to “Becoming Like Christ.” We would love for you to join us in worship, growth groups, prayer, and study as well as fun and fellowship through the year.

LET US KNOW...

... if you have a prayer request or wish to share a comment with church leaders.

... if you are new to The Sherman Church and wish to know more by receiving emails of a visit to answer questions about this ministry.

... BY COMPLETING THE CONNECTION CARD

Available in each pew rack; place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

Above all, please...

Come gather for fellowship following our Worship Service

NEXT WEEK: Service of Installation for our new pastor, Greg Flower. Pastor Greg Flower will be preaching. Continuing the new series, “The Abundant Life”, reading from Colossians 1:15-18.

Church Responsibilities for October 11, 2026

Flowers: Edna Coons

Coffee Hour Host: Edna and Don Coons

Nursery: Anna Galasso

Calendar for Oct. 11th-17th

(Links for online meetings may be found at shermanchurch.org)

Sun., Oct. 11	10:00 am	Sunday Worship Service Sunday School	Discipleship Journey: Part 2 after service
Mon., Oct. 12	9:00 am	Hearts and Crafts	Fellowship Hall
Wed., Oct. 14	10:00 am 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Woman’s Bible Study Church Council Youth Group Alcoholics Anonymous	Prayer Only: Fellowship Hall Church Office The Rand’s House Fellowship Hall
Thurs., Oct. 15	6:00 pm 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	Christian Ed Prayer In The Parlor Alcoholics Anonymous	Dialing 667-770-1484; use access code 357664#. Fellowship Hall
Fri., Oct. 16	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Carpenter’s Goodbye Potluck Trustees	Fellowship Hall Office - TO BE RESCHEDULED



OUR CHURCH:

Pastor:

Greg Flower

Interim Pastor:

Rev. John Loring Carpenter

Ministers:

The Congregation

Minister of Music:

Penny Rose

Moderator:

Charles Mastroni

You may make a prayer request anytime by contacting the church office at info@shermanchurch.org or (860)-354-6114.

Outside of office hours (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) or for an emergency prayer or pastoral request contact the Chair of Deacons (deacon@shermanchurch.org or 860-733-9972) or the Pastor (pastor@shermanchurch.org or 860-350-5151). Let us join together in prayer!

PRAYER IS ALWAYS OUR MISSION

Prayer is a vital part of our ministry at The Sherman Church. You are invited to join in prayer each Thursday to pray for our church. Dial-in information is in the calendar.

FIRE EXITS are located at the rear of the sanctuary through the double doors and at the front through the doors on both sides of the altar.

THE SHERMAN CHURCH

Gathered In 1744

Continuing to invite all to know the love of Jesus

6 Church Road | Sherman, CT 06784
860-354-6114

info@shermanchurch.org | Shermanchurch.org

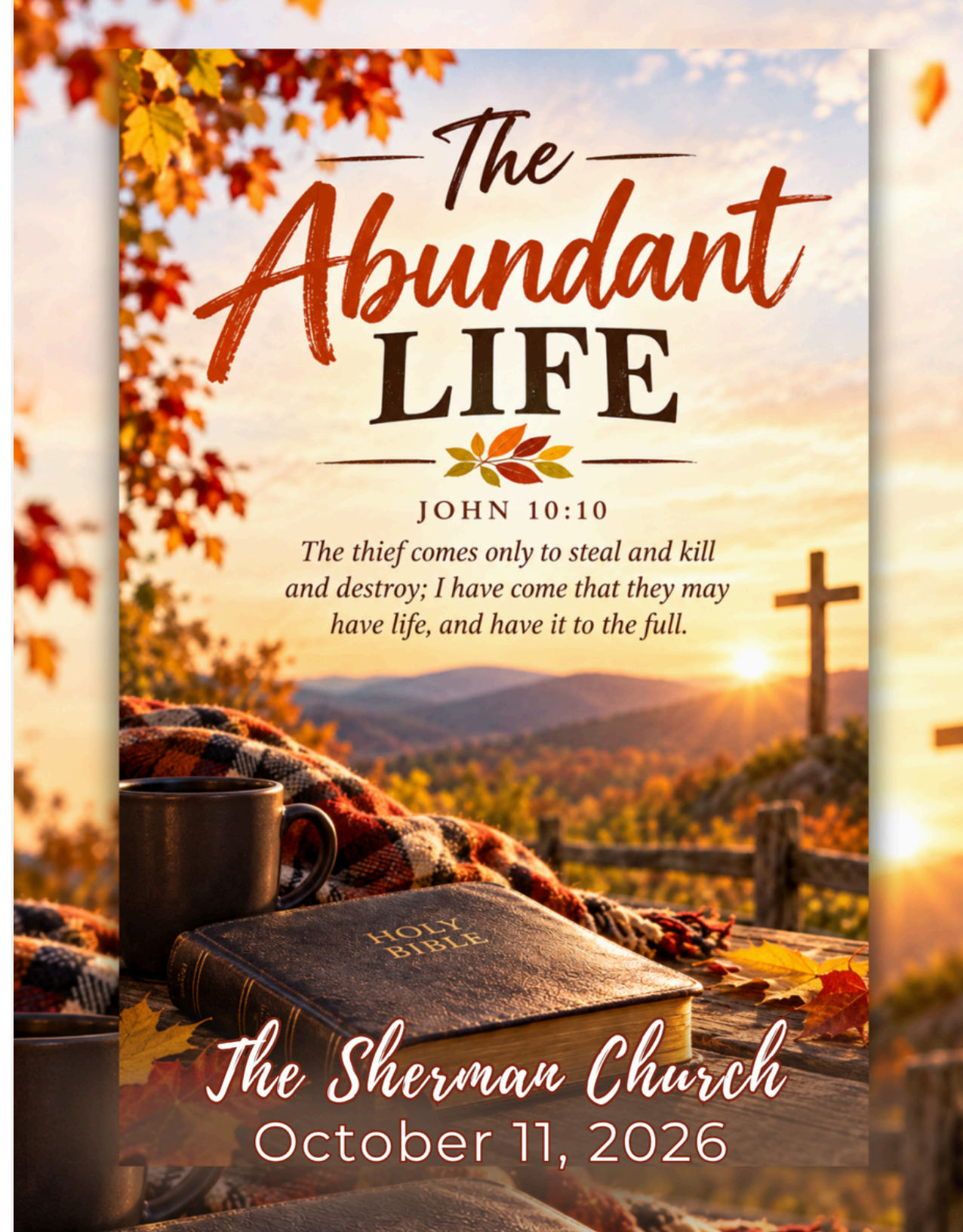
A MEMBER CHURCH OF THE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

OUR MISSIONARIES:

- **Mesa Global:** Robert & Nina Bruneau;
- **CCCC Church Re-Planting:**
Green Mountain Church, Chester, VT,
- **Lion of Judah Academy,**
- **Hope Academy of the Bronx.**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- Eliza Capehart, serving in the United States Air Force.
- John Langworthy, back injury.
- Jim Beddows, health.
- Jim and Christine Munch, health.
- Roberta Judd, health.
- Christopher Siebert, healing of foot.
- Rev. Daniel Morton, health
- Betty Freeman, health
- Chris Freeman, health, strength in the care of her mother
- Debbie Whittaker, Dawn Langworthy's sister. Healing and growing faith.
- Jill Finch, Strength and healing
- Mike Annuzzi, friend of Tim Alemany, healing
- Claire Seibert, health and healing
- Sean McGarry, friend of Caitlin Hicks, health and healing
- Dr. Richard Suhie, healing



SAVE THE DATE -- SPREAD THE WORD

October 18 at 10:00 AM we will have a Service of Installation for our new pastor, Greg Flower. A reception will follow. This is a wonderful chance to invite friends and neighbors to meet Greg and his family.

Goodbye Party for the Carpenters

We have been so blessed to have these last four years with Pastor Loring and MaryAnne Carpenter alongside us as we searched for our next seated pastor. It has been a journey! Now is the bittersweet time to say goodbye with a wonderful potluck 'Goodbye' party. Please mark your calendars for Friday, Oct. 16, at 6pm for a fabulous churchwide potluck dinner sendoff. Please sign up through the church office at info@shermanchurch.org, or by calling church secretary Jessica Jacques at 860-354-6114. Please plan to make a main dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert for four. We will provide coffee, tea, and other beverages.



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Fellowship Hour is in need of extra hands!! Our volunteers are scheduled every 2 months and that is too frequently. **PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING.** Contact Jess in the office at 860-354-6114 or speak with Edna or Barbara. WE have members who are happy to help you. Below are the BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Check the refrigerator the week before to see if we have milk or half and half and juice (nothing red so it doesn't stain carpet). If not, purchase these items.
2. Purchase or bring something sweet such as cookies or coffee cake, muffins, etc., and something healthy like fruit. *It is NOT necessary to do any more.*
3. Make coffee; heat water for tea; put out cups, sugar, sweeteners, milk, and juice.
4. Set up the table with snack, napkins, plates, or plasticware if needed.
5. Clean up

If you want a partner, let us know, and we can find one for you. Thank you!!

rightnow MEDIA

The great commission calls us to go into the world and make disciples of all nations. But how do we actually do this? In Part 2 of Our Discipleship Journey, we'll continue to discover how Jesus made disciples, and how He gave us all we need to do the same. The discipleship journey isn't always straightforward, and it will take you out of your comfort zone, but nothing beats participating in the grand adventure of seeing lives transformed and communities renewed by the power of the Gospel. You needn't wait another moment to join God's disciple-making mission.

8 WEEK Series

OUR
DISCIPLESHIP
JOURNEY

PART 2

MEETING AFTER SERVICE

OCTOBER
4,11,18,25
NOVEMBER
1,8,15

Watch the
Trailer



Mission Moment

By Aimée Suhie

Operation Christmas Child

The Missions Committee will once again join in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection, with a choice of both physical boxes or online donations.

The Oct. 18 Mission Moment collection will be for this worldwide outreach. We welcome shoebox donations which will be blessed in November during the worship service.

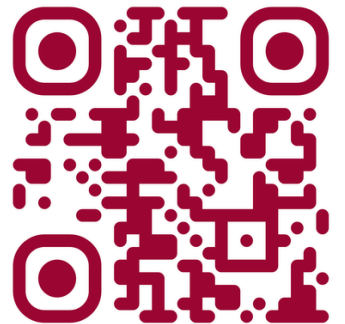
The brochures with instructions on how to fill a box, labels for the boxes and requested \$10 donation for each box will be available in October. If you would like to fill a box, we will have sturdy shoeboxes, or use one of your own and decorate it if you can. Please note when you get your brochure what is acceptable and not acceptable; NO SOAP may be included in the boxes due to customs regulations in different countries.

If you opt to donate online, you may choose what items you want Samaritan's Purse to put in your shoebox or you may just ask them to choose items. You may also follow your shoebox online to its destination. If you donate online, please do so through the Sherman Church website so we can track how many boxes were filled online.

The Sherman Church Goal Page

<https://gqr.sh/24LS>

Thank you for supporting this popular mission once again.
The Missions Committee



The Abundant Life

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Abundant. The word itself sounds like a lot. It means available in large quantities, or plentiful. Jesus said that He came not just that we might have life, but that we might have life abundantly. Life to the full. That doesn't necessarily mean a life of ease. A life of comfort and no conflict. The abundant life is something we have to work towards. We achieve the abundant life through our obedience.

God calls us to obedience. **In John 14:15**, Jesus says clearly and specifically, **“If you love me, obey my commandments.”** Our obedience, doing what God calls us to do and to be, demonstrates our faith. Our obedience is how we experience the abundant life Jesus told us about. The abundant life doesn't mean more or nicer stuff. Jesus is speaking about spiritual abundance. And while we can experience the abundant life here on Earth, the fullness of that abundance is in Eternity.

Achieving the abundant life is a continual process. There are things we have to do in order to achieve it. Things like washing the feet of others. Maybe you don't have much opportunity to actually, physically wash someone's feet. But you can sacrificially serve others. Love others. Romans 12:9 says, “Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.” Achieving the abundant life means trusting Jesus in all things. It means continually seeking to remain in Him and bearing fruit. It's hard. It's work. But the results are so much better than anything else you can seek.

QUESTIONS:

Jesus contrasts the thief's destruction with His gift of life “more abundantly.” What areas of your walk with Christ feel vibrant and Spirit-led, and what areas feel spiritually drained or threatened?

What “thieves” in your life — habits, influences, or attitudes — quietly steal joy, peace, or obedience, and how is the Spirit prompting you to confront them?

How does Jesus' identity as the Good Shepherd shape your trust in His leadership, especially in seasons where His path feels costly or unclear?

If Jesus came to bring abundant life, how is The Sherman Church actively embodying and extending that life to your community through witness, service, and compassion?

What will you need to change or do differently to live in the abundant life Jesus promised?

The Abundant Life John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

We talk a lot about how following Jesus is not a _____.

Following Jesus is not just a _____ of _____.

Once we commit our lives to following Jesus, there are _____ that we are expected to _____.

Jesus offers us an _____ life.

Our obedience is what brings us the abundant _____ Jesus _____.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10, English Standard Version)

WHY OBEY?

We are _____ to obedience.

If you love me, keep my commands. (John 14:15)

Our obedience demonstrates our _____.

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. (1 John 2:3-6)

Our obedience is how we _____ the abundant life.

Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. 2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—3 they do no wrong but follow his ways. 4 You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. 5 Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! 6 Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. 8 I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me. (Psalm 119:1–8)

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

WHAT IS THE ABUNDANT LIFE JESUS PROMISED?

Abundant does not mean more _____ or more _____.

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? (Matthew 6:25)

Jesus is talking about _____ abundance.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms... (Ephesians 1:18-20)

The abundant life is about _____ what God has created you to be.

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)

The abundant life is about _____ your calling.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. (John 15:16)

The abundant life is about _____ life.

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

The abundant life is a continual _____.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (Philippians 3:12)

HOW TO ACHIEVE THE ABUNDANT LIFE

_____ the _____ of others (serve).

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (John 13:14-15)

_____ others.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34-35)

_____ Jesus.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:1-3)

Continually seek to _____ in Him and bear _____.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5)

This is our calling as _____ and as a _____.

If it _____, _____, or _____, it is not from God.

Everything that I will do as your pastor, everything that I ask you to do as individuals and as a church, will be to glorify God and to help us to live out the abundant life Jesus offers us.