



THE FIRST CHURCH

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1 CONCORD STREET, NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03064
TELEPHONE (603) 882-4861 WWW.TFCUCC.ORG

Dear Friends,

By now you have heard the COVID-19 Pandemic compared to the Spanish Influenza of 1918. Epidemiologists believe that the Spanish Influenza came to the United States in the summer of 1918 when two Sailors returned to Boston on leave from their duties in WWI. Weeks later this headline appeared in the Nashua Telegraph on September 17th, 1918: "Influenza is Epidemic in Nashua."

Out of curiosity, I went to into the First Church archives and pulled down the service records for 1918. Yes, we have worship bulletins that are easily accessible dating back to 1898! Bulletins are missing for the months of September and October. Then on November 3rd, the bulletins resume when it is announced that November 10th will be named "Rally Sunday." That's odd given that most churches, ours included, are accustomed to "Rally Sunday" as a return to Fall programming.

I've yet to find an annual report that provides all the details. When I do I'm certain that Rev. Dr. Cyrus Richardson will have provided a meticulous accounting! However, I did some research and came across this headline in the October 29, 1918 addition of The Evening Star (Washington, D. C.): "The Church Ban Lifted." I think it's safe to assume that in 1918 First Church worship services were suspended for September and October; resumed when the nationwide ban was lifted on October 29th; reassembled on November 3rd and Rallied in celebration on November 10th, 1918.

I feel great comfort knowing that our spiritual ancestors faced a monumental challenge to their lives and faith and somehow managed to continue a ministry which is our heritage today. By God's grace and our courage, I trust that we will add our own stories to it and leave a legacy for those who will come after us.

I'm unsure when exactly we'll resume public worship. I do think that it will have a special magnificence....and even a cake!

With you in prayer and perseverance, Rev. Andy

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Mobile Ministry

We have members and friends who must remain isolated because of underlying vulnerabilities to COVID-19 or are in quarantine. They have a need for groceries, medications, and connection. We have formed a network of persons who are willing to shop and deliver necessary food, supplies, and medications. Rev. Ken is coordinating this ministry. If you would like to be part of that team, please inform Rev. Ken at kmcgarry@tfcucc.org. Also, if you have need, or know someone in need, then inform Rev. Ken.

Caring Connections

The Digital Devotion (Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)

Social isolation will curb the spread of COVID-19, but it can be emotionally and spiritually painful. Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:30, your ministry team will post an encouraging message and prayer on our website and Facebook.

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain remains up and running. Rev. Jami will provide updates on a regular basis so we can be holding up one another and our community before the Lord in prayer. Please direct your prayer concerns to jboyle@tfcucc.org.

Prayer in Shaw Chapel has been discontinued due to Governor Sununu's stay-at-home order.

Music Ministry and First Music Concert Series

Music Ministry members have received separate correspondence suspending all choir activity through April 12. First Music Concert Series is postponing all programs scheduled for 3/20, 3/27, and 4/5.

Study Groups online

Rev. Andy's Wednesday Morning Men's Group continues online.

Christian Education

Rev. Ken is leading confirmation classes online. He and Diane Matthes are establishing an online community for parents of youth and children to offer support, ideas, and encouragement for the challenges caused by disruptions of all our routines.

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Pastoral Care

Your ministers are available 24/7 to talk and pray with you as need arises. Our contact information is as follows:

- Rev. Andy---978-844-2617 (mobile)
- Rev. Ken---203-722-4901 (mobile)
- Rev. Jami---603-325-0772 (mobile)

Worship

Worship services will be posted on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) each Sunday up to and through May 4.

Giving

Our financial giving remains crucial to maintain our ministry, to support the spiritual health of the church family, and continue our Outreach to mission partners in and around Nashua. Please mail in your offering or consider e-giving though our website at <https://tfcucc.org/give/>.

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” --
Philippians 4:4-6*

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