# THE FIRST CHURCH

## NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Congregational – United Church of Christ**

†

**Gathered December 16, 1685**

*No matter who you are, whom you love, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

# Morning Worship

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020 8:30 & 10:00 AM

*If it is comfortable for you to do so, please stand

## APPROACH TO GOD

*Let us keep silence as we prepare for worship.*

**TOWER CHIMES** (10:00) Norma MacKinley-Smith

**MEDITATION** "We are not makers of history. We are made by history."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

**PRELUDE** Chorale Fantasie on *Lasst uns erfreuen, Op. 81 no. 2* F. Peeters
*(1903-1986)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 99)

Leader: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord our God and King! Glorious and powerful is the God of all creation! In reverent awe, we gather to worship our God.

People: The Lord our God is King and the Just Judge of all things for all eternity, all people and all places. In reverent awe, we gather to praise our God.

Leader: The Lord our God is King and the Forgiving God! 'Fairness' and 'Justice' are the names of our God. In reverent awe, we gather to worship God, within the light of God's holiness, justice, mercy and love. Amen.

***HYMN #481** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* GRAND ISLE

*__OPENING PRAYER__ (Unison)

Holy Spirit, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live Christ's teachings with love. Amen.

***PRAISE #30/1** *Ye Watchers, and Ye Holy Ones* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, princedoms, powers,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**GREETINGS**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** (10:00)

**WITNESSING STEWARD**

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS** (10:00)

We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hope and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. God grant that together we may continue to grow in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our risen Lord.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** **Exodus 33:12-23**

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have

asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

**Matthew 22:15-22**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

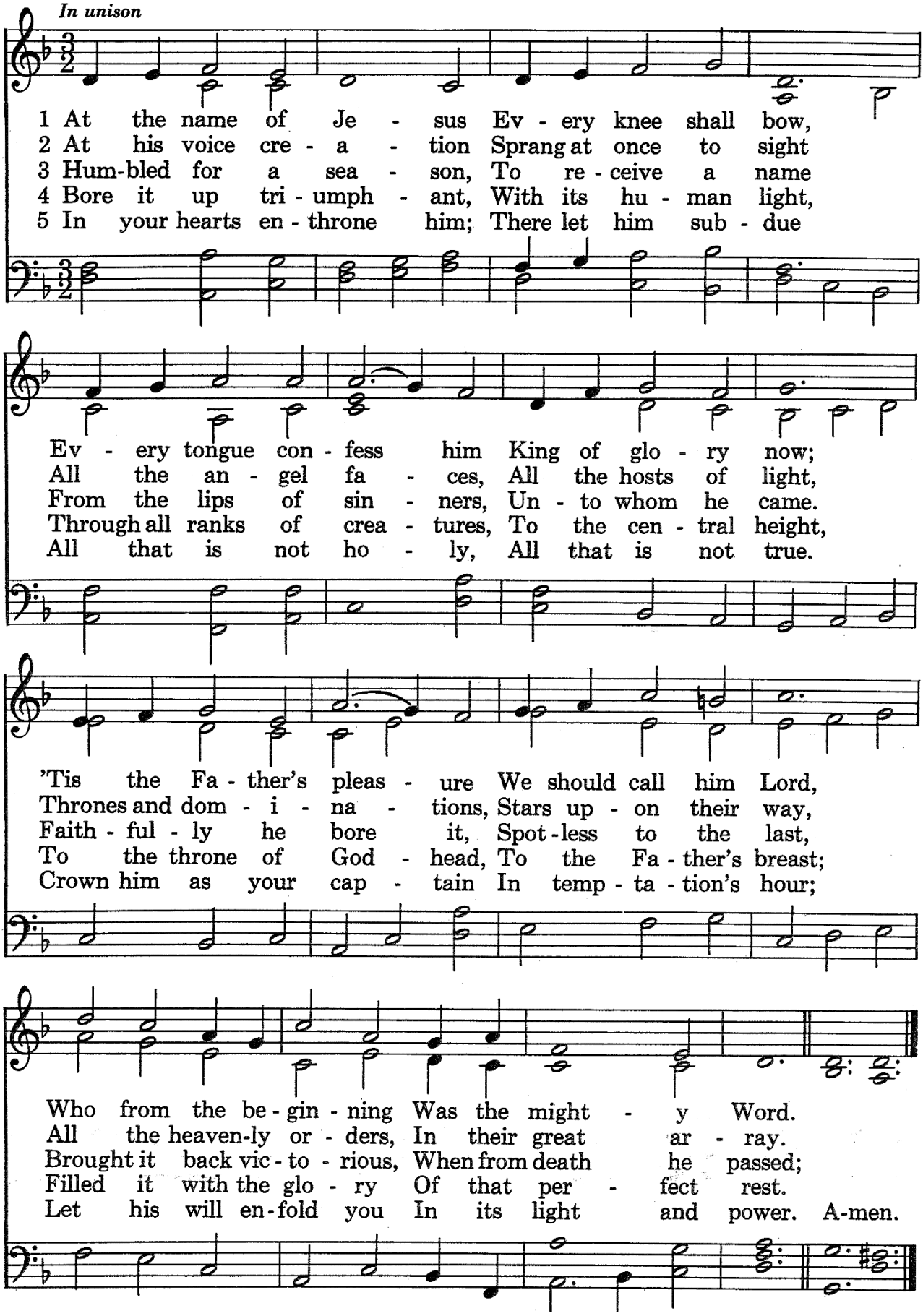
**GOSPEL RESPONSE** *Thanks Be to Thee* T. Tallis
**STAFF SINGER QUARTET** *(1505 – 1585)*

**ANTHEM** *Name of All Majesty* T. Fettke
(10:00) *(*1941)*

**SERMON** "The Big Picture" Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong

***HYMN #197** *At the Name of Jesus* KING'S WESTON

(10:00)



## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***RESPONSIVE PSALM** (based on Psalm 96: 1-13)

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song; let all the people of the earth sing a new song unto the Lord.

People: We will sing praises to the Lord and proclaim the salvation of the Lord all our days. We will proclaim the glory of the Lord to all the nations and the Lord's marvelous deeds to all peoples.

Leader: For the Lord is great and worthy of praise above all gods.

People: Our idols in this world are only that, just idols, but the Lord God created the heavens and the earth. Splendor, Majesty and Glory surround the presence of the Lord.

Leader: Let all the peoples in all the nations of the earth ascribe to the Lord the glory and honor due the name of the Lord of all creation. We will worship the Lord with praise and say to all people, "The Lord Reigns!" For the justice of the Lord will be established over all the earth.

People: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, let the sea resound and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Together: Let all creation rejoice before the Lord who comes to judge the earth and all people with righteousness and loving kindness.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER**

**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.

**PRAYER RESPONSE** *Lead Me, Lord* S. S. Wesley
(10:00) *(1810 – 1876)*

**OFFERTORY** *Name of All Majesty* T. Fettke
(8:30) *(*1941)*

(10:00) *Jubilate Deo Omnis Terra* F. Peeters
Psalm 100 *(1903 – 1986)*

| | |
|---|---|
| *Jubilate Deo omnis terra,* | Make a joyful noise unto God, all the earth |
| *servite Domino in laetitia* | Serve the Lord with gladness |
| *Introite in conspectu ejus* | Enter His presence |
| *in exsultatione* | with rejoicing |
| | |
| *Scitote quoniam Dominus* | Know that the Lord |
| *ipse est Deus,* | himself is God, |
| *ipse fecit nos,et non ipsi nos…* | He himself made us and not we ourselves |
| | |
| *Populus ejus et oves pascuae ejus* | His people and the sheep of his pasture |
| | |
| *Introite portas ejus in confessione* | Enter His gates with praise |
| *Introite atria ejus in hymnis* | Enter His courts with hymns |
| *Confitemini illi* | Be thankful unto Him |
| | |
| *Laudate nomen ejus* | Praise His name forever |
| *quoniam suavis est Dominus* | For sweet is the Lord |
| *in aeternum misericordia ejus,* | eternal His mercy |
| *et usque generationem veritas ejus* | and His truth through each generation |

***THE DOXOLOGY #515** OLD HUNDRETH

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 DEDICATION**

Holy God of hope and healing, generous in love and forever faithful, we bring an offering; our time, talent, and treasure. With the help of The Holy Spirit, may these gifts be used with wisdom and justice in the church and its mission in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

***HYMN #204** *Rejoice, the Lord is King* DARWALL'S 148th

## DISMISSAL

*Kindly be seated after the Benedictus and remain seated for the Postlude.*
*After the Postlude, ushers will dismiss the congregation row by row.*
*We ask you to exit through the rear sanctuary door closest to your pew section.*
*Those in need of handicap accessibility are welcome to use the link and elevator.*

## *BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTUS** *Go Now In Peace* D. Besig
(10:00) *(*1936)*

**POSTLUDE** *Toccata in E minor* J. Callaerts
*(1838-1901)*

## OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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**COVER ART:** Statue of Moses by Michelangelo, Author: Joaquim Alves Gasper, https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/87/Moses_Michaelangelo_September_2015-1.jpg
**DEACON OF THE DAY:** Bill McIntyre
**GUEST ORGANIST:** William Ness
**GUEST CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Eric Ruthenberg
**STAFF SINGER QUARTET:** Janet Poisson, soprano – Brianne Biastoff, alto
Timothy Ayres-Kerr, tenor – Joseph R. Olefirowicz, bass
**HYMNS:** CCLI#3034682, Source: Pilgrim Hymnal

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*The flowers in the pulpit are given in celebration of*
*Bill and Kathie McIntyre's 45th wedding anniversary on October 25th.*

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PLEASE USE THE VARIOUS CARDS IN THE PEW RACKS TO HELP KEEP THE STAFF INFORMED OF YOUR PASTORAL NEEDS.

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Have you remembered First Church in your will?

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OUR MORNING WORSHIP IS LIVE STREAMED ON SUNDAY MORNING AND IS AVAILABLE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL.
IT IS ALSO AIRED ON WSMN RADIO AM 1590 and FM 95.3

**<u>Masks must be worn at all times inside the building.</u>**
Social distancing practices are expected of the attendees for indoor worship.

- **ENTRY:** North side only, using the **Courtyard entrance** *(where elevator use is available)*
- **PLEASE SIGN IN** at the Welcome Center when you arrive.
- **EXIT:** Instructions will be given at the close of the worship service.

**Please refer to the church's website for all of our COVID-19 updates and ministries: tfcucc.org**

# Christian Formation Corner

**Rally Sunday Postponed -** Today was supposed to be Rally Day. After prayerful discernment with the CE Board and leadership team, we have determined to postpone Rally Day until the new year. In the meantime, we would really love to see families with children worship together with us in the sanctuary. Please come! An activity *for all ages* is being offered weekly by email. If you have not received an email and would like to, please write to me at lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org. We are a work in progress. Your prayers for the teachers, children and leadership are welcome.

Peace and Grace,
*LeeAnne*
*LeeAnne Steenhoek,*
Director of Christian Formation

**Nursery care** is temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.

**Family Activity -** Look for a family activity today, Sunday October 18, to accompany the message. Please check for LeeAnne's email or the link on our website.

**Confirmation -** The next class is **today, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM** in the dining room.

**New Faith Formation Ministry: Parent to Parent-Tot to Teen**
John and Amanda Steere and Chris and Holly Columbus are partnering with LeeAnne for parents and guardians to share the challenges of parenting. We are not alone. We have God and we have each other. Please join us in faith and fellowship. We will meet two Thursdays in a row in October and every other Thursday moving forward.
Here are the dates until the end of the calendar year:
October 15, October 22
November 5, November 19
December 3, and December 17
A sampling of the discussion topics:

- Coping 2020-style
- Anchors
- The Hamster and the wheel
- Inventing as we go
- We're Always a Parent to the End

Meeting time will be from 8:00-9:30 PM on GoogleMeet. You will need a personal Google email address. Contact LeeAnne for the link and if you have any questions.

## *Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current*

**The First Church Cyclists Group** invites anyone, regardless of age or ability, to join for some fun, fresh air, fellowship. **The last ride for the season is today.** Meet at 2:00 PM at the Nashua River Rail Trail, Gilson Rd. at Countryside Dr., Nashua, NH. Contact Ray Baldwin or the church office for more information.

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**2021 Adult Winter Retreat in Biddeford Pool, Maine - January 22-24, 2021**

Rev. Jami and our new Director of Christian Formation, LeeAnne Steenhoek, will lead the retreat. Our theme this year will be: *Walking Spiritually Through a World Pandemic* (what else?).

We reached our minimum of attendees and **there are a few spaces still available**. If you would like to attend, a $120 deposit is due ASAP. The total cost for the retreat is $235.00.

Please know that safe practices are set in place at the center. A maximum of 32 retreatants are allowed at the center. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Jami or LeeAnne Steenhoek.

### Holiday Fair

**The Holiday Fair Silent Auction will be an ALL-VIRTUAL event this year from November 4-11.** Anyone wishing to donate items should deliver them to the church or to Rebecca Small **by October 24th - or earlier -** so she has time to post them online before the Silent Auction is opened up to everyone. Thank you to those who have already donated. Please contact Rebecca with any questions. Her contact information is in the church directory or you may call the church office.

**The Holiday Fair committee is offering a LIMITED amount** of homemade jams, pickled beets, pickles and a variety of homemade pies. ***Ordering is from November 1-8 only. Please, no early orders!*** Jams include ginger peach, blackberry, and strawberry/rhubarb in pint jars at $5. Pies include pumpkin, apple, cherry, pecan, etc. from $10-$15 and smaller individual apple pies are available for $5-$6. **This is first ordered, first served.**

To order, call Jocelyn Henning at 880-1839 (November 1-8) and leave a message. You will receive a call back to verify your order. Pick up will be staggered on November 13 from 1-4 PM at the church in room 15 in the Walker Building.

**Wednesday Morning Men meets online 8:00-9:00 AM.** Contact the church office or Rev. Andy for the link. Reminder: One need not commit to all sessions in order to benefit, so drop by as you're able. New folks and friends are encouraged to join in.

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**Women's Wisdom and Spirituality (WWS)** will meet on Sunday, October 25 at 11:30 in the dining room.

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**Thanksgiving Baskets and White Dove/Silver Dove Programs** will be modified this year as we will not be able to do sign-ups following church services. Anyone who is interested in participating in either program (or both) should contact Carol Butler as soon as possible (phone number and email address are in the church directory or call the church office). This will give her an idea as to how many families we can take on. Carol is asking for volunteer shoppers as well. More information is available in the October *Messenger*.

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**3C: Christ Church Connection -** Belonging to a church community gives us multiple opportunities to develop trusting relationships with others and feel valued for who we are personally. 3C would like to help you connect with others in the church you haven't yet met but may very well have a lot in common with. If you would like to be a part of this social ministry program contact Al Hock, Sue Haas, or Ray Baldwin and sign-up! The Church Office has Church Directory information available.

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**Tower Chime Needs Ringers -** We need to increase our roster of weekly ringers at the Chime. The ability to read music is certainly advised, as our ringers select their music right out of our Pilgrim Hymnal.

If this sounds interesting to you, contact Joseph in the Music Office for more information.

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**Calling All First Church Vegetable Gardeners...** The Unitarian Church in collaboration with Grow Nashua has opened a farm stand to benefit the French Hill neighborhood. If you have vegetables to share, we encourage you to bring them to First Church on Sunday mornings in October and put them in the baskets provided. Requested produce: Zucchini, Summer Squash, Winter Squash, Tomatoes, Onions, Potatoes, Peppers, Eggplant, Carrots, Beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumbers and Berries.

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**Music in Worship Next Week**

*Sunday, October 25, 2020*

8:30 Decibells

10:00 Decibells & Staff Singer Quartet

**The United Way of Greater Nashua is building a "Tech Pantry"** to support the needs, of local school kids. If you have "gently used" laptops, tablets, iPads, etc., donate, contact info@unitedwaynashua.org. Monetary donations are also accepted: https://www.tinyurl.com/uwgncovid19.

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**2020 CROP Hunger Walk: "Walking Together Apart" -** This year's CROP Hunger walk will be different, just as life is different for all of us right now. We invite people to walk anytime **between October 1 and October 25** in small groups.
Sarah Creaney is First Church's liaison for the walk. She has created a team page at the below link. If you would like to sign up a walker or donate to a walker or the First Church UCC team, please go to:
www.crophungerwalk.org/nashuanh/FirstChurchUCC

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**Thank You Project's 6th Annual Water Walk** will be a virtual event. Walk **between September 27 and October 27**, on your own or with your friends and family. To make a donation, go to the Thank You Project's website page: https://thankyouproject.org/

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## Office and Building use

- The Church Office is available by appointment and by phone.
- The First Church remains closed to all outside group use through the month of December.
- In-Church small group use of the dining room and room 10 available only through the church office.

## Pastoral Care

Your ministers are available 24/7 to talk and pray with you as need arises.

- Rev. Andy: 978-844-2617 (mobile)
- Rev. Jami: 603-325-0772 (mobile)

FIRST MUSIC

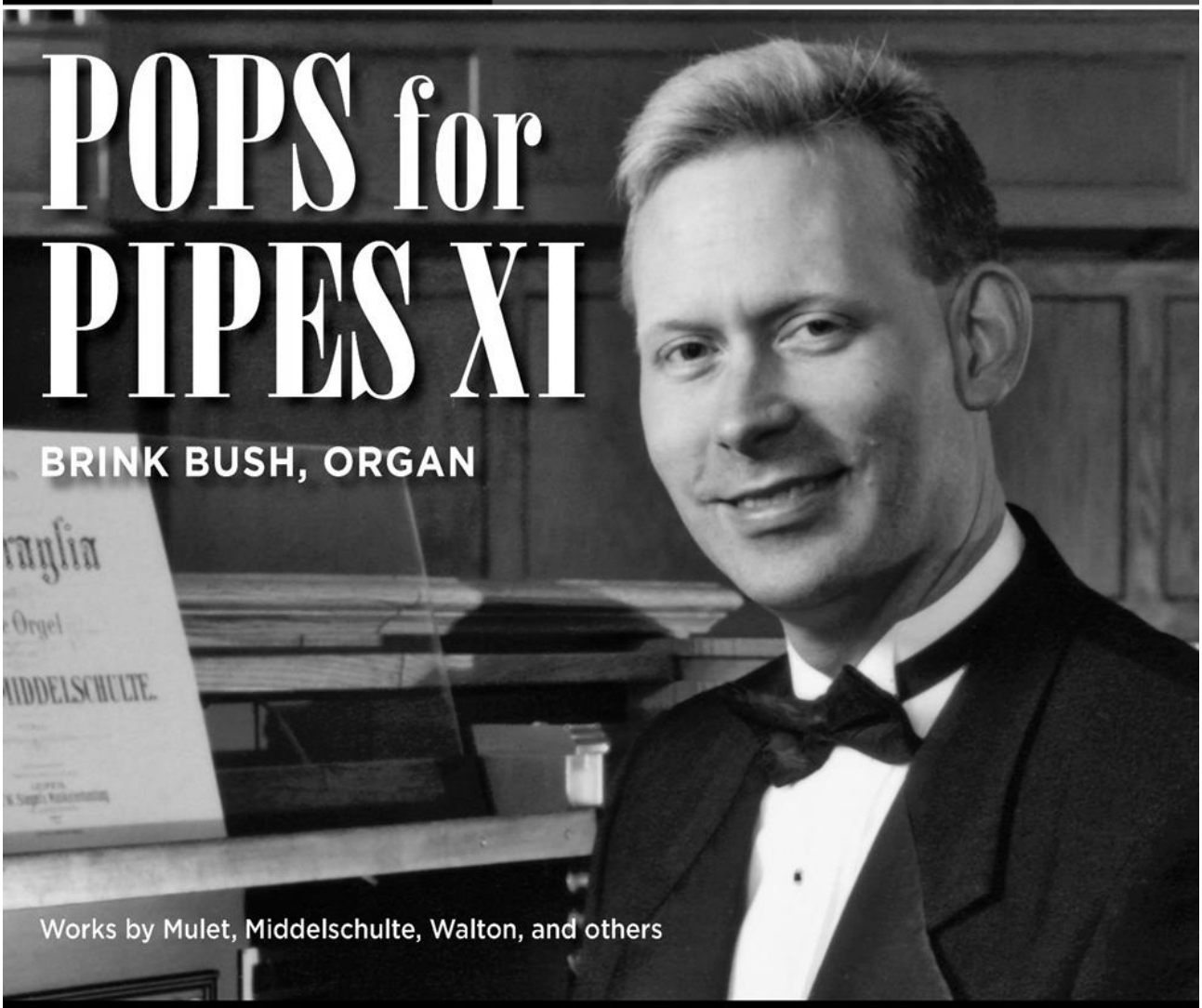
FM

CONCERT SERIES 2020–21 SEASON

# SEASON XIII
## MUSIC ALIVE!

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

# POPS for PIPES XI



**BRINK BUSH, ORGAN**

Works by Mulet, Middelschulte, Walton, and others

*Please bring your masks and enjoy the ample socially distanced seating.*

SUNDAY

# NOV 08

**FREE ADMISSION**

ALL ARE WELCOME

# 3:00 PM

THE FIRST CHURCH

1 Concord Street
Nashua, NH

FIRST-MUSIC.ORG
603.882.4861

# *THE FIRST CHURCH*

## *STAFF*

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@tfcucc.org
Associate Minister for Congregational Care, *Rev. Jami D. Boyle*, jboyle@tfcucc.org
Minister of Music, *Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO*, jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org
Director of Christian Formation, *LeeAnne Steenhoek*, lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org
Church Business and Marketing Manager, *Dianne Smigliani*, dsmigliani@tfcucc.org
Secretary/Receptionist, *Susan T. Englander*, senglander@tfcucc.org
Sexton, *Bruce Lund*

Pastors Emeriti, *Rev. James S. Chaloner and Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C. Evans*

## *WELCOME*

A warm welcome is extended to all who are attending this worship service. A special greeting to those who are visiting or worshiping for the first time. Please sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or fill out the **visitor card** found in the pew racks. Fill out the back of the card, and put it in the offering plate or hand it to a minister, Usher or Deacon so we may acknowledge your visit. Join in the time of fellowship, in Fellowship Hall, following worship. If you have any questions about the life and ministry of First Church please seek out the individuals wearing colored name tags; they are members of the various boards and committees.

## *INFORMATION*

First Church was gathered on December 16, 1685 as The Church of Christ in Dunstable. On the same day Thomas Weld was ordained and settled as minister of the church. The current building, built in 1894, is the tenth building to house the First Church community. In 1961, the church entered fellowship with the United Church of Christ. We welcome into our membership any who will own the covenant of First Church and seek to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in the community and world. Those interested in joining the church should contact the church office for information. The Sacrament of Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month and the Sacrament of Baptism on the last. First Church is supported almost entirely by pledges. Every member is expected to make a financial pledge according to their ability.

## *PASTORAL CARE*

Pastoral Care is available to all in need. Please keep the ministers informed of occasions of sickness, sorrow, and joy. Let the church office know if you or family member or friend is hospitalized.

## *COMMUNICATIONS*

If you have a change of address, phone number, or email address, please let the church office know so that we may keep our records current.

All information for the weekly bulletin must be in the office by noon on Wednesday. All information for the monthly newsletter must be in the office by 4:30 PM on the second Monday of the month.

**<u>All use of the building must be scheduled by the Secretary.</u>**

***The First Church * One Concord Street * Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 * 882-4861***

**Office Hours: Open by appointment and by phone.**

Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org
Find us on Facebook