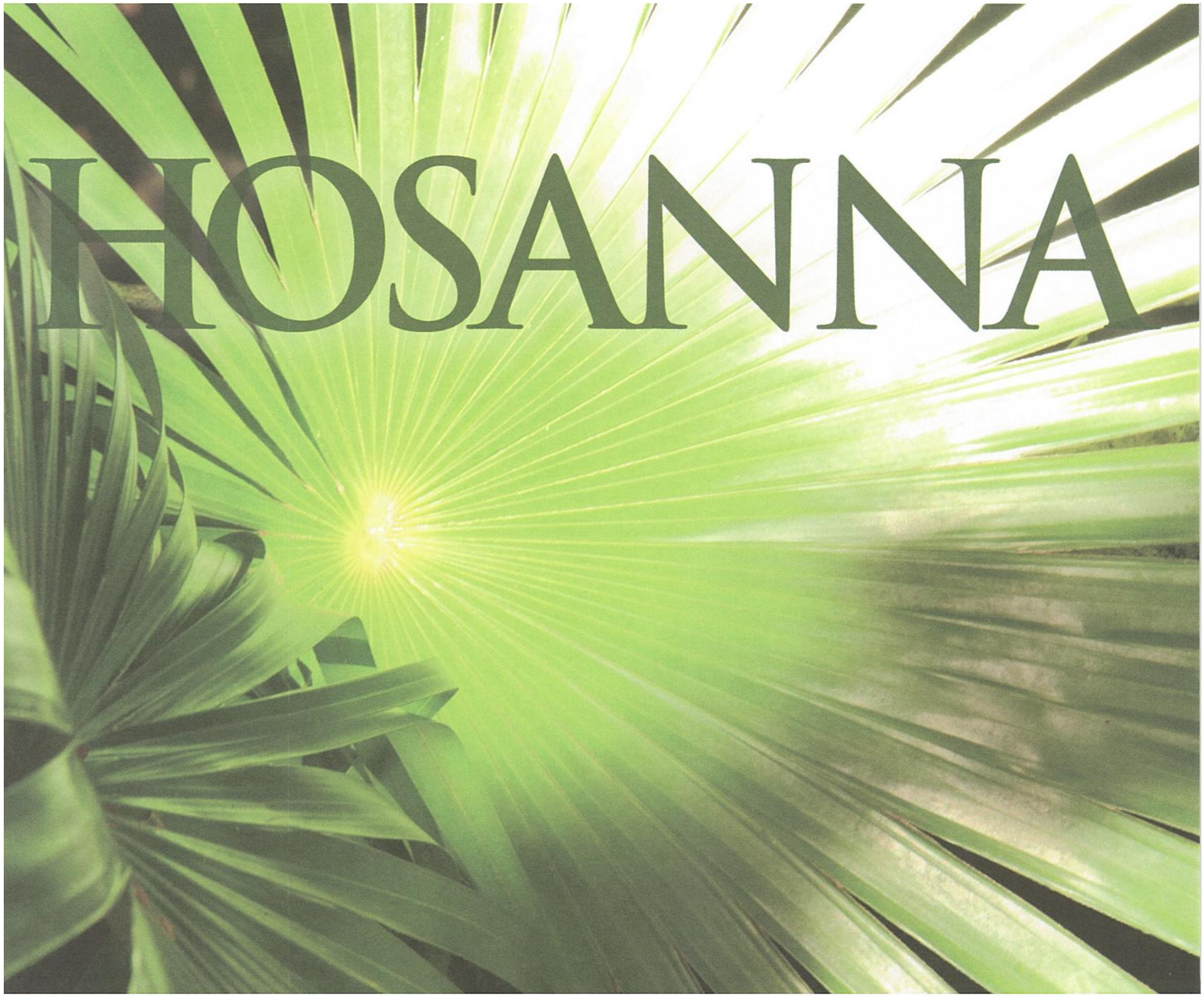
HOSANNA

Morning Worship

Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021 10:00 AM

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

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

APPROACH TO GOD

Let us keep silence as we prepare for worship.

TOWER CHIME Norma Macklinley-Smith

MEDITATION "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Leo Buscaglia

PRELUDE *Les Rameaux* (*Palm Branches)* J.-B. Fauré
(1830 – 1914)
arr. Sudds

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Raise our voices and wave the palms because salvation is here.
People: Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!
Leader: Our hearts fill with joy as we welcome the coming King.
People: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Leader: Welcome the Savior of the world into our lives.
Together: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. Glory to God! Hosanna!

If comfortable to do so, please join in singing our hymns and sung responses during worship, while wearing your mask.

***HYMN #155** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* ST. THEODULPH

*__PRAYER OF CONFESSION__ (Unison)

Gracious and Holy God, with eager hearts and open hands, we welcome Jesus, until he refuses the power and position we offer him. In choosing to become our humble conqueror who calls us to serve, He chose the least travelled path that wounds our pride. Hosanna, Steadfast God, save us! Help us to throw our fears, our doubts, our faithlessness at your feet, so we may take up our own cross and follow you. Grant us the grace to stand with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who comes in your name, in your glory, in your grace to save us all. Amen.

A time of silence for personal confession

*__WORDS OF ASSURANCE__ (Inspired by Psalm 31: 14-15)

Leader: The Psalmist says: But I trust in you, O Lord, I say 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. In Christ, God hears; God answers; God sets us free.

People: In Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*__PRAISE__ *Refrain from "The Palms"*

Join all and sing; His name declare
Let ev'ry voice resound -- with acc--lamation,
Hosanna! Praise to the Lord,
Bless Him who cometh to bring us salva--tion.

GREETINGS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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)*

VOLUNTARY *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* HAMBURG
DALE NETH, handbells *arr. Sue*
RHONDA O'KEEFE, handbells
PAM STURDEVANT, handbells

SERMON "Skin in the Game" Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK (Unison)

Almighty and Everlasting God, Praise and honor to the one who raised Lazarus from the dead, as a foreshadow of the coming days. Blessings and honor to the one who marched triumphantly into Jerusalem, who turned over the tables in the temple, who taught his disciples to be the least of these. Glory and power to the one who submitted to the will of the Father, who broke bread with the one who would betray, who washed the feet of the one who would deny, who healed the ear of the one who would arrest, and in his faithfulness will win victory over sin and death. Amen.

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 *For Me, Kind Jesus* HERZLIEBSTER JESU

OFFERTORY *Hosanna to the Son of David* H. Willan
(1880 – 1968)

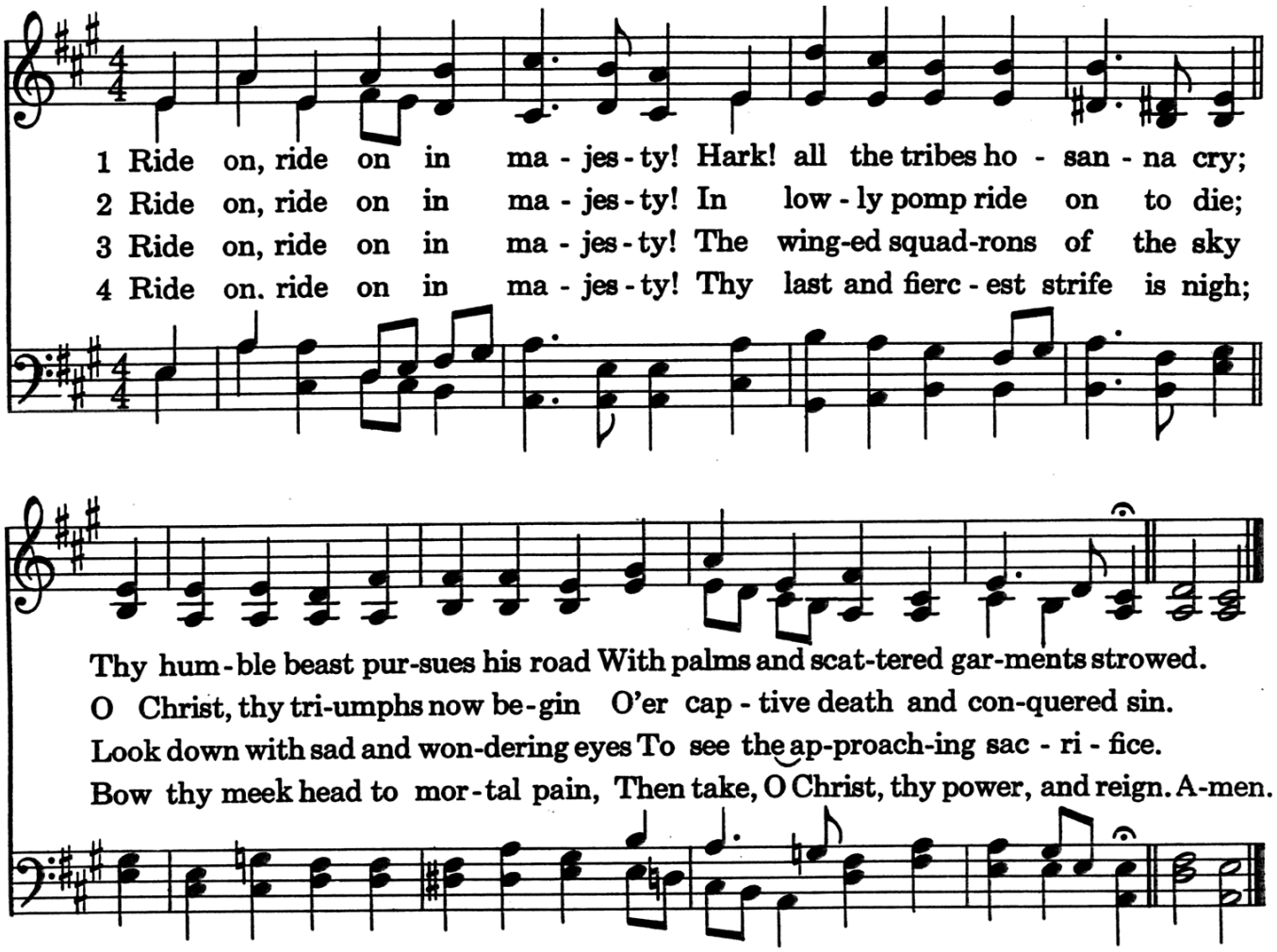
***LENTEN DOXOLOGY #515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

Lord Christ, throughout these Forty Days
Thy sacrifice our voices praise
Through thy temptation victory won:
Eternal life, Eternal Son.
Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

We have the means to give, we have the reason to give, and there are many waiting for us to give. Yet often, our hands hold back. God of grace, help us live and give in your kingdom of love, where there are no enemies, only brothers and sisters, and kindness is the air we breathe. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #175** *Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!* ST. DROSTANE



DISMISSAL *We kindly remind the congregation to be seated after the Benediction, and to wait for dismissal as the ushers come to your aisle. You will be guided to a door nearest to your seating section.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTUS** *Jerusalem, Jerusalem!* S. Adams
(1841 – 1913)

POSTLUDE *In reverence to the solemn season, remembering Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, a postlude will not be played during Lent.*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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DEACON OF THE DAY: Erin Shannon
HYMNS: Pilgrim Hymnal, CCLI#3034682
STAFF SINGER QUARTET: Janet Poisson, soprano; Brianne Biastoff, alto
Timothy Ayres-Kerr, tenor; Scott Taylor, bass

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The flowers in the pulpit are given in memory of Greg Staradub, by all of his family.

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HEARING AIDS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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PLEASE USE THE 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?

Masks are required at all times inside the building.

The church office is closed to visitors at this time. The staff is available to take your phone calls between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday
April 1: 7:30 PM
(Prelude: 7:20)
Service of Word, Sacrament & Tenebrae
In person and livestream
Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong
Rev. Jami Boyle
Music:
Janet Poisson, soprano
Julianne Gearhart, soprano
String Quartet

Easter Sunday
April 4: 9:00 and 11:00 AM
Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong
Music:
Staff Singer Quartet
First Brass

In person and livestream (11:00 AM)
The 11:00 service will also air
on WSMN Radio AM 1590 and FM 95.3.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Easter Flowers – Last Call! If you would like to purchase a lily or chrysanthemum for Easter Sunday, please complete the form in today's bulletin and return it to the church office, with your payment, **TODAY**. You may leave the form in the collection plate or mail it. Forms are also available in the March newsletter and at: https://tfcucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/EASTER-FLOWERS-2021-2.pdf. Contact Sue in the office with any questions.

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Wednesday Morning Men's Group: Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes resumes on March 31. Join Rev. Andy for a weekly devotion and discussion rooted in the Wisdom Literature of the Bible. One need not have knowledge of the Bible to join in. The fellowship we have is as important as what we learn. Each study stands on its own; join as you are able. The group meets from 8:00-9:00 AM on Zoom. Contact Sue (senglander@tfcucc.org) for the link.

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What's Up With Our Tower? Our 118-foot tower is part of the original structure that was completed in 1893. Many don't realize that there is a "tower inside the tower". This means that there is a brick liner inside that is the main structure to which all those granite blocks are attached. That brick lining is our current worry. Over the past 128 years, there have been some repairs to the actual brick but now the inside is really starting to show its age.

Also in the tower are a total of 23 stained glass windows that have never been refurbished or restored. That includes the wooden frames that are all original. Have you noticed the plywood over the windows in the tower? That is because they have been removed and sent to Serpentino Glass in Newton, MA, for restoration. They are due to be reinstalled with all new frames in early summer. We will keep you posted on the ongoing work. We have a 3-year plan for the tower restoration. A brochure containing more information is available at the welcome center and online or you may contact the Property Management Committee with any questions.

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New Member Orientation – There will be an orientation for those wishing to learn more about the church and becoming members **on Sunday, April 11 at 11:30 AM**. The joining date will be on Sunday, April 18 during the 10:00 AM service. Please contact Sue in the church office, for more information, and to register.

First Church Scholarships are awarded each year to deserving students who intend to further their education beyond high school. Criteria for the scholarships include:

- Active Membership at First Church
- Service to and participation in the church
- Financial need
- Community service and extracurricular activities

Scholarship applications are emailed directly to senior students and their parents and are also available on the church's website: www.tfcucc.org. Completed applications must be returned electronically **no later than noon April 15, 2021**. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Educational grants are available for adult members of the church pursuing any type of vocational or academic program and for students who are already in college and who have not received a First Church scholarship in the past. Grant applications can be emailed to applicants directly and are available on the church website, and are due **by noon on April 15, 2021**.

Email questions about the scholarship and grant program to: scholarships@tfcucc.org.

Donations to the Scholarship Fund are always welcome. Checks should be payable to First Church with "Scholarship Fund" in the memo, and may be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

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COVID Vaccine Registrations- We have a volunteer who is eager to help people from the church register for a vaccine. If you need help registering for your COVID vaccine online, contact the church office and we'll get you connected.

If others would like to be added to the list of volunteers, please contact the church office.

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Sign up to receive First Church e-News to stay in touch with what's happening at First Church. Contact Dianne at dsmigliani@tfcucc.org, and she will add you to the list.

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Submit Prayer Concerns Online - Find the 'prayer request' button on the worship page for any prayer concerns you would like to share with Rev. Jami. You may also submit a confidential prayer by calling the church office.

United Way of Greater Nashua's "Learn United" tutoring program is matching volunteer tutors with students in grades 1 - 11 who need help in Math, Science, Literacy and other subjects. Register to help here: http://www.volunteergreaternashua.org/need/detail/?need_id=540849

If you know of any families in need of tutoring for their Nashua area student, please direct them to this page: https://files.constantcontact.com/68400ac7001/df367891-a9cb-4a8d-8e9d-7ac1401759e8.pdf

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Mobile Ministry - Please contact Rev. Jami if you or a loved one have a need for someone to pick up your medications, grocery shop for food, or other items or if you would like to volunteer on this team.

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Online Giving - Did you know that The First Church offers convenient e-giving options for pledges and other giving? Contact Dianne Smigliani in the church office to learn more. Scan the QR code below to view one of the giving options available.

Foundations of Christian Formation

Lenten Boxes, *crafted with love by your Christian Formation Ministry team,* are available at the welcome center and in the church office. They contain "Holy Week in a Box" to tell The Story, an Easter Lily craft bouquet, a love rock, a picture of First Church and some coloring pages designed for you by Holly Columbus.

Confirmation – The next class is on April 11.
Confirmands are invited to come to worship on Sundays if you are able to attend. Remember to livestream when you are at home!

Thank you Confirmands! The Resurrection Gardens are much appreciated by our church families. Know that your dedication of time and service have brought joy to many happy recipients. Way to serve!

Reflections on the Heart, an illustrated LENT for Families by Illustrated Ministry - This is Christian Formation's devotions for families this Lenten season but ***all ages are encouraged to partake***. It includes devotions written for all ages with appropriate questions and topics for your children no matter what the age. You do not need to do all the activities to have a meaningful experience. Each devotion consists of the following elements: Scripture, Reflection, Discussion and a coloring page.

Prayers for Marking a Year of COVID-19 by Illustrated Ministry - Please enjoy these touching prayers and coloring pages for yourself, or to create a gift for someone in need of cheer.

Printed copies of both of these publications are available at the welcome center or by contacting Sue at senglander@tfcucc.org or LeeAnne at lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org during office hours. They can also provide the links for downloading copies.

Teachers and Families - Be on the lookout for Holly Columbus' Noah's Ark Lesson and "Where in the church is Ms. Holly?" video later this week on the church website. We filmed a special lesson and activity.
Kids: *write to Ms. Holly here at the church with Attention to: Christian Formation Ministry.* Teachers: if you're inspired and willing to film your own lesson here at church, please be in touch with LeeAnne by phone or email lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

Psalm 118:26, ESV

FIRST MUSIC
FM
CONCERT SERIES 2020–21 SEASON

SEASON XIII
MUSIC ALIVE!
BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

CHAMBER MASTERS V

NEAVE TRIO

SUNDAY
APR
18
3 PM

FREE ADMISSION
ALL ARE WELCOME

Photo by Mark Roemisch

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

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
Interim Associate Pastor, *Rev. Dr. Andrew Gilman*, agilman@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, *Steve Buck*

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: The office is currently closed to visitors.
The staff is available for phone calls, Monday- Friday, 9:00am-noon & 1:00-4:00pm

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