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

Communion Sunday
Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 6, 2021 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

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

APPROACH TO GOD

Let us keep silence as we prepare for worship.

TOWER CHIME (10:00) Jim Stone

MEDITATION May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

PRELUDE *Three Liturgical Improvisations* G. Oldroyd
iii. Verbum Supernum Prodiens *(1886 – 1951)*

Pour light upon us from above
And fire our hearts with Thy strong love

Praise to the Father, and the Son
Through All the Ages as they run;
And to the Holy Paraclete
Be praise with them and worship meet

INTROIT *The Lord Is In His Holy Temple* F. R. Lund
CHANCEL CHOIR *(*1938)*
Composer-In-Residence

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Wait for the Lord, like those who hope in God's mercy.
People: God's steadfast love endures forever.
Leader: Watch for God, like those who eagerly await the morning.
People: We watch for God, whose power redeems us.
Leader: Hear God's hopeful word, like those who long for pardon.
People: Sing praise to God and rejoice in God's love.

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

***HYMN #7** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Loving God, we are yours. We come as we are with our cares and concerns. We long to touch you and find healing in your embrace. Strengthen our faith and heal our brokenness, that we may worship you with joy. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI #513**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, A-men, A-men.

GREETINGS

RECOGNITION OF STAFF SINGERS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **2 Corinthians 4:5-15**

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke" —we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Mark 3:20-35

…and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers

and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

GRATIA TIBI *Thanks Be to Thee* T. Tallis
(1505 – 1585)

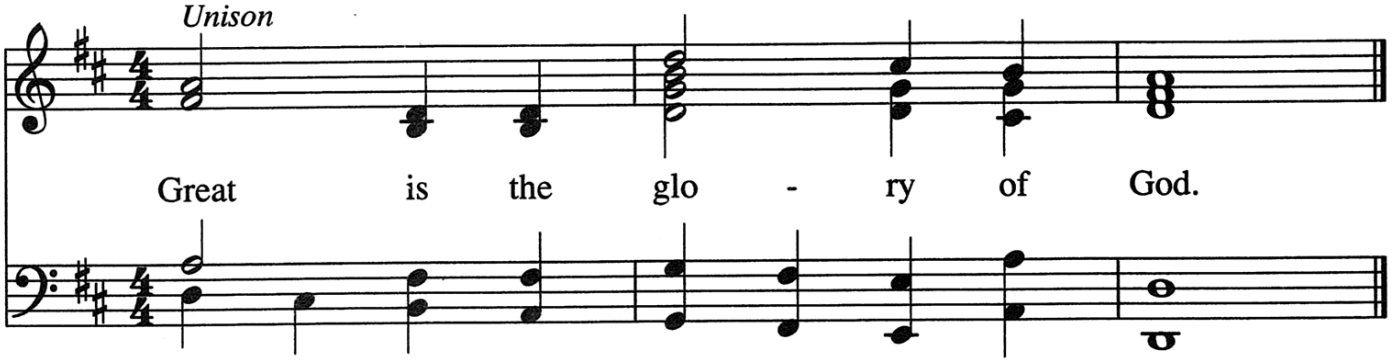
SERMON "Don't Mess with the Holy Spirit" Gary Lambert

RESPONSIVE PSALM 138

(10:00) **JANET POISSON, psalmist**

The Psalm will be intoned once: The Congregation sings the same Response, and then again at the "℟" indication below.

Response



℟

[1]I give you thanks, O God, with mý whole heart;
before the gods I śing your praise;

[2]I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks ťo your name
for your steadfast love ánd your faithfulness;

for you have exalťed your name
and your word ábove everything. ℟

[3]On the day I called, you ánswered me,
you increased my śtrength of soul.

[4]All the rulers of the earth shall praise ýou, O God,
for they have heard the words óf your mouth.

[5]They shall sing of the ẃays of God,
for great is the gloŕy of God.

[6]For though God is high, God reǵards the lowly;
but the haughty, God perceives from fár away. ℟

[7]Though I walk in the mídst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath óf my enemies;

you stretch óut your hand,
and your right hánd delivers me.

[8]God will fulfill God's purṕose for me;
your steadfast love, O God, endures forever. Do not forsake the work óf your hands. ℟

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (First Church Covenant)

Relying upon divine help we promise to cooperate as members of this Church in the study and practice of the law which Christ taught as supreme, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself”, to attend its services; to contribute to its support according to our ability; to aid in the extension of the Kingdom of God; and to promote efficiency, purity, and peace in this household of faith.

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you call us into community, teach us your ways, and bless us with abundant life. Yet we turn aside to follow other paths: we take the easy way out, we listen to the world’s call, we quarrel with one another, letting differences divide us; we cherish our resentments, shutting off our hearts from forgiveness and reconciliation; we cling to petty jealousies, feeling we deserve more than we have. Forgive us when we wander from your love. Draw us into community with each other, and feed us with your Word, that we may grow in faithfulness and work together in peace. Amen.

A time of silence for personal confession

KYRIE #545 *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us* J. Merbecke

CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING *(1510 – 1585)*

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Based on Deuteronomy 30:15-20, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9)

Leader: God is at work, encouraging our growth and showing us the ways that lead to life. God is at work, reconciling us to one another and teaching us the paths of love. God is at work, hearing our confessions, forgiving our disobedience, and blessing us in love.

People: Thanks be to God!

OFFERTORY *Psalm 130* T. J. Flanagan
(1930 – 2001)

Out of the depths, have I cried unto Thee o Lord.
Lord, hear my voice, Lord hear my voice. (2x)

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice
of my supplications, O Lord.

If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord,
Who shall stand? (5x)

But there is forgiveness with Thee
that Thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait
and in His word do I hope.

My soul waiteth for the Lord
more than they that watch for the morning:
I say more than they that watch for the morning.
Let Israel hope in the Lord.

For with the Lord, with the Lord there is mercy,
and with Him is plenteous redemption.
For with the Lord, with the Lord there is mercy,
and He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
Amen (7x)

***DOXOLOGY #515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

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** (Unison)

God of grace, financially, we are sometimes in the dark. We don't always know how much money we have, or how secure our resources really are, or even what expenses we will have in the future. We choose to give our money to you with light hearts, gifting boldly and cheerfully, knowing that our security lies in your grace, and not in our bank accounts. Accept these gifts from our hands, for the work of your church. Amen.

The Communion

It is a tradition at First Church that we eat the bread and drink the cup together as the people of God renewing our covenant. We serve grape juice and gluten free bread.

Invitation, Sursum Corda and Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
Leader: Holy God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You raised Him from the dead. He is the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep. In Him we are given life. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection, You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. With the faithful in every time and place, we joyfully praise Your name:

Sanctus #550 S. Wesley
(1766 – 1837)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. A-men.

Leader: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread and having blessed it, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, “This is My body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is of the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” By eating of this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death, celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.
People: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!
Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this meal that we may taste how good You are. Open our eyes so that we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread

Kyrie Eleison — G. Fauré

from *Messe Basse* — *(1845 – 1924)*

Kyrie eleison	Lord, have mercy
Christe eleison	Christ, have mercy

Sharing of the Cup

Agnus Dei — G. Fauré

from *Messe Basse*

Agnus Dei	Lamb of God
Qui tollis peccata mundi	Which takes away the sins of the world
Miserere nobis	have mercy on us
Dona nobis pacem	Grant us peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

***HYMN #218** *O Jesus, I Have Promised* ANGEL'S STORY

DISMISSAL *We kindly remind the congregation to be seated after the Benedictus, 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 *On Us Bestow Thy Blessing* F. R. Lund

POSTLUDE *Paean* P. Moore
*(*1943)*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Doug Brenner, Joe Glajch, Chris Guild, Lee Hauenstein, Craig Neth, Roy Rumbaugh, Caryl Sullivan, Dennis Webster
COVER ART: ChurchArt Online
DEACON OF THE DAY: Jeanne Chaloner
HYMNS & PSALM: Pilgrim Hymnal, New Century Hymnal, CCLI#3034682
STAFF SINGERS: 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 honor of the Staff Singers from a grateful congregation.

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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 you will?

The church office is available by appointment between
9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday.
The First Church remains closed to all outside group use.

Masks must be worn at all times inside the building.

Summer Worship Schedule begins on June 20.
One service at 9:00am through September 5.
In-Person and Livestreamed

Foundations of Christian Formation

New Confirmation Class of 2022 - All current 8th graders and their parents are invited to join us **today, June 6 at 11:30 AM**, in the dining room, to learn about the confirmation program that will begin this coming fall for high school freshmen. Contact LeeAnne Steenhoek for more information.

River Walk with God continues on Thursdays June 10, 17, 24: 6:00-7:30 PM in the dining room - Spiritual practices grow us in our spiritual journey in this 6-session series for mature 12's-adult. We will learn to think about how God works in our lives and do spiritual practices such as labyrinths, letters to and from God, responding to God's word through art and percussion. Each session stands on its own but attending more than one session or the entire series is best. For more information, contact LeeAnne Steenhoek, lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org.

Scholarships to be Awarded on June 13 - The First Church service scholarships and continuing education grants will be awarded during the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, June 13. Join us as we congratulate the recipients.

Lamb of God Story Time on June 13 - Join us for Lamb of God Story Time and Activity at 11:30 AM for families with young children in our courtyard.
Come hear a story read by LeeAnne Steenhoek and visit with baby goats!
There is no expectation that you go to worship before our family time. There are spots for 6 families in our courtyard. Sign up online today!

Horton Center is registering campers for summer programs. Register today at: HortonCenter.org to see what is right for you! There are camps for all kinds of interests and age levels from our environment in Climate Buddies to Archery and Art. Contact LeeAnne with any questions.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

The Bible, Friends, and Coffee Bible Study returns on Monday, June 7 for 3 weeks on **June 7, 14 and 21, from 9:30-11:00 AM**. We will meet outside in the courtyard (weather permitting) or in the Ladies' Parlor, just off of Fellowship Hall. Rev. Andy Armstrong and LeeAnne Steenhoek will facilitate the discussion group. No sign-up is required. If you have a Bible, bring it; if not, one will be supplied for you.

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Women's Wisdom and Spirituality will gather at Greeley Park on **Sunday, June 13 at noon** for their final gathering of the church year! All women are welcomed. Please bring your own lunch, a comfy chair or blanket, and a mask. Rain date is Sunday June 20. Contact Rev. Jami with any questions. More information is available in the June newsletter.

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The First Church Cyclists' next ride is on **Sunday, June 13 at 2:00 PM** on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Crosspoint in Chelmsford, MA. The group invites anyone, regardless of age or ability to join them for fun, fresh air, and fellowship. Contact Ray Baldwin (contact the church office or see the church directory for his number) with any questions.

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Men's Choir to Sing on Father's Day, June 20 - We rehearse on a Tuesday and Thursday sequence on **June 8, 10, 15 and 17 at 7:00 PM**. Bring your mask and your (*rusty*) voices and we will find a way to praise God together in song! Contact Joseph with any questions.

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Al Fresco Office Hours with Andy Gilman are held at the Riverwalk Café, from 10:00 until noon every Wednesday. This is an opportunity for you to drop by, have a cup of coffee or tea, and chat. This is a non-scheduled time, so the conversation will include whoever shows up. If it is rainy or uncomfortably cold, we will not meet. Andy G. is also available for scheduled office hours, inside or out, on Wednesdays.

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2021 Holiday Fair: November 12 and 13 – To prepare for the fair, crafters will meet at 4:00 PM in the dining room on Wednesdays, June 16, July 14, August 18, and September 15. October dates are tbd. Contact Jocelyn Henning for more information or to share ideas. Her contact information is listed in the church directory or you may call the church office.

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Church Directory - Do we have a picture of you and your family in the directory? Is your contact information current? Do you know how to access the directory on your phone or computer? Would you like a hard copy of the directory? Please call or email Sue in the church office so we can update the directory and our files and assist you with access to the directory. Thank you.

Help keep your giving current - 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, set up automatic deposits through the First Church, set up automatic payment with your bank, or consider e-giving though our website at https://tfcucc.org/give/.

The First Church offers convenient e-giving options for pledges and other giving. Scan the QR code on the back cover of this bulletin to view one of the giving options available.

If you would like more information or have questions about any of the giving options listed above, please contact Dianne Smigliani in the church office.

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NSKS Backpack Program 2021 - The Outreach Committee invites you to help fill 70 backpacks for the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter's "Backpacks for Back to School" program. We are asking for monetary donations again this year (due to the variability of the virus) and also, bulk buying enables us to fill more backpacks. We hope to match the $2400 raised last year. A subcommittee from Outreach will purchase the supplies.

Please send in a check for whatever amount you wish to the church by July 25. Be sure to write "NSKS Backpack Program" in the memo line please. Many thanks to MaryBeth and Joe Glajch who have donated the backpacks again this year.

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Horton Center All-Church Retreat: Friday-Sunday, August 27-29, 2021

The retreat is back for 2021! Held at the camp and retreat center, owned and operated by the New Hampshire Conference of the UCC on Pine Mt. in Gorham, NH, this weekend is open to everyone - adults, children, singles, couples, families. It is all about fun - hiking, swimming, visiting, reading, relaxing and enjoying the peace and beauty of northern New Hampshire in the late summer. This is a great way to spend time with and get to know other First Church members, especially if you are new to the community. Join the others who find this a wonderful way to end the summer.

For more information, and to sign up, call the church office, 882-4861 or Joe Glajch.

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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.

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Music in Worship Next Week

Sunday, June 13

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 & 10:00 AM Joseph R. Olefirowicz, baritone

Attention gardeners! Grow Nashua, a community partner of the United Way offers a way to serve our local community by donating your extra homegrown vegetables to the Lil' Free Farmstand located at the UU Church of Nashua during the summer months. Non-gardeners may serve, too, by purchasing farm stand vegetables for donation! Visit https://www.grownashua.org/share or see the article in the June Messenger.

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Pulpit Flowers – If you would like to provide fresh flowers for the pulpit, contact Sue in the church office to see what dates are available.

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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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New email addresses - Church treasurer, Joe Glajch and property management committee chair, Doug Brenner, can now be reached via email with any questions or concerns you may have for them at: Treasurer@tfcucc.org ; PM@tfcucc.org

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This Week at First Church

SUN JUN 06	8:30am	Worship
	10:00am	Worship
	11:30am	2022 Confirmation Orientation, dining room
MON JUN 07	9:30am	Bible, Friends & Coffee
	6:00pm	Safe Church
	7:00pm	All Boards, Zoom
TUES JUN 08	1:30pm	Visitation Ministry
	4:00pm	First Church at NSKS
	5:00pm	Joyful Noise, sanctuary
	7:00pm	Men's Choir
WED JUN 09	10:00am	Al Fresco Hours with Andy G., Riverwalk
THUR JUN 10	3:00pm	Caregivers, Zoom
	6:00pm	River Walk with God, Fireside Room
	7:00pm	Men's Choir
SAT JUN 12	9:00am	Music Committee Retreat, dining room

Looking Ahead…

SUN JUN 13	10:00am	Scholarships awarded
SUN JUN 20	9:00am	Summer Worship Schedule begins In Person and Livestreamed

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 Minister, *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*, sbuck@tfcucc.org

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 Chapel 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. New members are received during worship in November, February and May. 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.

Submit information for the weekly bulletin to the office by noon on Wednesday. Submit information for the monthly newsletter to 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>

<u>THE FIRST CHURCH</u>
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

Office Hours: The office is open by appointment, only. The staff is available for phone calls, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-noon & 1:00-4:00pm. Visit our web site at tfcucc.org - Find us on Facebook

Give online. Scan the QR code to view one of the giving options available.