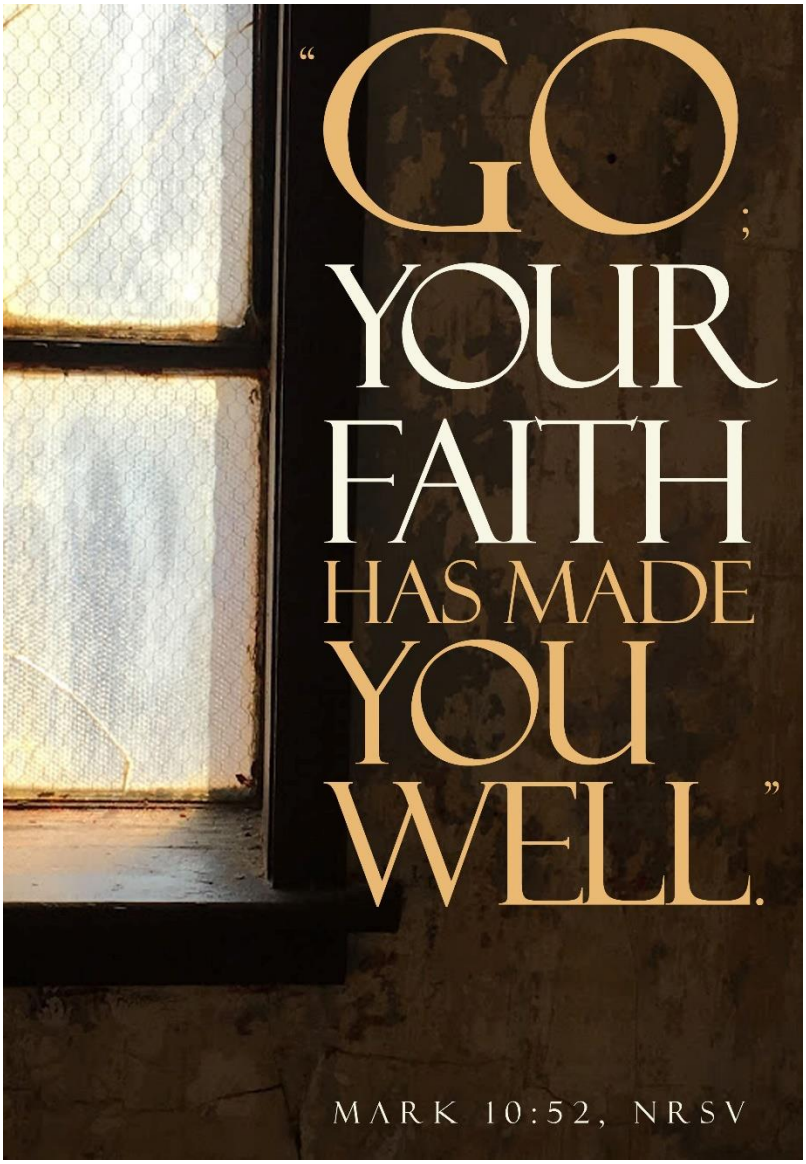


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 27, 2021 9:00 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 CHIME Jessica Price

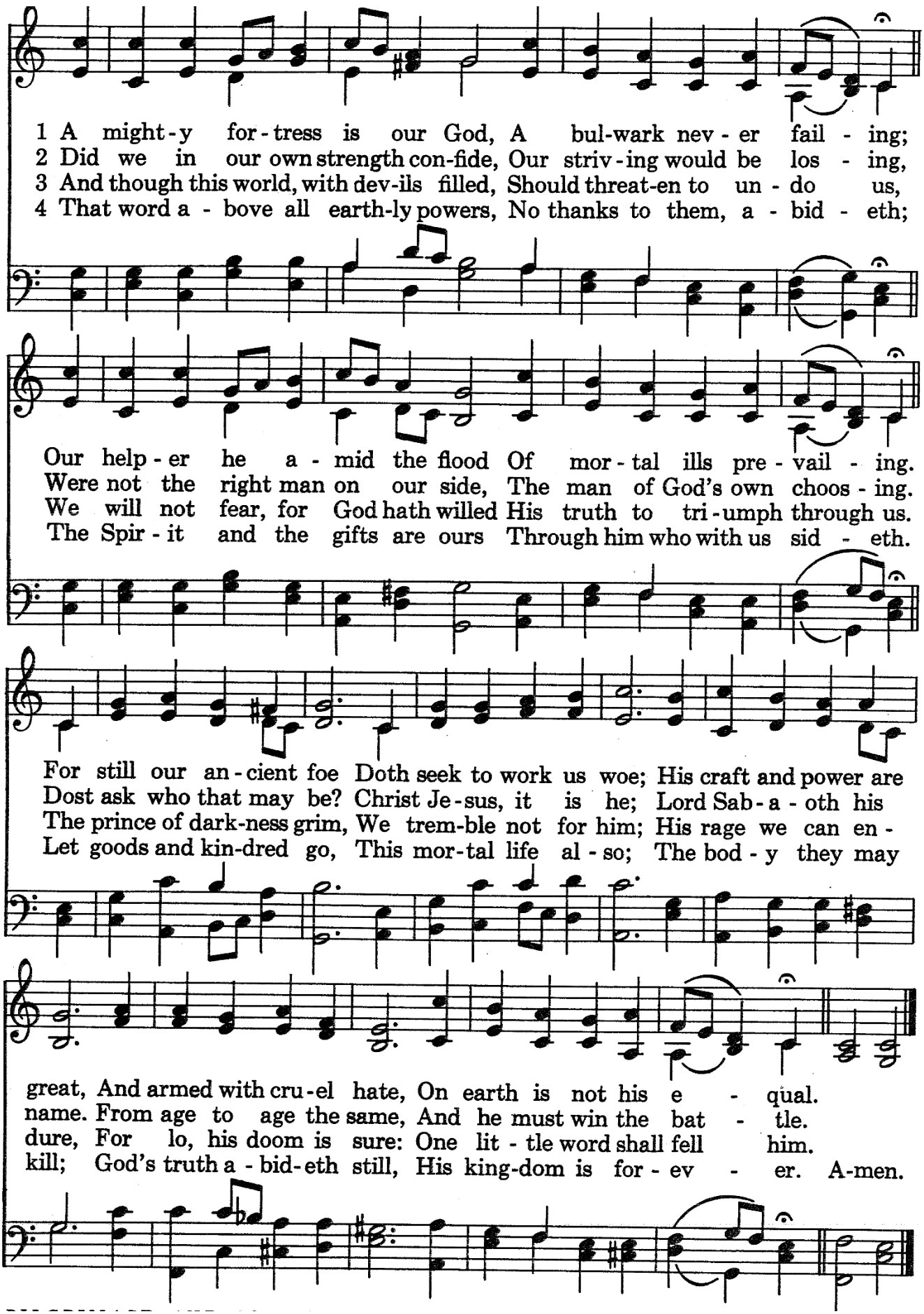
MEDITATION The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of those depths. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

PRELUDE *Prière (Prayer)* R. Vierne *(1878 – 1918)*

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Mark 5:21-43)

Leader: With friends and strangers, with family and neighbors, we gather:
People: Come among us, Healing God, with that love which never ends.
Leader: With faith reaching out to touch, with hearts straining to trust, we hope:
People: Come among us, Friend of the broken, with your compassion, which makes us whole.
Leader: With word and wonder, with silence and song, we wait:
People: Come among us, Lord of Life, to lift us to our feet to follow you.

***HYMN #363** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN' FESTE BURG



***OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, we come before You this morning with open hearts and open hands, eager to hear Your Word, and eager to know Your will. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, move within us and among us as we worship. Open our eyes to Your presence; open our ears to Your call, open our hearts to one another. And then send us back out into the world, to live and work as Your faithful disciples. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREETINGS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **2 Corinthians 6:1-13**

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.”

So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard

about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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

VOLUNTARY *Morceau de Concours* G. Fauré
NICOLE PAQUETTE, flute *(1845 – 1924)*

SERMON “Invisible Fencing” Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong

***HYMN #101** *There's A Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONE

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 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.

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.

OFFERTORY *Sicilienne* G. Fauré

ANNE LONGTIN, flute

***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)

Almighty Giver of every gift, let your Holy Spirit flow through us like a generous stream. Make what we are and what we have unstoppable, refreshing, and abundant for service to you as we serve others. We release these gifts to you in Christ's name. Amen.

***HYMN #391** *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

***BENEDICTION**

The congregation is asked to kindly remain seated for the POSTLUDE, as a closing meditation.

POSTLUDE *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* H. Walcha
A mighty fortress is our God *(1907 – 1991)*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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AV TEAM CAMERA CREW: Lee Hauenstein, Craig Neth, Dennis Webster
COVER ART: ChurchArt Online
DEACON OF THE DAY: Dale Neth
HYMNS: Pilgrim Hymnal, CCLI#3034682
SOLOISTS: Joining us in morning worship, in collaboration with the *Nashua Community Music School.*

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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?

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The church office is available by appointment between 9:00 AM and Noon and 12:30-3:30 PM, Monday-Friday. Please call ahead. The church office fully re-opens to the public on JULY 1.

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MASK USE is now optional for all activities at the church. Continued use of masks is a personal choice, and welcome for anyone wishing to do so.*

**The Nashua Board of Health continues to recommend that anyone who is unvaccinated continue to wear a mask "for their own protection and that of others that are fully vaccinated."*

Summer Worship Schedule

One service at 9:00 AM: In-Person and Livestreamed
Radio broadcast at 10:00 AM on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3
June 20 through September 5

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Join us for lemonade and fellowship in the courtyard following worship (weather permitting).

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Women's Choir to sing on July 18 - On this season's Summer Music Schedule, we will try a WOMEN'S CHOIR project in the month of July. Rehearsals are on two **Wednesday evenings at 6:30 on July 7 and 14** and the choir will sing in 9:00 AM Worship on Sunday July 18. Please contact Joseph directly to sign-up. (jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org or (603) 882-4861 x15)

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The Men's Breakfast Group is now meeting every Thursday morning at 7:30 AM at the Pine Street Eatery, 136 Pine Street, Nashua. Guests are welcome to enjoy a delicious breakfast and stimulating conversation. Contact Dick Zoerb, for more information.

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Al Fresco Office Hours with Andy Gilman: Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-noon at the Riverwalk Café. 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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The First Church Cyclists will ride **today, June 27 at 2:00 PM** on the Derry/Windham/Salem Trail, at Manning Street in Derry. 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. See the full schedule in this bulletin, the June Messenger, the weekly e-News, and on the church website under "connect".

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Attention Golfers! Save the date for the First Church Golf Tournament: **Wednesday, September 22**, at Overlook Golf Course in Hollis, NH. Stay tuned for more information.

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Church Directory – Are you and your family pictured 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.

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 by making a monetary donation. 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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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, July 14, August 18**, and **September 15**. 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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Lil' Free Farmstand to open today - 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! Bring your donations to the stand between 9:00 AM and noon on Sundays.
Visit https://www.grownashua.org/share or see the article in the June Messenger.

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Horton Center All-Church Retreat: Friday-Sunday, August 27-29, 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, Joe Glajch, or LeeAnne Steenhoek.

Who Sets the Covid Safety Standards for First Church? Following the guidance of the CDC, the State of NH and the city of Nashua, it is our First Church Safety Committee. Made up of Rev. Andy, Rev. Jami, Fred Daniels, Kimberly Lynch, Bill McIntyre (Chair) Bonnie Schommer, LeeAnne Steenhoek, Caryl Sullivan, and Jen Summers, this team meets monthly to review guidance and suggestions on all kinds of safety issues. This small but mighty team keeps current on notices from Homeland Security, local law enforcement, wellness guidelines and other resources. And thanks to the hard work of Bill, Caryl and Walter Marquis, First Church has received a $50k grant from the Department of Homeland Security to add cameras, automatic door locks and other security devices. Bill McIntyre is leading that effort. Please reach out to Bill with any questions

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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.

For more information, please contact Dianne Smigliani in the church office.

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

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Confirmation Retreat: October 1-3, 2021 at Horton Center - Both classes of confirmands and mentors from 2021 and 2022 will join together for this invaluable experience. Please register today!

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Horton Center offers exciting programming all summer long. Please see Hortoncenter.org for important details and registration. Contact LeeAnne with any questions.

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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.

First Church Calendar

SUN JUN 27	9:00am	In-Person Worship & Livestream
	10:00am	Radio Broadcast on WSMN
	10:00am	Fellowship Time, Courtyard
MON JUN 28	7:00pm	Christian Formation, dining room
TUE JUN 29	4:00pm	First Church at NSKS
WED JUN 30	10:00am	Al Fresco Hours with Rev. Andy G, Riverwalk
SAT JUL 03	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room
SUN JUL 04		Independence Day
	9:00am	In-Person Worship & Livestream
	10:00am	Radio Broadcast on WSMN
	10:00am	Fellowship Time, Courtyard
MON JUL 05		Church Office Closed
TUE JUL 06	4:00pm	First Church at NSKS
WED JUL 07	10:00am	Al Fresco Hours with Rev. Andy G, Riverwalk
	6:30pm	Women’s Choir, music room
SAT JUL 10	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room
SUN JUL 11	9:00am	In-Person Worship & Livestream
	10:00am	Radio Broadcast on WSMN
	10:00am	Fellowship Time, Courtyard

2021 Summer Music Schedule

Each summer, while the music ministry ensembles are on summer break, members of The First Church and the outside community bring their music offerings to our summer worship service.

The following individuals and ensembles will enhance our services during the summer season…

JUNE 13
Joseph R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone

JUNE 20
MEN'S CHOIR

JUNE 27
Anne LONGTIN, flute*
Nicole PAQUETTE, flute*

JULY 4
Nicole PLUMMER, mezzo soprano

JULY 11
Catherine CONDI, soprano

JULY 18
WOMEN'S CHOIR

JULY 25
Kristjon IMPERIO, piano

AUGUST 1
Craig PLUMMER, tenor

AUGUST 8
Aubrie CONNELLY, clarinet*

AUGUST 15
Susan COBB, soprano

AUGUST 22
Ainsley THERRIEN, clarinet*

AUGUST 29
Brian OBERTI, saxophone

SEPTEMBER 6
Mark A. CLEVELAND, bass-baritone

** In cooperation with the Nashua Community Music School*

First Church Cyclists 2021 Schedule

Londonderry Rail Trail	**6.2 miles**	**Londonderry NH**	**Sunday, May 16**
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail	**13.6 miles**	**Cross Point, Chelmsford MA**	**Sunday, June 13**
Derry/Windham/Salem	**? miles**	**Manning St., Derry NH**	**Sunday, June 27**
Minuteman Bikeway	**20.6 miles**	**Depot Park, Bedford MA**	**Sunday, July 11**
Nashua River Rail Trail	**24 miles**	**Gilson Rd. at Countryside Drive, Nashua NH**	**Sunday, July 25**
Common Pathway	**13 miles**	**Peterborough, NH**	**Sunday, August 8**
Assabet River Rail Trail	**8.6 miles**	**Wilkins St., Hudson, MA.**	**Sunday, August 22**
Goffstown Rail Trail	**11 miles**	**Fisher Cats Stadium, Manchester NH**	**Sunday, September 12**
Charles River Bike Path	**22.9 miles**	**Museum of Science, Boston MA**	**Sunday, September 26**
Reformatory/Narrow Gauge Trails	**14 miles**	**Depot Park, Bedford MA**	**Sunday, October 3**

All rides begin at 2:00 PM. Rain date is the following Sunday.

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.

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 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.

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>

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

Office Hours: The office is open by appointment. The staff is available for phone calls, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-noon & 12:30-3:30pm. 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.