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
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 1, 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 Jim Stone

MEDITATION **"**Human beings are of such nature that they should have not only material facilities but spiritual sustenance as well. Without spiritual sustenance, it is difficult to get and maintain peace of mind." Dalai Lama

PRELUDE Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether R. Lind *(b. 1940)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, who destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, who has forgiven our sins according to the riches of his grace, and has made known to us the mystery of his will. This is our God!
People: Let's worship Christ together.

***HYMN #8** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

O Lord, be gracious to us. Look upon your people with mercy. Forgive our sin. Bring us back again, as you have done before. Speak your word to us—a word of peace to those who follow faithfully. For we know, without doubt, that Your salvation is near; your glory fills this place. Let your unfailing love and truth come together among us; let your righteousness and peace surround us. Pour out your goodness upon us, that we may worship and serve you all our days. 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

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15**

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’“ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’“

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

John 6:24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

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

SERMON **“**Spiritual Hunger, Part 3 of 3**”** Rev. Jami Boyle

RESPONSIVE PSALM #51:1-13

CRAIG PLUMMER, psalmist

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

Response

℟

[1]Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

[2]Wash me thoroughly from my
iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
[3]For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

[4]Against you, you alone, have I
sinned, and done what is evil
in your sight,
so that you are justified in your
sentence and blameless when you
pass judgment.

[5]Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother
conceived me. ℟

[6]You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in
my secret heart.

[7]Purge me with hyssop,
and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be
purer than snow.

[8]Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have
crushed rejoice.

[9]Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities. ℟

[10]Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit
within me.

[11]Do not cast me away from
your presence,
and do not take your
holy spirit from me.

[12]Restore to me the joy of your
salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

[13]Then I will teach transgressors
your ways,
and sinners will return to you. ℟

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH A New Creed

Leader: We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh.
People: We are not alone, we live in God's world.
Leader: Jesus has come to reconcile and make us new, to work in us and others through God's Spirit.
People: We are not alone, we live in God's world.
Leader: We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence and to live with respect in Creation.
People: We trust in God.
Leader: We are called to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil.
People: We trust in God.
Leader: We are called to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
All: In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Eternal God, in Whom we live and move and have our being, Whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and Whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts, cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to You, confessing our faults, confiding in Your grace, and finding in You our refuge and strength, through Jesus Christ Your Son.

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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Jesus looked up and said to a sinner, "Where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you? Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again."

OFFERTORY "If With All Your Hearts" from *Elijah, Op. 70* F. Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

***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)

Your Word goes out and never returns empty. We have heard your Word and we return our gifts to you. In this act of trust, increase our faith and trust in You through Jesus Christ. 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, bread, and gluten free bread upon request.

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

Come Unto Me — A. Scarlatti *(1660-1725)*

Sharing of the Cup

Wait on the Lord — W.A. Mozart *(1756-1791)*

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 #14** *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE Fanfare K. Leighton *(1929-1988)*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM CAMERA CREW: Doug Brenner, Joe Glajch, Lee Hauenstein, Craig Neth, Don Smith-Weiss, and Dennis Webster
DEACON OF THE DAY: Gary Lambert
GUEST ORGANIST: Kristjon Imperio
HYMNS & PSALM: Pilgrim Hymnal, New Century Hymnal, CCLI#3034682

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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?

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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."*

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Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM-Noon and 12:30-3:30 PM

Summer Worship Schedule
One service at 9:00 AM: In-Person and Livestreamed
Radio broadcast at 11:00 AM on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3
June 20 through September 5

Church Happenings and Outreach

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

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NSKS Backpack Program 2021 - Help pack the packs!
Monday, August 2, 6:00 PM, in the dining room

The Outreach Committee invites folks to help pack the backpacks. If you are interested, contact Jocelyn Henning or call the church office.

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Save the date! Rally Sunday, September 12.

More information coming soon.

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3rd Annual First Church Golf Tournament
Wednesday, September 22, at Overlook Golf Course in Hollis, NH

Join as a sponsor and or as a player. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit local outreach partners: Family Promise of Southern NH, Stepping Stones, and The Front Door Agency. For tournament information and registration forms, to go: https://wp.me/ab3kUy-25S or contact Joe Glajch or Mike Winton with any questions.

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Al Fresco Office Hours with Andy Gilman: Wednesdays, 10:00 AM-Noon at the Riverwalk Café, weather permitting. 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. Andy G. is also available for scheduled office hours, inside or out, on Wednesdays.

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Holiday Craft Fair – Save the dates: November 12 and 13, 2021

Silent Auction - Please contact Rebecca Small if you have items to donate to the silent auction or if you'd like to assist her in finding/calling donors. See the church directory or call the church office for her contact information.

The craft group is collecting 24 and 32 ounce canning jars (or Classico spaghetti jars), clean and with non-rusty tops. Please leave them in the box in the lobby at the courtyard entrance.

Join the crafters on Wednesdays, August 18 and September 15 at 4:00 PM in the dining room to help make crafts for the fair. 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.

Audio/Visual Team Milestone - One Year of Live Streaming at First Church! The pandemic created a new way of communication with our First Church family last year. The staff and a small group of volunteers started working on creating a recorded church service last March and then we moved to live streaming in the summer.
We have some numbers to share with all of you that you might find of interest:

- 70+ livestreams conducted (this includes Audio and Visual Test Streams, etc).
- 1st ever 'Virtual' Annual Meeting
- 15,566 'views' on our YouTube channel (A view is any uninterrupted amount of viewing of a video, if you pause and then resume, it would be '2' views).
- 92 new subscribers (we are up to 151 now. :-))
- ~1200 feet of new Microphone cables installed and commissioned
- 4 new microphones purchased and commissioned
- 2 new cameras added + lots of other gadgets, gizmos, widgets, and thingamajigs....
- 100's of learnings about things we didn't even know existed a year ago....

Thank you to our First Church Congregation for tuning in and viewing our work over the past year. We are grateful for your involvement and being out there “virtually”!!

The First Church Video Team: Rev. Andy, Rev. Ken (former member), Doug Brenner, Joe Glajch, Chris Guild, Lee Hauenstein, Craig Neth, Roy Rumbaugh, Dianne Smigliani, Don Smith-Weiss, Caryl Sullivan, Dennis Webster.

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Church Directory - Do we have a picture of you and your family in the directory? Is your contact information current? 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.

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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.
NEW this year, we have invited a few local UCC churches to join us!

For more information, call the church office, 882-4861 or Joe Glajch. Sign up at the welcome center, through the church office, or on the First Church website.

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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.

The First Church Cyclists' next ride is on **Sunday, August 8 at 2:00 PM** on the Common Pathway, Peterborough. 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 the June Messenger, the weekly e-News, and on the church website under "connect".

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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. Contact Dianne Smigliani 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.

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Donate your extra garden produce (or purchased produce) to the Lil' Free Farmstand located at the UU Church of Nashua during the summer months. Bring your donations to the stand between 9:00 AM and noon on Sundays. Visit https://www.grownashua.org/share for more information.

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Pulpit Flowers – If you would like to provide fresh flowers for the pulpit on Sunday morning, sign up on the chart located near the welcome center or contact Sue in the church office to see what dates are available.

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This Week at First Church

SUN AUG 01	9:00am	In-Person Worship & Livestream
	10:00am	Fellowship Time, courtyard
	11:00am	Radio Broadcast on WSMN
MON AUG 2	6:00pm	Pack the Backpacks, dining room
	6:30pm	Prudential Comittee, room 10
WED AUG 3	10:00am	Al Fresco Hours w/Rev. Andy G, Riverwalk
THU AUG 5	1:30pm	Rehearsal, sanctuary
SAT AUG 7	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room

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 KONDI, 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*

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.

All use of the building must be scheduled by the Secretary.

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NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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