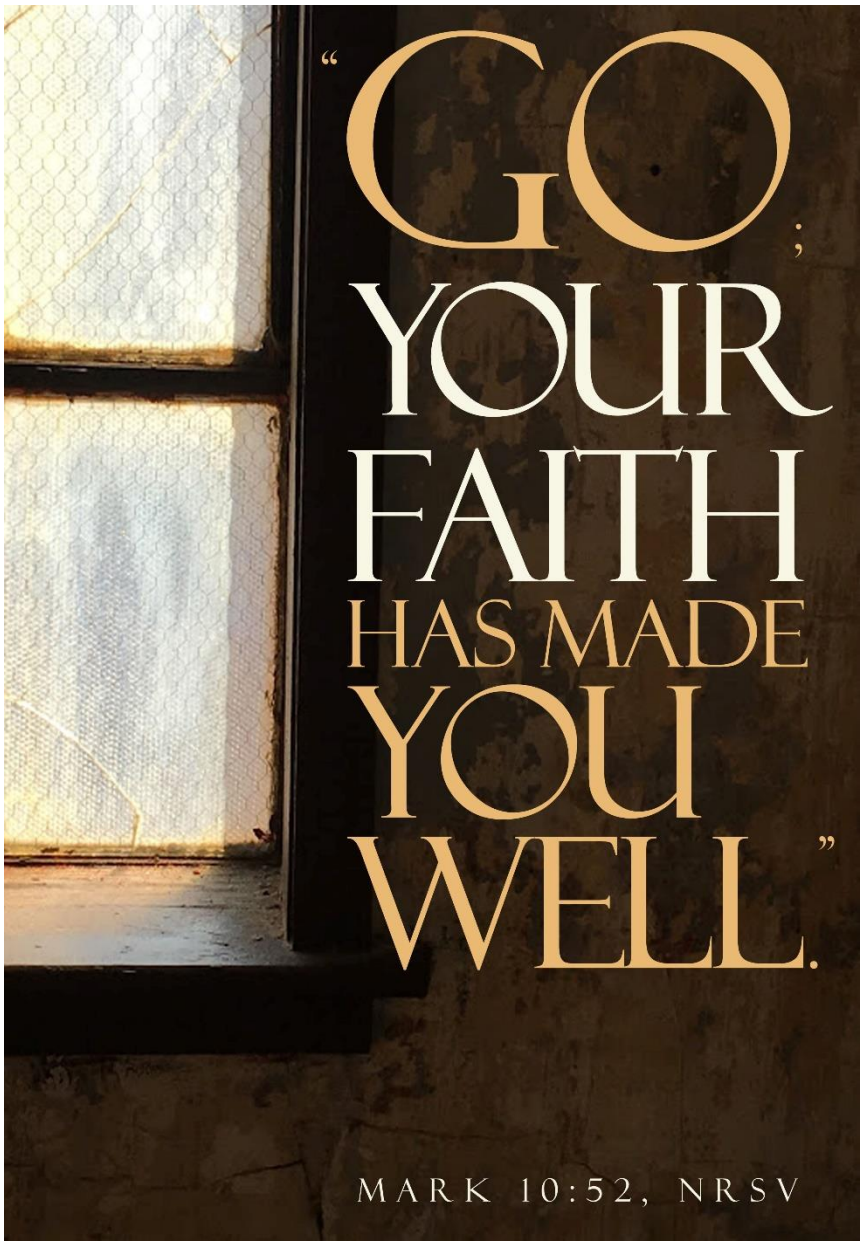


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 24, 2021 8:30 & 10:00 AM

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

APPROACH TO GOD

Let us keep silence as we prepare for worship.

MEDITATION

"The simplest questions are the most profound. Where were you born? Where is your home? Where are you going? What are you doing? Think about these once in a while, and watch your answers change."

Richard Bach

PRELUDE *Mach's mit mir, Gott, nach deiner Güt'* J. G. Walther *(1684 – 1748)*

Do with me Lord, according to Thy will

Theme
Variation 1 – Flutes over Oboe
Variation 2 – Sesquialtera over Gamba
Variation 3 – *Cantus Firmus* in the Pedals

Mach's mit mir, Gott, nach deiner Güt'	Do with me Lord, according to Thy will
Hilf mir in meinem Leiden.	Help me in my suffering
Ruf ich dich an, versag mir's nicht	If I call to Thee, fail me not
Wenn sich mein Seel soll scheiden	When does my soul then part
So nimm die, Herr, in deine Händ:	So take it, Lord, in Thy hand
Ist Alles gut, wenn gut das End	All is well, when well is the ending

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 126)

Leader: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

People: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Leader: When the Lord raised Jesus from the dead, we were like those who dream.

People: Now our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice.

People: May all those who have sowed in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Together: We worship a good and holy God.

***HYMN #161** *Before the Cross of Jesus* ST. CHRISTOPHER

1 Before the cross of Jesus
Our lives are judged today;
The meaning of our eager strife
Is tested by his Way.
Across our restless living
The light streams from his cross,
And by its clear, revealing beams
We measure gain and loss.

2 The hopes that lead us onward,
The fears that hold us back,
Our will to dare great things for God,
The courage that we lack,
The faith we keep in goodness,
Our love, as low or pure,
On all, the judgment of the cross
Falls steady, clear, and sure.

3 Yet humbly, in our striving,
O God, we face its test.
We crave the power to do thy will
With him who did it best.
On us let now the healing
Of his great Spirit fall,
And make us brave and full of joy
To answer to his call. Amen.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Come to this sanctuary, Gracious God, and receive our welcome. You are a fountain of goodness that sustains our lives. We pour out our praise to you. Fill this room with your Holy Spirit and warm our hearts. Open our minds to the Gospel and heal our souls with your compassion and kindness, not just now, but always through Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREETINGS

WITNESSING STEWARD John Henning

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Hebrews 7:23-28**

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day

after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

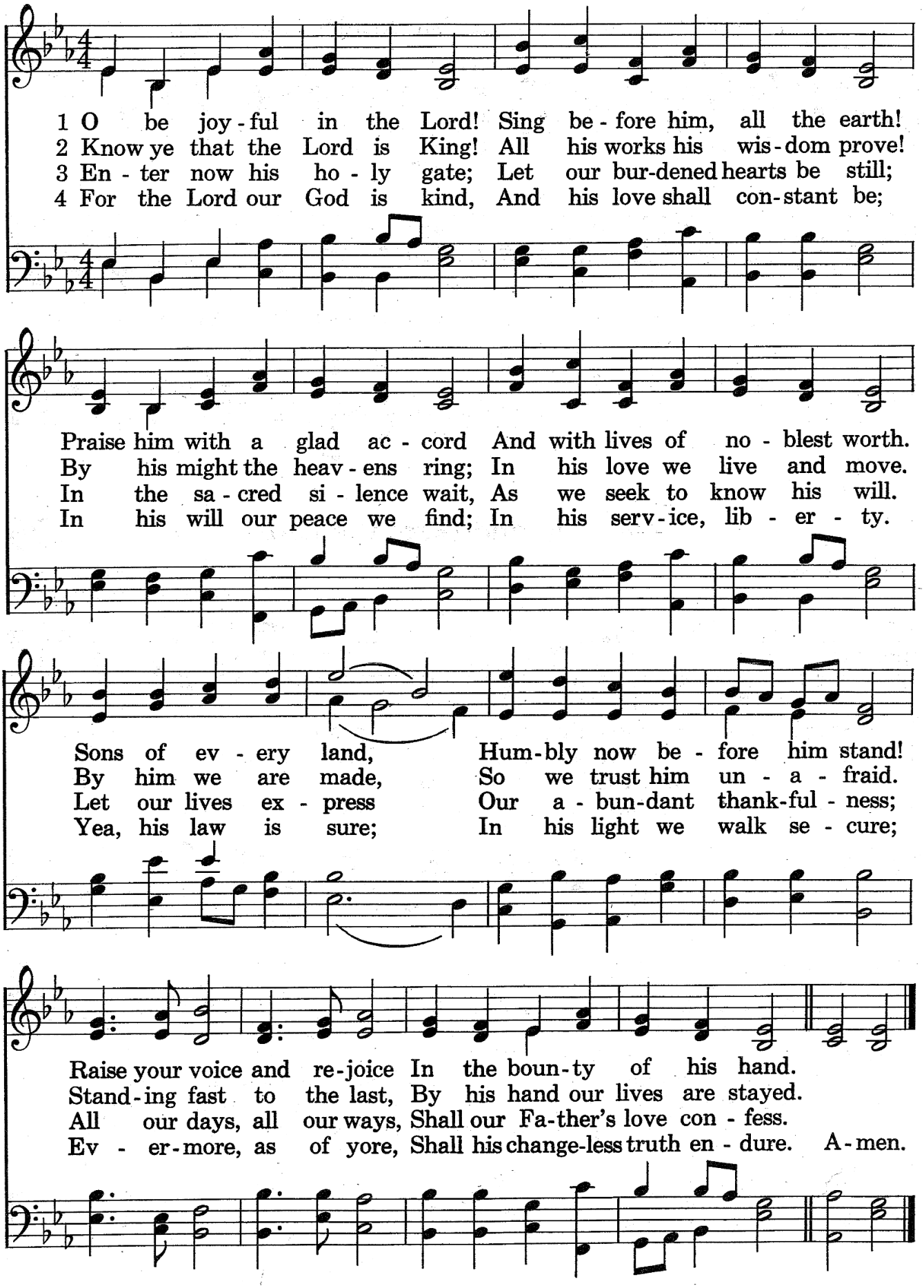
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY *Adoration* F. B. Price
(10:00) *(1887 – 1953)*

SERMON “Crying Out Empty” Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong

***HYMN #26** *O Be Joyful in the Lord!* ROCK OF AGES

(10:00)



RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

CENTERING PRAYER (Unison)

Lord Jesus, Bartimaeus shouted when he heard you coming, sprang up, cast away his cloak and ran to you, and asked you only for what he needed, his sight. When you restored him, immediately, he followed you. Our hearts are attentive now as we prepare to meet you in our prayers. Grant us your Spirit and help us respond to you honestly when you ask us "what do we want from you."

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 *Majestic in Holiness* R. Mallory
DECIBELLS *(*1973)*

***THE DOXOLOGY #515**

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, we offer these gifts in hope and anticipation. We pray that they may be used to plant a tree that we will not sit under, whose fruit we will not eat, whose branches will not warm our hearths. Let our gifts go forth to be a blessing to others for future generations, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN #204** *Rejoice, the Lord is King* DARWELL'S 148TH

***BENEDICTION**

The congregation is kindly asked to remain seated for the POSTLUDE.

POSTLUDE *Nine Pieces for Organ* (1970) G. Young
Carillon *(1919 – 1998)*

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: Rich Smigliani
HYMNS: Pilgrim Hymnal, CCLI#3034682

****

The flowers in the pulpit are given in remembrance of loved ones and friends, by Bill and Kathie McIntyre.

****

CHURCH SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE are offered at 10:00 AM on Sunday for infants through Grade 8. All children (3 years-7th grade) start in the sanctuary each Sunday with their parents. After the children's message, students leave for their classes. The Ushers will be happy to direct newcomers to childcare and classrooms.

****

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

****

HEARING AIDS AND LARGE PRINT OF HYMNS AND PRAYERS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

****

HOSPITALIZATIONS - IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER IS HOSPITALIZED, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

****

Have you remembered First Church in your will?

****

MASK USE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED WHILE INSIDE THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.

****

JOIN US FOR LEMONADE AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE COURTYARD FOLLOWING WORSHIP (WEATHER PERMITTING).

****

Choirs in Worship Next Week

Sunday, October 31, 2021
8:30 Chancel Choir
10:00 Chapel Chimers & Chancel Choir

Notes from the Chancel

This morning's opening to worship (Prelude), is a chorale prelude based on a 1628 hymn tune by **Johann Hermann SCHEIN** *(1586 – 1630),* penned by Thüringian (German) composer **Johann Gottfried WALTHER,** a cousin of Johann Sebastian Bach! The opening theme is played on a soft stop on the Choir Division, called a *"Quintadena*". This gentle stop has overtones of the 5th sounding on each pitch, giving it its name. The first variation places gentle flute stops of the organ against a bass line using the *Oboe* stop from the Swell Division. The second variation utilizes a "composite" sound (the *"Sesquialtera"*) using a flute unison sound, colored by two harmonic partial stops, the *"nasard"* and the *"tierce"* against a robust Gamba sound of the organ's *Violoncello* stop on the Enclosed Great Division. The final variation uses the organ's Open Great division, in a sparkling *Principal Chorus and Mixture*, with a bold Pedal Reed bringing out the hymn tune's theme (or *"Cantus Firmus"*).

We open corporate worship this morning, with a hymn, using an alternate text with a known melody. The hymn tune ST. CHRISTOPHER is known as "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" but was updated in 1928 (!) to have a more 'modern appeal' to **Ferdinand Q. BLANCHARD's** *(1876 - 1968)* congregation in Cleveland, Ohio. One can find the original hymn, immediately to the left of today's "text-only" printing of this opening hymn, found in our Pilgrim Hymnal.

Florence Beatrice Smith PRICE (Voluntary at the 10:00am service) was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. She composed over three hundred works and was the first black woman to have a symphony performed by a professional orchestra (Chicago Symphony Orchestra). Her songs were performed by some of the most admired voices of her day. *Wikipedia* writes: "…Even though her training was steeped in European tradition, Price's music consists of mostly the American idiom and reveals her Southern roots…. Being deeply religious, she frequently used the music of the African-American church as material for her arrangements… Her melodies were blues-inspired and mixed with more… European Romantic techniques. The weaving of tradition and modernism reflected the way life was for African Americans in large cities at the time…"

Ron MALLORY, composer of this morning's contemporary sacred work for handbells (Offertory), is a church music composer and degreed Astrophysicist! We welcome back **DECIBELLS** into our worship services for the new season!

Sometimes, hymn tune names can contain an odd combination of names and numbers, long forgotten, perhaps, regarding their original significance. In the case of our closing hymn, the hymn tune name refers to two things: the original hymn tune being written first for a setting of Psalm 148, and honoring its composer **John DARWALL** (1731 – 1789). So further use of the hymn, even with a different text as in this morning, has been passed along through the generations as the hymn tune: DARWALL'S 148th.

Gordon Ellsworth YOUNG (Postlude) studied at the Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, and at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. He served the First Presbyterian Church in Detroit, Michigan for 20 years. He published 500 works for organ during his lifetime, ranging from simple service music to more technically challenging recital repertoire.

Christian Formation

Today in the Sunday School October 24, 2021

Today is the 22nd Sunday after Pentecost and the liturgical color is green.

Christian Formation thrives on the volunteer support of our Board, teachers, assistants and nursery care workers.

God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people. So be gentle, kind, humble meek and patient. ~Colossians 3:12

NURSERY CARE

The church nursery opens at 9:45 AM to care for children (infants through age 2) during the 10:00 AM worship service. Nursery coordinators are on hand to greet parents and explain the procedure for checking in and picking up your child.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Preschool, K and grades 1 & 2 are learning about Jonah and the Whale
- Grades 3 & 4 are learning about and decorating their Bibles, Psalm 23.
- Grades 5 & 6 are learning about their Bibles, comparing translations and reading Psalm 23.
- MAD Make a Difference teens are assembling Halloween packages TODAY for our college and armed forces young people.

BIBLE SUNDAY

Grades 3 & 4 will come forward to receive their Bibles on **Reformation Sunday, October 31**. Fourth-graders who did receive Bibles last fall are invited to come forward this year to receive a second Bible. A Bible with a cloth cover and a rainbow bookmark will be at the altar for you.

Teachers and assistants for all classrooms and the nursery will be receiving NIrV Children's and Study Bibles from Christian Formation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES

- Confirmands and Mentors meet today at 1:00pm at Temple Beth Abraham for CROPWALK for world hunger. LeeAnne will wear a balloon. If you've not already registered online you can register at 12:00 in person.
- Bibles will be presented to our 3rd & 4th-graders next Sunday, October 31.
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsals begin next Sunday, October 31 with Christmas Pageant Director Steve Blunt. Karen Hayden is our Costume Director.

Church Happenings and Outreach

Adult Winter Retreat - Marie Joseph Spiritual Center
Biddeford Pool, Maine - January 21 – January 23, 2022

Rev. Andy Armstrong will lead the retreat with a theme around simplicity and sabbatical. This retreat is the perfect time for reflection, relaxation, prayer, worship, and fellowship. The cost for the weekend is $240.00 per person, and includes lodging for 2 nights and 5 meals. A non-refundable deposit of $120.00 per person is **due ASAP** with the balance due by January 7, 2022. Scholarships are available. **There are still some spaces available!** To register, sign up at the Welcome Center, contact Sue Englander, or stop by the church office.

++++

"We didn't start the Fire" Study Series with Rev. Andy - Billy Joel is right: "We didn't start the fire. It was always burning since the world's been turning." Still, the flames are hot. In this series, Rev. Andy will look at the burning issues of the day with God's help, scripture, music, culture and your participation in Christian love. This series continues on **Wednesdays, through November 3, 7:00-8:30 PM.** Sign up at the welcome center or online at https://forms.gle/UrfPaChWmMnLf2VD6.
See the October newsletter for more information.

++++

Crop Walk 2021 is TODAY! This year's Nashua Crop Hunger Walk plans call for an in-person event with numerous COVID precautions.

- **Registration** is from 12:00-1:00pm at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street in Nashua
- **Kick off service** begins at 1:00 and the walk should begin around 1:20
- **3.4 MILE WALK** to be followed by **BBQ and celebration**!

Last year Nashua was ranked 12th in the nation for fund raising, so we hope to have another banner year for participation.

++++

Thanksgiving Baskets and White Dove Christmas Programs - Carol Butler is leading these very important outreach programs, but Covid has caused her to think "outside the box" again this year. There will be no sign-ups following church services. Anyone who is interested in participating in either of these programs can contact Carol, directly. See the church directory or call the church office for her contact information. This will give her an idea as to the number of families the program can accommodate. We will be doing gift cards for both programs as we did last year. As time goes on, those taking part will receive further information and deadline dates.

++++

Friday Night at the Movies - October 29 - 7:00 PM: Our latest movie night tells the story of a youngster who may, or may not, be the reincarnation of a teacher. While his American parents try to deal with this possibility, which is explained to them by visiting monks from Tibet, the movie intercuts its modern story with a retelling of the life of Prince Siddhartha, who grew up to become the Buddha. Come join Rev. Jami for our first-in-a-year Movie Night. There will be plenty of popcorn and drinks and you are most welcome to bring a dessert to share. Please bring your mask and your curiosity about the religion of Buddhism. It's sure to be a fun, educational, and entertaining evening. See you there!

Bible, Friends and Coffee meets on Mondays, at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. This year we are going to wrap our hearts and minds around what we are to believe today as Christians in 2021.

++++

Wednesday Morning Men's Study meets at 8:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. This season we continue with reflections and discussions on Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

++++

Make a joyful noise! We have openings for new choir members in all choirs. Please consider making a joyful noise and contact the Music Office for more information about membership in one of our many choirs.

++++

Friends of First Music Annual Campaign – Our fundraising campaign for the 2021-2022 First Music Concert Series season is underway. Since the inception of the "Friends" our goal is to have all artist, program and running costs for the Series underwritten by these sponsors, so that ALL concert programs may be Free and Open to the Public. Please consider making a donation to the FRIENDS OF FIRST MUSIC. Simply send a check to the church office in your desired amount made out to FIRST MUSIC CONCERT SERIES with "Friends" in the Memo line! Thank you in advance for your generosity in *Bringing the Joy of Music to the Gate City.*

Giving Levels: Friends ($1-$99) Patrons ($100-$249) Subscribers ($250-$499)
Sponsors ($500-$999) Benefactors ($1,000 +)
Name to be included in the season program booklet.

Contact any of the Music Committee members with questions:
Eric Ruthenberg (Chair), Cyndy Carlson, Ellie Freeman, Heather Hochuli, Linda Marquis, David Hotham, Eric Myers, Joseph Olefirowicz (ex officio), Jennifer Summers.

++++

Aspects of Christianity - In an effort to further feed the Spirit that is within each of us, First Church is making available small brochures that one may take home and keep. Each mini-brochure is based on one particular area of Christian concern, and consists of scripture and other helpful quotes on that topic. There are 34 different topics that are presented in this way. You will find these brochures displayed a few at a time on the windowsill opposite the Welcome Center. Please feel free to take one of the brochures, and an information sheet about the project. Each brochure has a black and white drawing that you may color if you like.

++++

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Please see the display of handmade prayer shawls near the Welcome Center. Crafted by the loving hands and hearts of parishioners, this ministry strives to bring comfort and healing to those in need and to those celebrating. Upon completion of each shawl, a final blessing is said before being sent to the individual. Prayer shawls bless recipients by knowing they are wrapped in loving prayers of healing and celebration from their fellow parishioners. This vital ministry is looking for more knitters. For more information, speak with Karen Bianchi, Kay Potfora, or Rev. Jami.

++++

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.

The First Church Thrift Shop is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.** They are accepting donations of *FALL & WINTER CLOTHING*. Items needed: Boys' and girls' clothing up to size 14, baby clothes, women's clothing (all sizes), costume jewelry, pocket books and accessories, small knickknacks. Leave donations - *clean and in good repair* - in the marked bin in the courtyard lobby. Contact Gale Cummings, Beth Bartlett or the church office with any questions.

++++

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.

++++

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

++++

This Week at First Church

SUN OCT 24	8:30am	In-Person Worship
	9:15am	Chapel Chimers, Shaw Chapel
	10:00am	In-Person Worship & Livestream, Radio Broadcast, Sunday School & Nursery Care
	11:20am	Joyful Noise, Shaw Chapel
	11:30am	Teachers' Meeting, Dining Room
	12:00pm	CROP Walk, Temple Beth Abraham
MON OCT 25	9:30am	Bible, Friends & Coffee, Fellowship Hall
	6:00pm	Home Health Hospice Service, Sanctuary
	7:00pm	Property Management, Room 10
TUE OCT 26	10:00am	Staff Meeting
	2:00pm	Huntington Service
	6:00pm	Nominating, Dining Room
	6:30pm	First Folk, Music Room
WED OCT 27	8:00am	Men's Group, Fellowship Hall
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
	7:00pm	Discussion Series, Dining Room
THU OCT 28	7:00pm	Decibells, Balcom Room
FRI OCT 29	10:00am	Organ practice, Sanctuary
	7:00pm	Movie Night, Dining Room
SAT OCT 30	10:00am	Organ practice, Sanctuary
	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, Dining Room

FIRST FRIDAYS at FIRST
ORGAN SERIES

The **First Music Concert Series** invites you to six "mini" organ recital offerings in addition to our Sunday music outreach programs. Recitals will be on the first Friday of the month and will begin at 12:15 p.m.

Regional organists will perform FREE 30-minute programs on our 4,000-pipe, 1926 Anderson Memorial Organ—each designed to replenish the soul with beautiful music for the workday or to get the weekend off to a great start.

2021 RECITALS

November 5 SCOTT BERGENDAHL
St. Hedwig Roman Catholic Parish, Manchester, NH

December 3 BARBARA FLOCCO
Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH

2022 RECITALS

January 7 BRUCE ADAMI
Christ Church Exeter (Episcopal), Exeter, NH

February 4 MARY JODICE
Saint Andrew Episcopal Church, Marblehead, MA

March 4 KRISTJON IMPERIO
Pakachoag Music School, Worcester, MA

April 1 EMILY ADAMS
Main Street United Methodist Church, Nashua, NH

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. 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 here 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.

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.

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

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

One Concord Street * Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 * 882-4861
Office Hours: 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.