First Church Messenger

First Church was gathered in 1685 **November 2021**

Friends,

Now that First Church is preparing to engage in mission serving Haitian people living in the DR, I've been thinking about my experience in Port Au Prince, Haiti immediately after the earthquake in 2010. At the time, we were preparing for service in the DR, but the earthquake changed our plans. When we arrived in Port Au Prince, we were traumatized into silence by the scale of the death and destruction. It challenged my faith; I cried allowed with a nation "O God, how could you let this happen to a people who have already suffered so much?"

A decade later, I've heard that lament again as a series of tragedies—including an earthquake- have overwhelmed the Haitian people. The difference this time is that we have our own sufferings to add due to the pandemic, natural and human disasters. "O God, how could you let this happen to a people who have already suffered so much?" What are we to say about these things? How can our faith in God help us in times such as these?

I've found help and hope from a book by David Bentley Hart entitled "The Doors of the Sea: Where Was God in the Tsunami?" He wrote it when many of us asked that same question after the great tsunami struck Asia in 2004. Hart reminds us that when faced with tragedies that shake our faith "we are to be guided by the full character of what is revealed of God in Christ. For, after all, if it is from Christ that we are to learn how God relates himself to sin, suffering, evil, and death, it would seem that he provides us little evidence of anything other than a regal, relentless, and miraculous enmity: sin he forgives, suffering he heals, evil he casts out, and death he conquers. And absolutely nowhere does Christ act as if any of these things are part of the eternal work or purposes of God."

As we participate vicariously in the suffering of our brothers and sisters and turn to the task of constructive compassion in Christ, let us never forget the urgent truth about God that it is our vocation to proclaim: God does not will our sickness or our death; God does not will that evil be done; God has conquered evil and death through the Cross. This is the meaning of the empty tomb. This is our Easter faith. As Hart says so well, "Ours is, after all, a religion of salvation. Our faith is in a God who has come to rescue his creation from the absurdity of sin, the emptiness and waste of death, the forces - whether calculating malevolence or imbecile chance - that shatter living souls; and so we are permitted to hate these things with perfect hatred."
May these thoughts strengthen our faith and encourage our compassion.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Andy

Update on Mission to La Roman DR

Rev. Andy is excited to share with you that First Church will be sending a mission team of eight people to the Dominican Republic next spring. Joining him are Mike and Anna Fauteux, Chris and Judy Gentile, Kelechi and Adaeze Okorie and Kathy Meighan. We're very thankful to Beth Raymond who will help coordinate our efforts on the "home front".

We'll be partnering with The Good Shepherd Hospital network to provide public health and spiritual support to Haitians living in the sugar cane fields throughout the DR. A detailed history and explanation of the mission is located at http://www.wamsucc.org/services-la-romana-main.html.

We need your help. In addition to your prayers, we're gathering a variety of supplies to take with us. In the Messenger you'll see a list of items we'll be collecting in the coming months. Please drop off the items in the marked bin in Fellowship Hall. Direct any of your questions to Rev. Andy or Beth Raymond.

First Church of Nashua
United Church of Christ
1 Concord St., Nashua, NH 03064

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 10:00 AM
10:00 AM: Livestreamed

Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong, Sr. Minister
Rev. Jami D. Boyle, Associate Minister
Rev. Dr. Andrew Gilman, Interim Associate Minister
Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO, Minister of Music
LeeAnne Steenhoek, Director of Christian Formation
Dianne Smigliani, Business & Marketing Manager
Sue Englander, Secretary/Receptionist
Steve Buck, Sexton

Pastors Emeriti:
Rev. James S. Chaloner
Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C. Evans

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9am-noon & 1-4pm

Telephone: 603-882-4861
Website: www.tfcucc.org

The Bulletin Board

All Boards meet on Monday, November 1 at 7:00 PM.

Baptism - Any adult desiring to be baptized or to have their child baptized is asked to call the church office to schedule an appointment with one of the pastors.

Hospitalizations - If you or a family member is hospitalized, please contact the church office.

Help Keep our Records Current. If you have a change of name, address, phone number or email address please let the church office know.

Membership - For information about becoming a member of our faith community, please call the church office.

Sign up for the weekly e-News by contacting Dianne Smigliani.

Sign up for the newsletter online. If you wish to go paperless, please notify Sue Englander to have your name removed from the mailing list.

First Church Thrift Shop

The shop is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.** Donations of *FALL & WINTER CLOTHING* are welcome. 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.

Visit our website at: www.tfcucc.org to view all the activities and events going on at First Church.

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

There are a few spaces available!

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. To register, contact Sue Englander or stop by the church office.

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.

THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8. PLEASE SEND ITEMS TO SUE ENGLANDER. THANK YOU.

With Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to:
Colleen Dlubac on the death of her parents Kathleen and Tom Messer, who passed away on 7/23/20 and 7/25/20 respectively; Tim and Sue Hogan on the death of their sister-in-law, Dee, on October 22, and to her husband Mike; Ron Brickey on the death of his mother, Shirley, on October 17; family and friends of former member, Bob Cousens, who passed away on October 25, especially his daughters, Ashley and Aubrey.

Births in the Church Family

Congratulations to Leslie Jasper on the birth of her great-granddaughter Oakleigh Ann Elizabeth Bush. Parents are Megan Sheeler and Christian Bush.

Happy Birthday!

November 2021

11/09	Marty Guild
11/10	Ellie Freeman
11/10	Trish Stone
11/13	Jay Darrin
11/15	Suzanne Shattuck
11/15	Carroll Towle
11/16	Shirley Van Vliet
11/19	Millie Lyford
11/20	Barbara Gale
11/20	Rafael Skinner
11/21	Lars Christiansen
11/25	Jane Salgals
11/27	Richard Lamerand
11/27	Dick Zoerb

Stewards of Our Hands, Hearts, and Gifts "GIFTS"

Stewardship Reflection
By
Kathleen McIntyre

What is the best gift that you ever received? Difficult question to answer? Does this question provoke strong memories?

For some it might be a physical gift that was wanted for years. For others, it might be that intangible gift that is difficult to describe. For still others, it is an answer that is very private and not to be shared.

For me, a memory of more than 50 years ago, brings my answer. As I was starting college, my father told me that the best gift that he could give me was my education. With a college education, I would need not ask for more. Dad was right … it was the best gift that I could ever have received. Many opportunities for employment, travel, and personal growth were part of this gift.

Now, let's ask the question in reverse. What is the best gift that you have given?

This question is more difficult to answer. Often when a gift is given, true feelings toward the gift are not shared. The giver is often excited to give a special gift, but receives no thanks and is left disheartened at the unspoken appreciation.

In thinking about this question, I am reminded of the famous children's book, *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. The tree did all of the giving in the story and the boy did all of the taking. The story raises many important questions about giving/receiving.

Nonetheless, the question remains: "What is the best gift that you have given?"

As you ponder your answer, I am reminded of the giving that I have seen done at The First Church. I rarely step into the Walker Building without remembering the gifts both large and small that were given by so many to make the addition a reality. Our church celebrated as gifts came from so many loving and caring people of the church family.

Other memories of First Church giving come from the more recent Capital Campaign of "Dream Give Grow" that allowed for major organ renovations, church repairs, and support of community organizations (Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, Family Promise, and the Front Door). Gifts exceeded all expectations.

Recently, through the First Church Emergency Relief Fund 2020, the congregation again stepped up to give thousands of dollars during the pandemic to help fund mission agencies, members, and ministry needs. All of these gifts have truly made a difference in the lives of many in our church family and in our community near and far. The work of our Hands, our Hearts, and our Gifts at the First Church will never be totally known or calculated, but we continue to strive to be good stewards always.

Thanksgiving Baskets and White Dove Silver 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.

The Thank Your Project Grateful for Water Walk Support

The Thank You Project would like to sincerely express our gratitude and appreciation to First Church Nashua for your support and participation at our Water Walk held on September 18, 2021. We have raised a total of $15,041.00, Praise God! The donations that have humbled us are as follows:

- $2,000.00 anonymous donation from a friend and brother from First Church to pay for a full scholarship for our law student in Nigeria this year;
- $5,000.00 anonymous matching donation from a friend in Nashua. We are overwhelmed with joy by the goodwill and generosity of everyone.

We still need $15,000.00 to complete our 4th Water Borehole in Achi (Ijeoma's village) and present it to our folks as a Christmas present this year, 2021!

Please keep us in your prayers and help us to spread the word about the vision and mission of Thank You Project to bless others with our blessings in this great country.
www.thankyouprpject.org/donate/

Thank you All! May God's blessings continue to be upon us all as we work together to fulfill His divine will and purpose for humanity.

Blessings!
Charles Okorie

Holiday Fair Proceeds to Help Mission Trip

A big thank you to all who participated in the Holiday Fair this year: those who created crafts, baked desserts, purchased items, donated items, made lunch, those who called volunteers or volunteered at the fair, etc.

It is a big task requiring many volunteers and volunteer hours throughout the year. Beth Bartlett and Carol Decker are retiring as Bake Sale chairs after decades of volunteering. Please thank them for all their expertise, leadership and donations if you see them. Also, please thank Susie Boyd for all her efforts for the wonderful luncheon she cooked for and coordinated.

Thus far fair proceeds are over $9,000 including the auction proceeds. Many thanks to Rebecca Small for leading the entire auction online the past two years, (and in-person 3 years ago) and all who donate to it. We have a generous, great congregation.

All proceeds are going to the Dominican Republic Mission trip in February, 2022. Ask Rev. Andy why this is so needed and appreciated in that area of the country.

We want to extend our thanks for the wonderful outpouring of sympathy and love on the death of our dear brother Jim.

Words cannot express how much it means to be in a loving, caring community. We are truly blessed to have this caring family of faith!

We are uplifted by your care and concern, making a difficult time so much easier.

God Bless You All,
Jan Hanks, Donna Trout
and Bill Thorp

Aging Ain't for Sissies!

People get old, people get ill, bodies change... That's a quote from an article recently given to me by one of our parishioners. It's from the The Senior Beacon, a monthly newspaper that focusses on people 50 years of age and older. The October 2021 article, written by Robyn Justo, is entitled *Wrong to Bare Arms*. It's a well written piece about a woman's aging body and how—historically—society has criticized its changes. The rest of that quote says (bodies change) *and in case you don't remember, they also decay and drop off. They are temporary. As women we are constantly judged and criticized about the way that we look as our bodies shift and change*. As they say, "Aging is not for sissies." I wonder if that means females need to be tougher in some ways?

So it's happening, whether we like it or not. We are all aging, female and male alike. **Baby Boomers** (born 1946-1964); **Gen X'ers** (born 1965-1980); **Millennials** (born 1980-1995); and the newest named group, **Gen Z's,** born 1996-2010. We all experience aging and in our own personal ways. In other words, aging is inevitable for all human beings, yes. But how "quickly" we age is dependent on various factors like genetic conditions. Think arthritis or heart disease. We also age more quickly if we smoke cigarettes or drink too much alcohol and/or, over time, morph into a couch potato. So life choices make a big difference in how long we live. Then, of course, there is cancer and other illnesses of which environmental pollution is one kind of culprit. Our food choices make a big impact too. In short, we all have skin in the game of how we age.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why I find biblical literature so hopeful. AKA, resurrection. We have these corporeal bodies now but we'll have different bodies once we get to heaven. BTW, even smokers and drinkers get into heaven.

Paul says to the believers in Corinth, *There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body there is also a spiritual body* (1 Corinthians 15: 40-45.)

Robyn Justo's article is worth a read, whether you're female or male or whether you are a Millennial, Gen X or Gen Z person. As my husband says, aging is coming to your favorite theatre soon. Jonathan also says, "Nobody gets out alive!" It's true, we will all die one day. But our hope and trust is that we will be made new…that we will live in a spiritual body after our earthly body decays and drops off. In the meantime, it behooves us all to reshape our critical thoughts about the reflections of aging we see before us. As Robyn Justo says, *The kinder we are here, the easier it will be for us to look at ourselves when the mirror is held up to us*. Amen sister!

Rev. Jami

A Squirrel Got into, and Out of, First Church!

Ray Stevens singing *Mississippi Squirrel Revival*

By now many of you are aware of the fiasco that happened the end of September when a gray squirrel got into the church. And for those of you who are unware, you'll want to be in the know so 1) you will have a good story to retell and 2) you'll be alert to not leaving church doors opened or ajar. I can testify these gray squirrels are itching to get inside our church too because I pass by these bold critters munching on red dogwood fruits in our Courtyard just about every time I come to work.

Snippets (a little altered) from Bill McIntyre's Oct. 1st email to the Deacons…Last Saturday, as I was preparing for a baptism, I saw a squirrel sprinting down the Link corridor heading for the sanctuary. Joe O was practicing at that time so we both made moves to catch it. I raced home for a Have-a-Heart trap and, amazingly, Joe managed to corner the little bugger into the Ladies Parlor, closing all its surrounding doors. We put the trap out and waited several hours but no catch. That's when we learned the squirrel had been hiding behind the radiator. Immediately we got Steve Buck and Mike Martinez in on things and a guy from pest control came within minutes. The problem was that squirrel wouldn't budge and getting to it was all but impossible. Boy was it noisy! When it finally got scared enough to vacate its hiding place it went straight up a stained glass window, promptly fell to the floor, then ran behind the radiator again. That's when we decided to set-up card tables in a configuration that would lead the squirrel to an opened window in Fellowship Hall. But it ran right pasted the window and into the sanctuary again! It ran up into the balcony and came down the stairs by the Bride's Room… right past an opened door. Not the brightest of God's creatures. Finally, at 6:30PM we determined the little guy (girl?) made it out. Later Steve found how it had already chewed at the windows. I shared this story with Joe Glajch who told me to watch the You Tube song of country singer Ray Stevens called the *Mississippi Squirrel Revival*. It's truly a hysterical rendition of a similar problem. Don't miss it.

Moral of the story? Keep the church doors closed!

(: Rev. Jami

Nashua Community Music School to hold Open House for First Church

The Nashua Community Music School extends a warm invitation to the members of First Church to "Meet The Music School" on Sunday, November 21st following the 10:00 AM service. Live music by our faculty jazz trio and light refreshments will set the stage for small group tours and a casual meet and greet with the staff. See how the former Title I preschool has transformed into a bright, inspiring space where people can come together to make beautiful music. All ages are welcome!

Music & Choirs in Worship

November 2021

Sunday November 7
24th Sunday after Pentecost
8:30 & 10:00
Chancel Choir

Sunday November 14
25th Sunday after Pentecost
8:30
Joseph R. Olefirowicz, baritone
10:00
Chancel Choir

Sunday November 21
Reign of Christ
8:30
Decibells
10:00
First Folk & Decibells

Sunday November 28
First Sunday of Advent
8:30 & 10:00
Julianne Gearhart, soprano

Church Welcomes New Members

On Sunday, October 17 three new members joined the church:

DEBORAH BATCHELDER

Deb graduated from Redding High School in MA. She went to University of Southern Maine, majoring in social science. She taught for one year and then adjusted to another career path in computer technology.

Deborah has a daughter, May, and two grandchildren. Deb lives in Nashua and when asked about her hobbies, without hesitation she said her two grandchildren! Deb also

Continued on page 6 (new members)

New Members (continued from page 5)

loves to travel, participate in book clubs, do birding at national parks and, especially, loves her family time.
She concluded with – she hopes to meet more cribbage players!

SANDRA FONTES
Sandra grew up in Nashua and graduated from Nashua High School. She proceeded to graduate from Castle College with an associates degree and then went on to get her BA from Springfield College in MA. Her MS is from Rivier and works as a therapist in mental health. She works at the Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester 4 days a week, and then, on Fridays she works at Lamora Counseling. She loves to spend time with her children and quite considers that her major hobby. Sandra has 3 children ages 24, 22 and 18. They live in the same house in which her grandmother was raised! She loves to walk in nature and also enjoys traveling.

TIMOTHY FONTES
Tim grew up in Chelmsford, MA and graduated from Lowell High School. He then spent time in Arizona studying Automotive Technology at UTI (Universal Technology Tech). Afterwards he moved to Nashua for 5 years and then moved to Merrimack for 10 years, finally moving back to Chelmsford to a family home. On this property he runs a farm stand that has been in his family for decades. He grows and sells vegetables. He is the manager for an automotive diagnostic company. He has two daughters, the one who is 22 is in the Navy and Aiva, who accompanied him as he joined on Sunday. He and Sandra were married this past summer at The First Church. Although he grew up Catholic, he loves First Church!! His hobbies include gardening, playing the guitar and traveling.

Outreach Focus of the Month

Front Door Agency

Thank you for supporting the Front Door Agency!
The Front Door Agency helps individuals and families avoid or overcome homelessness in Greater Nashua. Through our four core programs (Housing Stability, Transformational Housing, Financial Literacy, and our Holiday Program) we invest in those who need assistance with basic needs by providing direction and educational opportunities as they transition from crisis to self-sufficiency. Visit www.frontdooragency.org/about to learn more about their mission.
Who does your support help? Visit www.frontdooragency.org/about/success-stories to read about families served.

Donations Needed
The Norwell Home houses up to eight single mothers and their children in our Transformational Housing Program. Many families arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs. We rely on generous community members to help provide basic necessities to these families as they overcome crisis situations and build a better future for themselves.
The agency is currently in need of the following items:

- Diapers (size 4, 5 & 6)
- Boys pullups
- Baby wipes
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Clorox wipes
- General cleaning supplies

If you can help, please bring the items into First Church. A collection bin will be placed at the Welcome Center during the month of November.

Save-the-Date
Please save the date for the 34th Annual Gourmet Festival & Auction! The event is scheduled for Sunday, March 20, 2022. While we moved the event online for the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we're hopeful that we can return to our usual in-person event in 2022. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we hope to see you there! Stay tuned for more information. If you have an auction item you're able to donate, please email Sheree at ssevigny@frontdooragency.org.

Get Involved
Front Door Agency is so grateful to have the First Church's ongoing support. If you're interested in getting more involved with the Agency, consider the following:
Volunteer! To see what opportunities are currently available, please email Laurie at ascani@frontdooragency.org. **Follow us on social media!** Search for the "Front Door Agency" to find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. This is a great way to keep up with what we're doing in the community, and to help us share our mission with others!

Office Renovation Update
The first floor of the main office on Concord Street was renovated to accommodate Front Door Agency's growing team and to help their staff better serve their clients. The highlight of the renovation is the new reception area, which includes a sunny waiting area for visitors and a new welcome window. Three additional offices were created, an updated heating/cooling system was installed throughout the building, and the bathrooms were updated as well. First Church was happy to contribute $25,000 to this renovation project.

Bible, Friends and Coffee

The study meets on Mondays, at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall through November 15. This year we are going to wrap our hearts and minds around what we are to believe today as Christians in 2021.

The group will take a break for the holidays and will resume in January.

Notes from the Chancel

FRIDAYS AT FIRST ADJUSTS FORMAT

FIRST MUSIC CONCERT SERIES 2021 – 22 SEASON

This season, the 12:15 PM Friday "mini recital" format will move away from only Advent and Lent and be offered as six single free programs on first Fridays of the Month.

The new **FIRST FRIDAYS AT FIRST** will offer the same kind of short organ recitals on the first Fridays from November through April. More information can be found in the accompanying poster found in this Newsletter.

Our first offering is already **NOVEMBER 5 at 12:15 PM,** featuring **SCOTT BERGENDAHL** from *St. Hedwig Parish* in Manchester. Join us for a 30-minute free recital, to recharge your workday or start your weekend with some refreshing music.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

REBECCA CRIVELLO, our new director of Chapel Chimers (Pre-K through Grade 2) and Joyful Noise (Grade 3 through Grade 7) has begun the rehearsal season in Shaw Chapel every Sunday, at 9:15 and 11:20AM respectively. Please consider having your child or youth member of our church community join in this fun and enriching activity, which in turns blesses our worship services with the sounds of young voices.

Children's Choirs

Please contact Rebecca directly at rcrivello@tfcucc.org for more information, or call the Music Office at (603) 882-4861 x15. Rehearsal and worship schedules for both choirs are available online, under MUSIC and then CHOIR SCHEDULES at www.tfcucc.org

FIRST SCHOLA NEEDS SINGERS

Young women in Grades 8 through 12 are encouraged to join our signature treble choir FIRST SCHOLA.

Through graduations of members, and an exponential increase in elementary and middle school sports affecting the feeder choir program matriculating members beyond 2nd through 7th grade Joyful Noise, we need peeps!

The choir meets **Tuesdays at 5:30 PM,** and has a limited worship rotation for this season.

The Schola experience is truly a unique ministry for young women. The peer support and camaraderie is quite special, but it needs members!

Boys with unchanged voices may also join Schola, but we have found this age group to be right on the cusp of their voice change. *(Boys with changed voices are always welcome to consider Chancel Choir.)*

More information about FIRST SCHOLA schedules can be found online. (Under "Music", then "Choir Schedules", then "First Schola"). Contact jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org for more information.

CHOIRS IN PROGRESS

The **CHANCEL CHOIR, DECIBELLS** and **FIRST FOLK**, by now, have all returned to Sunday worship, gracing our services with music to the Glory of God. – If you feel inclined to join any of these adult ensembles (and at the moment are vaccinated) please contact the Music Office (603) 882-4861 X15 for more information about the next starting point for these ensembles.
We are working in a slightly more limited capacity in the vocal choirs at the moment, and with masks *(as are Decibells)* but there is always room in the rehearsals in particular for more folks. Sunday worship is a fluid planning, project to project, to keep spacing needs active for the time being. Rehearsal numbers that reach our reduced capacity for using the Music Room, simply move into the Sanctuary for those calls.

Our safety protocols have kept our Ensembles safe throughout this period, and a combined use of masks, air exchange and air filtration allows us to continue our important work for the worship life of The First Church.

FRIENDS OF FIRST MUSIC

Thank you to ALL THOSE so far who have contributed generously to the **FRIENDS OF FIRST MUSIC** fundraising campaign! There is still time to be counted among those who help us in *Bringing the Joy of Music to the Gate City.* If you wish to support this musical outreach ministry, please contact the Church Office (603) 882-4861 to make a donation.

Giving Levels:
Friends ($1-$99)
Patrons ($100-$249)
Subscribers ($250-$499)
Sponsors ($500-$999)
Benefactors ($1,000 +)

Please include the 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.

Foundations of Christian Formation

Warm November Greetings First Church Family,

As we enter into this time of family and traditions I'd like to take a moment to observe some which may be new to you.

A parishioner recently shared with me that her child experienced fear of being alone-especially at night. What helped was for her to cuddle her child into the covers and pray Jesus into the space surrounding the child with tender love and care and prayers-like a spiritual bubble wrap. Mother and child sang together and said prayers asking for Christ's protection as part of their nightly ritual. The nightly fears went away and the child sleeps easily and without fear.

Another story I heard was of reading the Gospel accounts of the Christmas story Christmas morning first, highlighted as the most precious gift of all. Done with reverence and love this is a rich spiritual opportunity for all the family.

I'd love to hear what your family traditions are supporting Christian nurture. Please send word to lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org.

Peace and Grace,
LeeAnne Steenhoek
Director of Christian Formation

Christian Formation bustles with activity Sunday mornings with enthusiastic students and dynamic and engaging teachers and assistants. Our nursery staff tends our youngest members lavishing them in Christian nurture.

Make a Difference MAD teens followed Jesus in a MEATLOAVES (but no fish) gift of service to Family Promises feeding. They also MADe a Difference by assembling Halloween packages for our college and armed forces young people.

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 10:00AM worship service. Nursery coordinators are on hand to greet parents and explain the procedure for checking in and picking up your child.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Recent Sunday School Events and News

- Confirmands and Mentors met for CROPWALK for world hunger.
- Bibles have been presented to our 3rd and 4th graders.
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsals began Sunday, October 31 and continue each Sunday until our Christmas Pageant on December 12th with Christmas Pageant Director Steve Blunt and voice teacher Becca Crivello. Karen Hayden is our Costume manager.

Come study the Bible with Women's Wisdom and Spirituality.

The study runs September to June on one or two Sundays a month at 11:30 AM in the dining room. We'll learn from conservative feminist biblical scholar Jen Wilkin who approaches the study of God's Word according to women's particular needs and desires. Sprinkled in this study of Wilkin's perspective Rev. Jami will lead teachings and discussions about various women from the Bible like Deborah the prophet and judge in the Old Testament and Priscilla in the New Testament. One thing is certain, there'll be LOTS to talk about! See you there.

Fall Dates:
November 4 & 28
December 12

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 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.

Wednesday Morning Men's Study

The group meets at 8:00 AM in Fellowship Hall through November 17. The group will take a break for the holidays and will resume in January.

November

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship

8:30am In-Person Worship
10:00am In-Person Worship & Livestream
Radio Broadcast

Choirs

SUN: 9:15am- Chapel Chimers, Shaw Chapel
SUN: 11:20am- Joyful Noise, Shaw Chapel
TUE: 5:30pm- First Schola
TUE NOV 9, 16, 23, 30: 6:30 pm- First Folk
WED NOV 3, 10, 17: 6:45pm- Chancel Choir
THU NOV 4 & 18: 7:00pm- Decibells, Balcom Room

Small Groups

MON: 9:30am- Bible, Friends & Coffee, Fellowship Hall
WED NOV 3, 10 & 17: 8:00am- Men's Group, Ladies' Parlor

Other Groups

TUE: 4:00pm- First Church at Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED NOV 3: 7pm- Discussion Series, dining room
SAT: 11:00am- Sisters in Sobriety, dining room

MONTHLY EVENTS

MON NOV 1: 5:30pm- Safe Church, Room 9
7pm- All Boards

WED NOV 3: 12:00pm- Nashua Area Interfaith Council
FRI NOV 5: 2pm- Hunt Community Service
TUE NOV 9: 2:00pm- Visitation Meeting, Room 10

WED NOV 10: 7:00pm- Thank You Project, Room 10
MON NOV 15: 7-8:30 pm- Empty Nest, Nashua Country Club

TUE NOV 16: 4:00pm- Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter

SAT NOV 20: 10:00am- DAR, room 10

TUE NOV 23: 2:00pm- Huntington Service

Bi-Weekly

SUN NOV 14 & 28: 11:30am- Women's Wisdom & Spirituality, dining room

SUN NOV 7 & 21: 11:30am- Confirmation Class, Fireside Room

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRI NOV 5: 12:15 pm – First Fridays @ First Concert

SAT NOV 6: 12:30 – 3:30 pm – High School Organ Tour

SUN NOV 7: 11:30 am-- Confirmands & Mentors Lunch

SUN NOV 7 – NOV 9:- Men's Retreat, Rolling Ridge

SUN NOV 10: 7 pm -- Community Supper Planning, dining room

FRI NOV 12:- United We Sleep, Nashua Community College

SUN NOV 21: 11:30 am - Nashua Community Music School Open House

THU NOV 25: Thanksgiving – Church Office Closed

FRI NOV 26: Church Office Closed

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

Donations Needed - Supplies For Medical Mission

Hygiene Kits (or supplies to make them): soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, washcloth, lotion, comb, Ziploc bags (Enough for 700 people)

Non Prescription Medications (not limited to) - (**priorities in red**)
Pain Relievers for adult, children and infants (Tylenol, Advil, Aleve) (10,000 tabs each)
Vitamins: Adult (10,000tabs), prenatal (1000tabs)
children's (not gummy or gum ball) (10,000 tabs), infant drops (50)
Triple Antibiotic Ointment (200 tubes)
Allergy medicines for adults & children (Benadryl, Zyrtec, Claritin) (1000 tabs each)
Tums (for stomach pain, heartburn, and as calcium supplements) (10,000 tabs)
Vaginal Cream:
> Antifungal cream (clotrimzole, miconazole & lotrisone) topical & vaginal(1000 tubes)
> Hydrocortizone cream (100 tubes)
Multi Symptom Cough medicine (20 bottles)
Bacitracin (20 tubes)
Asprin 81 and 325 mg (1000 each)
Benadryl cream (100 tubes)
A & D ointment (10 tubes)
Vaseline (to make topical medications and dry skin) (10 pounds)
Laxatives (fiber supplements 2-3 tubs, colace (500 tabs), and dulcalax (100 tabs) Immodium (very small amount) (100 tabs)
Pedialyte powder (if possible)
Infant formula (to treat malnutrition) (10 cans of powder)
Condoms As many as possible (trash bags full!!)
Saline drops for eyes and stuffy noses (50-100 pks)
Maalox or Mylanta liquid (5 bottles)
Used Glasses and sunglasses of all strengths!! (eye exams are done in clinics)

Supplies for clinics: Pens (50 or more), paper, computer labels, Sharpies (20 each) (Black, Red, Green and Blue), ziploc bags we use thousands (all sizes), trash bags, paper bags (300), paper towels, hand sanitizer, gloves (non latex exam gloves), tongue depressors, 4x4 gauze, 2x2 gauze, kling, coban, ace bandages, bandaids, diabetic testing supplies, urine dipsticks (200), wet ones, alcohol, peroxide, saline wound wash, betadine scrub, pregnancy tests (200), Beanie Babies & Knitted Dolls.

School Supplies: Single subject notebooks, theme books, paper, pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, markers, rulers, erasers, pencil sharpeners (not electric or battery operated), glue sticks, books in Spanish, solar calculators

Craft Supplies: markers, crayons, colored sheets of foam, beads, embroidery floss, pens, pencils, paper, coloring books, bubbles, kites, sports equipment

Lightweight summer clothes and shoes always needed

Soccer Balls & air pumps, tennis balls, baseballs

Tools - pencils, utility knife, measuring tape, vice grips, screw gun etc.

First Church, United Church of Christ
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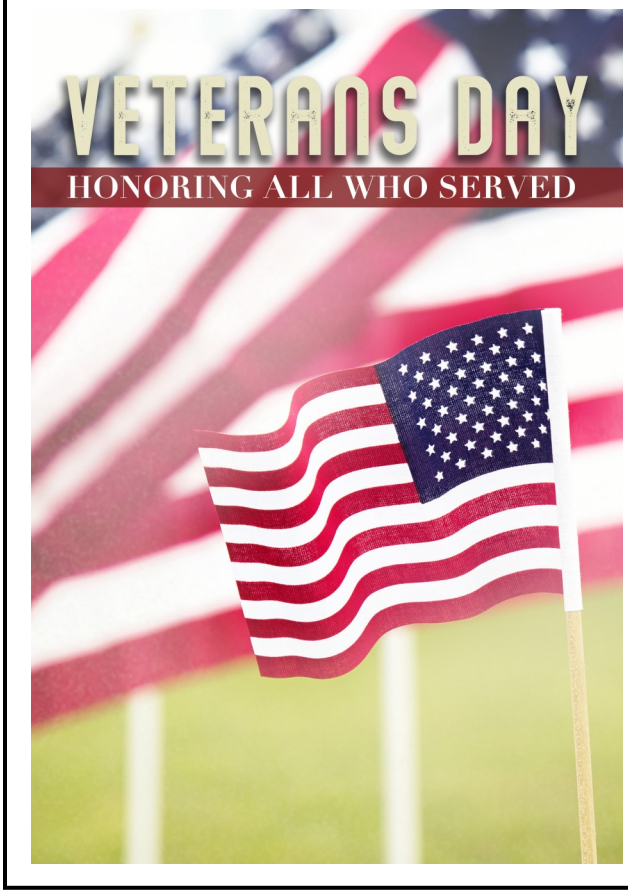

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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON NOVEMBER 7, 2021.

Happy Thanksgiving!