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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022 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.

TOWER CHIMES (10:00) Dale Neth

MEDITATION "The first duty of love is to listen." – Paul Tillich

PRELUDE *Psalm Preludes, Book 1 - Op. 32* H. Howells

iii. **Prelude on Psalm 23:4** *(1892 – 1983)*

Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

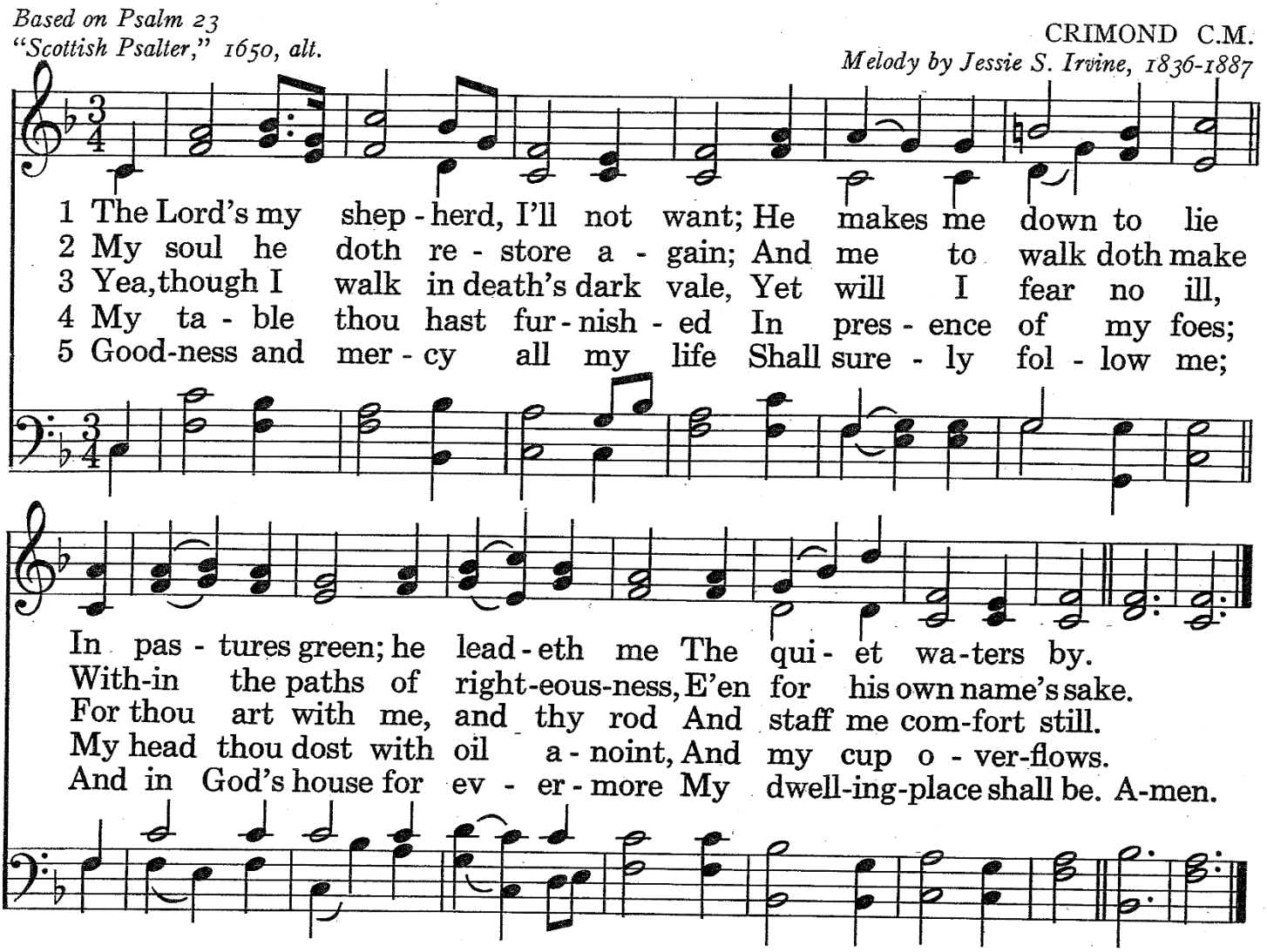
INTROITUS *B-I-B-L-E* Unknown

(10:00) **CHAPEL CHIMERS**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: God's wonderful works offer endless glory: Bright stars, high mountains, the depths of the seas, sources of rushing rivers;
People: All these break into song as we sing our praises to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Leader: May all the angels in the heavens reply Amen! Amen! Amen!
People: Power, praise, honor, eternal glory to God, the only giver of grace.
All: Amen and Amen!

***HYMN #84** *The Lord's My Shepherd*



***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Loving Shepherd, You know our names; You care for us. When we face darkness and death, walk beside us. When we hunger for Your love, fill us with Your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at Your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen

GREETINGS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:00)

CELEBRATION OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS (10:00)

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING **2 Samuel 15:24-33**

Abiathar came up, and Zadok also, with all the Levites, carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set down the ark of God, until the people had all passed out of the city. Then the king said to Zadok, “Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, he will bring me back and let me see both it and the place where it stays. But if he says, ‘I take no pleasure in you,’ here I am, let him do to me what seems good to him.” The king also said to the priest Zadok, “Look, go back to the city in peace, you and Abiathar, with your two sons, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan son of Abiathar. See, I will wait at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me.” So Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem, and they remained there. But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, with his head covered and walking barefoot; and all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went.

David was told that Ahithophel was among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, “O Lord, I pray you, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.” When David came to the summit, where God was worshiped, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn and earth on his head. David said to him, “If you go on with me, you will be a burden to me.

John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

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

SOLO *Teach Me Your Way* T. Shaw
(10:00) **ALAINA SMALL, treble** *(*1976)*

SERMON “Listening to Your Life” Rev. Andrew Armstrong

***HYMN #333** *Father Almighty, Bless Us With Thy Blessing*
(10:00)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

***RESPONSIVE READING** **Psalm 23**

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
People: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
Leader: He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
People: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.
Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

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 *Ave Maria* F. Schubert
NICOLE PLUMMER, mezzo soprano *(1797 – 1828)*

***DOXOLOGY #515** OLD HUNDRETH L.M.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

God of love, You abide with us; You provide for all our needs and guide us in Your ways. Out of gratitude for Your care, we bring our gifts before You. Use them for Your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.

***HYMN** *Because He Lives*

Because I live, ye shall live also. — John 14:19

RESURRECTION

Gloria Gaither
William J. Gaither

William J. Gaither
Final chorus arranged by Ronn Huff

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***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE *Nine Hymn Preludes* G. Young
viii. Partita on CRIMOND *(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
CHAPEL CHIMERS & JOYFUL NOISE: Rebecca Crivello, director
COVER ART: ChurchArt Online
DEACON OF THE DAY: Andy Dillman
HYMN SOURCES: Pilgrim Hymnal, Hymns for the Family of God
LICENSING: CCLI #3034682

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

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PLEASE USE THE VARIOUS 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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Happy Mother's Day!

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Women's Wisdom and Spirituality will meet today at 11:30 AM in **room 15**.

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Bible, Friends, and Coffee meets on Mondays at 9:30 AM in the parlor.

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Join Rev. Nancy at Riverwalk Café, on Tuesdays from 2:00 until 3:00 PM for coffee and conversation. Sign-up is not necessary.

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Preventing Alzheimer's Disease: Yes, you can! Rev. Jami and Jocelyn Henning are hosting six video sessions about the science of preventing Alzheimer's. Rev. Jami will facilitate sessions on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30-4:00 PM on May 10, 17, 24, 31 and June 7. Jocelyn will facilitate the same sessions on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM on May 12, 19, 26, June 2 and 9. Sessions will be held in the dining room, with a couple of exceptions. Come learn about this epidemic and what you can do to avert it.

Celebrating our Graduates - Is there a college graduate or a graduate with an advanced degree in your family this year? Please send their information to Sue in the church office, **by Monday, May 9**, so they can be included in the June newsletter.

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The June newsletter deadline is Monday, May 9. Please send your articles to Sue in the church office.

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Thank you to the clean-up crew who worked on the church grounds this past Saturday: Bill McIntyre, Jon Okonak, Bill Thompson, Grant Small, Lee Hauenstein, Paul Okonak, Andy Dillman, Curt Potter, Garrett Small, Doug Brenner, Don Shippey, Samantha Brenner, Marja Kupianen, Joe Glajch, Jonathan Bianchi, Bob Bianchi and Margaret Brenner. Everything looks great! Your efforts are appreciated.

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Tower to Tower Presentation - Join Rev. Andy on Monday, **May 9 at 7:00 PM** for a presentation on his "historical" bike ride from one Nashua to another. Along with fascinating stories, he'll have his bicycle, gear and maps and introduce us to self-contained cycling. Snacks and beverages provided. Please sign up at the welcome center or by calling the church office. Feel free to invite your friends.

The purpose of Rev. Andy's ride from Nashua, Iowa to Nashua, NH is to raise awareness of The First Church Nashua's profound history and raise $75,000 for our tower renovations. Nashua's Goodale's Bike Shop will support Rev. Andy's cycling needs on this week's long trip. To make a donation go to:
https://www.gofundme.com/f/tower-to-tower-historical-ride/donate

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Women's Association Lunch Outing - All women of the church are invited to join the Women's Association at 110 Grill, 27 Trafalgar Square in Nashua for lunch on **May 14 at 11:30 AM**. Meet at the church at 11:00 if you would like to carpool. Otherwise, meet at the restaurant at 11:30. Sign up at the welcome center.
Contact Bea Dillaby or Carol Butler with any questions.

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New Member Orientation: Sunday, May 15, 11:30 AM – For those wishing to learn more about The First Church and become members of our faith community, please join us for an orientation and informational meeting in room 15 in the Walker Building. Contact the church office to register or for more information.

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The First Church Choral Union, a massed choir of all of our main vocal ensembles from grade 8 through adult, will gather to support the Rite of Confirmation on June 5, 2022. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, **May 18 at 6:45 PM.** If you are interested in joining this seasonal choir, please contact Joseph Olefirowicz.

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The Holiday Fair Craft Group will meet on **May 18, at 4:30 PM** in the dining room. If you would like to participate in the crafting or have ideas to share, please contact Jocelyn Henning or Sandy Gribbin. Save the dates for the fair: November 4-6, 2022.

Movie Night at First Church - Friday May 20, 2022 – 7:00 PM - Dining Room
We'll be showing a 2010 American romantic movie drama, starring Julia Roberts as Elizabeth Gilbert and based on Gilbert's 2006 memoir of the same name. Because of copyright laws, we can't share the title of the movie. Contact the church office. Come relax, socialize, eat popcorn and get inspired. We're sure to have a good time.

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Ukraine Assistance – Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. Donate at https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal or mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section.

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First Church Thrift Shop Hours: Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM **through May 26.** They are still accepting donations of *SPRING & SUMMER CLOTHING:* 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 the church office with any questions.

Christian Formation Corner

Nursery Care is available for our youngest members (infants through age 2) during the 10:00 AM worship service. The Nursery opens at 9:45 and Nursery Coordinators are on hand to greet parents and explain the procedure for checking in and picking up your child.

In the Sunday School this month:

- Pre-K - Grade 2 is learning the Liturgy of Light, Fruits of the Spirit and Pentecost in Sunday school
- Grades 3-6 are learning about Paul and his journey and letters to his churches

High School Senior Recognition is today. A breakfast was held this morning and recognition will take place for our High School graduating Seniors and their families during the 10:00 worship service.

The Confirmation Retreat is being held on **Saturday May 14 from 12-4 PM** in rooms 13, 14 and 15. The confirmands will create their class Statement of Faith and go over the vows for Confirmation and becoming members of The First Church.

Senior High School Youth group meets on Sunday, May 15 in the Fireside Room.

Activity Packets – Your children should have received the Jesus and the Children Activity Packets by now. Included in the packet is a link to a video of Stacey Plummer reading the Bible Story and to a singalong with Steve Blunt. The Christian Formation Board hopes that parents will encourage and support their children as they read the story and do the activities.

Children's Day is June 12th. Our youth and children will lead worship. Please stay with us afterwards for food, fun and music at our Christian Formation Cookout.

Vacation Bible School - Big Dreams, Dream Big - July 18-22, 2022 - What are you dreaming about? People dream Big Dreams in the Bible and we have Big Dreams for today. Come vision and dream as we explore the wonder in Creation and the Word as we sing, craft, worship, play and tell stories in VBS at First Church Please reach out to LeeAnne, lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org, if you would like to volunteer. Register your child today: https://tfcucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/sunday-school-registration-fillable-2021.pdf . Use the Sunday School Registration form and forward to LeeAnne with Vacation Bible School in the subject line.

Horton Center Family Weekend: August 26-28 - Save the date! God's children of all ages are welcome! Some of our tightest bonds of Christian Fellowship are formed in outdoor ministry. For more information contact LeeAnne at lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org.

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This Week at First Church

SUN MAY 8	8:30am	In-Person Worship
	9:15am	Chapel Chimers, Shaw Chapel
	10:00am	In-Person Worship & Livestream, Radio Broadcast
	11:20am	Joyful Noise, Shaw Chapel
	11:30am	Women's Wisdom and Spirituality, room 15
MON MAY 9	9:30am	Bible, Friends & Coffee, parlor
	7:00pm	Tower to Tower Presentation, dining room
TUE MAY 10	10:00am	Staff Meeting
	2:30pm	Alzheimer's Session, dining room
	6:00pm	First Folk
	7:00pm	Thank You Project, room 10
WED MAY 11	6:45pm	Chancel Choir
THU MAY 12	10-2pm	Thrift Shop
	6:30pm	Quilt Guild, dining room
	6:30pm	Alzheimer's Session, room 15
	7:00pm	Decibells
FRI MAY 13	7:00pm	Movie Night, dining room
SAT MAY 14	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room
	11:30am	Women's Association Luncheon, 110 Grill, Nashua
	12-4pm	Confirmation Class Retreat, rooms 13, 14, 15

FIRST MUSIC

FM

CONCERT SERIES 2021 – 22 SEASON

SEASON XIV
STAYING ALIVE!

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

JAZZ MASTERS

THE NEBULA PROJECT
BEN ROSENBLUM SEXTET

SUNDAY MAY 15

FREE ADMISSION

ALL ARE WELCOME

3:00 PM

THE FIRST CHURCH

1 CONCORD STREET • NASHUA, NH

FIRST-MUSIC.ORG • 603.882.4861

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. Nancy Haynes*, nhaynes@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 with us 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 nametags; 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.

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.

<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 * 603-882-4861
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-noon and 1:00-4:00pm
Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org

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