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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2022 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 CHIMES Jim Stone

MEDITATION "Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one's heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak with him, whether the heart is full or empty**."** Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE Préambule *from 24 Pièces en style libre, Op. 31, No. 1*
Louis Vierne
(1870 - 1937)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is by God's grace that we gather for worship.
People: And it is by God's grace that our lives are changed.
Leader: Whatever we ask, God hears our prayers.
People: If we ask, it will be given to us. If we seek, we will find. If we knock, the door will be open.
Leader: We are counting on the active and amazing grace of God today.
People: By your Holy Spirit, enliven our worship and our lives.
Leader: For everyone who asks receives, and whoever seeks finds.
People: For this, we give You thanks and praise.

***HYMN #335** *What A Friend We Have in Jesus* (next page) ERIE

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

God, we know You will come to us and give us what is good. Let Your glory till the landscape of our hearts so that it will yield an increase of love for You. Speak peace to us, Your faithful, and to all who yearn for You. Help us to be willing to do as You ask, that we may rejoice to be children of the living God. For we know that as we ask, it will be given and as we knock, the door will be opened to us. Come, bring Your goodness to us Your children. Amen.

GREETINGS

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph Scriven, 1819-1886

ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.
Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 11: 1-13**

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.” And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

SOLO *Wait on the Lord* W.A. Mozart
CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor *(1756 - 1791)*

SERMON “Teach Us to Pray” Rev. Nancy Haynes

*HYMN *Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire*

Luke 11:1; Rom. 8:26–28 *James Montgomery, 1818; alt.*

1 Prayer is the soul's sin-cere de-sire,
ut-tered or un-ex-pressed;
The mo-tion of a hid-den fire
that trem-bles in the breast.

2 Prayer is the sim-plest form of speech
that in-fant lips can try;
Prayer, the sub-lim-est strains that reach
the Maj-es-ty so nigh.

3 Prayer is the con-trite sin-ner's voice,
turn-ing from thought-less ways,
While an-gels in their songs re-joice
and cry, "Be-hold, one prays!"

4 No prayers do hu-mans make a-lone;
the Ho-ly Spir-it pleads,
And Je-sus on the e-ter-nal throne
for sin-ners in-ter-cedes.

5 O Christ, by whom we come to God,
the Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer you too have trod:
Christ, teach us how to pray.

This hymn by Moravian journalist and hymnwriter James Montgomery was written for Edward Bickersteth's Treatise on Prayer *to answer the question, "What is prayer?" The hymn closes with the disciples' request of Jesus, "Teach us to pray."*

Tune: ST. AGNES C.M.
John B. Dykes, 1866

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: Why does Jesus want us to pray the Lord's Prayer persistently?

People: Because prayer helps us to remember who God is and that God loves us.

Leader: Lord, teach us how to pray so that we can ease our hearts and lift up our sisters and brothers.

People: In prayer, begin with our Father, may Your name be revered as holy, hallowed be Your name. This is a reflection that God loves us now and for eternity.

Leader: Recall that bread is the substance of life.

People: The daily substance of life enables us to be good disciples so that we can serve others.

Leader: God's forgiveness is God's grace offered to all who seek God's forgiveness and mercy.

People: God will forgive us for all the times in which we have failed to do God's will, in which we have hurt someone.

Leader: Give us the strength and kindness to forgive everyone indebted to us.

People: Imprint Your love on our hearts, O, Lord so we may be more loving to others.

ALL: We owe our lives to God and in gratitude we lift our voices in praise and prayer.

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 *Come Unto Me* Alessandro Scartlatti
(1660-1725)

***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)

Our Father who art in Heaven, You nourish our famished souls by listening to our humble prayers. We come asking, seeking, and knocking with the full knowledge that You are ready to respond to our supplications. You deliver us from evil by nourishing our hearts with forgiveness and our minds with understanding. You prepare a heavenly table for all who believe in the mighty acts of Your Holy Son. Bless these gifts so that Your children will feast at the banquet which awaits in Your eternal home. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #58** *God That Madest Earth and Heaven*

St. 1, Reginald Heber, 1783-1826
St. 2, Frederick L. Hosmer, 1840-1929

AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.
Traditional Welsh Melody

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Carillon sur la sonnerie du Carillon de la chapelle du Château de Longpont* *Op 31, No. 21* Vierne

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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AV TEAM CAMERA CREW: Doug Brenner, Joe Glajch, Lee Hauenstein, Craig Neth, Don Smith-Weiss and Dennis Webster

COVER ART: Praying Hands, or Study of the Hands of an Apostle, Albrecht Dürer, (1471-1528), https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=20220718174481201&code=ACT&RC=56999&Row=5

DEACON OF THE DAY: Bev Belus

LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284

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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?

Summer Worship Schedule through September 4, 2022
One Service at 9:00 AM: In person Worship & Livestream
The nursery is closed during the summer months.

Summer Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 9:00 AM-Noon and 12:30-3:30 PM
Closed on Sunday

Christian Formation News

Summer Childcare – The nursery is closed for the summer. Please join us for our 9:00 AM worship service.

Summer Worship for Families - Worship bags containing activities and a children's bulletin are available at the welcome center for children to enjoy while in the sanctuary with their family.

Dream Jars - Create a Dream Jar for yourself and your family.
What is a Dream Jar? A Dream Jar is a jar (try a cookie jar or mason jar) filled with possibilities made by you, for yourself and your family. Directions are available at the welcome center and at the Christian Formation table in Fellowship Hall.

Include your favorite things to make, do and share together with God. Write them on pieces of paper and put them in the jar. You may decorate the jar, too. The jar pictured below was decorated with with Wikki Stix.
Please send pictures of your adventures in an email to lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org. I'm looking forward to First Family Dream Jar Adventures!!!

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Radio Broadcast – It was brought to our attention that the radio broadcast is not available at noon on Sunday. We are working to resolve the issue and we will let you know when it is available. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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First Church Cyclists – Join the group for fun, fresh air, fellowship and ice cream. New cyclists are always welcome. The next ride is **today** on the Nashua Rail Trail, Gilson Rd. at Countryside Dr., Nashua. Find a complete schedule in this bulletin, on the website, posted on various bulletin boards around the church and in the June newsletter. Contact Ray Baldwin with any questions. His contact information is in the church directory or you may call the church office.

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Backpack Program – Thank you to those of you who made donations for backpack supplies for the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter's annual backpack program. It's not too late to make a monetary donation. Send in a check to the church office with "NSKS Backpacks" in the memo line. Members of the Board of Christian Outreach will be stuffing the backpacks on **Thursday, August 4th at 6:00 PM**. If you would like to help, contact Jocelyn Henning. Thanks for your ongoing support of the NSKS!

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Horton Center Family Weekend: August 26-28 - Register today! Have you worshiped on Chapel Rock or caught a falling star on Pinkham Ledge? God's children of all ages are welcome! Some of our tightest bonds of Christian Fellowship are formed in outdoor ministry. Creation is God's first Bible- let's explore together. Hiking, campfire story telling and singing are all punctuated by guided devotion opportunities and Sunday morning worship with Communion. Cost is $75/per person for food and rustic lodging with a cap of $200 per family. Scholarships are available. Sign up at the welcome center or contact LeeAnne at lsteenhoek@tfcucc.org.

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The weekly e-News is on break for the summer. Access livestream and worship details on the worship page on our website or go directly to our YouTube channel.

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Tower Work - Viking Roofing recently replaced 60 failing or broken slates on the tower roof. See pictures on Facebook or on our website to get an idea of the massive size of the crane they used to reach the top of the tower. We are also planning on lighting up the inside of the tower windows. How great will it be to see the tower lighted up from the inside all night long!

Tower to Tower Bike Ride and Fundraising – It is not too late to participate in the fund raising to finish the restoration work! We are very grateful for your participation. To make a donation to the tower fund, go to: https://www.gofundme.com/f/tower-to-tower-historical-ride/donate
Another way to support Rev. Andy is to join the "Dollar Per Mile Club".

- Any amount per mile
- Dollar per mile each day
- Dollar per mile for the week
- Dollar per mile for the entire trip

Mileage is available on the website.
Nashua's Goodale's Bike Shop supported Rev. Andy's cycling needs on his trip.

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Note of Thanks - On behalf of the parents and little ones of the Adult Learning Center's Early Childhood Adventures Program, a huge thank you to Gale Cummings, her adorable granddaughter, Vera, and Beth Bartlett for bringing us oodles of gently used children's clothing. These items were very much appreciated and will be well used by our infants right up to our 5 year olds. With inflation at an all-time high, and so many of our young parents struggling to make ends meet, this gift of clothing is so helpful to them. Thank you so much for your support! *Carol Baldwin, Director*

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News from Family Promise - During the last two months we had 9 families graduate from our program. Although we will miss them dearly, it is now their time to shine. Our doorstep was a temporary steppingstone on their way to a successful future.
To have graduated means that parents put in the hard work required to elevate their education and/or careers to a level that offers a sustaining income. They also saved 70% of their income while here and now have a substantial savings account as well as an emergency savings account. It means that they have months of financial literacy and parenting classes under their belt and have done exceptionally well in both. It means they have a powerful credit score, a reliable vehicle, stable employment and residency history, and are looked at favorably by landlords and mortgage lenders.
Please join us in celebrating in our hearts for these families while keeping them in your thoughts and prayers.

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The Holiday Fair Craft Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month through October to prepare for the November Holiday Fair. If you would like to participate in the crafting or have ideas to share, please contact Jocelyn Henning or Sandy Gribbin. The group will meet on **August 17, at 4:00 PM** in the dining room. Save the dates for the fair: November 4-6, 2022.

Silent Auction - Rebecca Small will be organizing the Silent Auction at the Holiday Craft Fair this year. Please reach out to her if you have any handmade items, baskets, gift cards or anything else you'd like to donate. If you'd like to donate an item and need suggestions, please contact Rebecca. Her contact information is in the church directory or you may call the church office.

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"There's No Place Like Home Charity Golf Tournament" 2022 - The First Church is hosting the upcoming Charity Golf Tournament, On Monday October 17 at the Nashua Country Club. This year's tournament benefits Family Promise of Southern NH and the Front Door Agency! See the Tournament Flyer, Facebook Page Event, or the First Church Website event calendar for all the details.

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The First Church Thrift Shop is closed for the season. Thank you for your support this year. Please save your donations until further notice.

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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.

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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 are based on one particular area of Christian concern, and consist of scripture and other helpful quotes on that topic. Help yourself to one or more of the brochures, which are displayed on the windowsill near the Welcome Center.

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

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Prayer Shawl Ministry – 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. This vital ministry is looking for more knitters and crocheters. For more information, speak with Rev. Jami.

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Ukraine Assistance – The United Church of Christ is appealing for support of the folks in the Ukraine. Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need.

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.

This Week at First Church

SUN JUL 24	9:00am	In-Person Worship, Livestream
MON JUL 25	7:00pm	Property Management, dining room
THU JUL 26	6:00pm	Cynthia Covey service, Davis Funeral Home
FRI JUL 29	11:00am	Shawn Greene service, sanctuary
	3:00pm	Organ Rehearsal
SAT JUL 30	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety, dining room

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First Church Cyclists 2022 Schedule
All Rides Begin at 2:00 PM

The mileage column reflects the total miles, out and back, for each trail.
All rides leave from the trailheads. Please RSVP by Saturday evening.
Rain Dates are on the following Sunday.

Sunday, July 24	Nashua River Rail Trail	24 miles	Gilson Rd. at Countryside Drive, Nashua, NH
Sunday, August 7	Common Pathway	13 miles	Peterborough, NH
Sunday, August 21	Clipper City Rail Trail & Harborwalk	11 miles	Newburyport/Rockport line train station
Sunday, September 11	Bruce Freeman Rail Trail	13.6 miles	Cross Point, Chelmsford, MA
Sunday, September 25	Reformatory/Narrow Gauge Trails	14 miles	Depot Park, Bedford, MA
Sunday, October 9	Franconia Notch Recreation Path	17.6 miles	Franconia Notch State Parking Lot

SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE 2022

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 at 9am.

The following individuals and seasonal ensembles will enhance our worship services…

June 19	**MEN'S CHOIR (TTBB)**
June 26	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone**
July 3	**ORGAN SUNDAY**
July 10	**NICOLE PAQUETTE, flute**
July 17	**SUMMER CHOIR (SATB)** *(Rehearsal July 13, 6:45-8pm; come one, come all!)*
July 24	**CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor**
July 31	**DALE NETH, solo handbells**
August 7	**DEBBIE NORDYKE, mezzo soprano** **HARRY NORDYKE, tenor & guitar**
August 14	**RICHARD BENEFIELD, organ**
August 21	**TRUE COLORS QUARTET**
August 28	**WOMEN'S CHOIR (SA)** *(Rehearsal Aug 24, 6:45-8pm; come one, come all!)*
September 4	**MARK A. CLEVELAND, bass-baritone**

THE FIRST CHURCH

STAFF

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@tfcucc.org
Interim Associate Minister, *Rev. Nancy Haynes*, nhaynes@tfcucc.org
Associate Minister for Congregational Care, *Rev. Jami D. Boyle,* jboyle@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.

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

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

One Concord Street * Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 * 603-882-4861
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-noon and 12:30-3:30pm
Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org

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