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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023 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 Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15

PRELUDE *Mariales* N. Hakim

i. Incantation *(Mater amarabilis)* *(*1955)*

ii. Pastorale *(Regina coeli)*

iii. Antienne *(Salve Regina)*

INTROITUS *Jesus Loves Me* W. Bradbury

CHAPEL CHIMERS *(1816 – 1868)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is our salvation, guiding us out of the darkness of the world.

People: Redeeming God, as trees stretch towards the sun, we seek Your healing light.

Leader: God is our salvation, when we hunger for direction and meaning.

People: Sustaining God, as branches bear fruit, Your word feeds our souls.

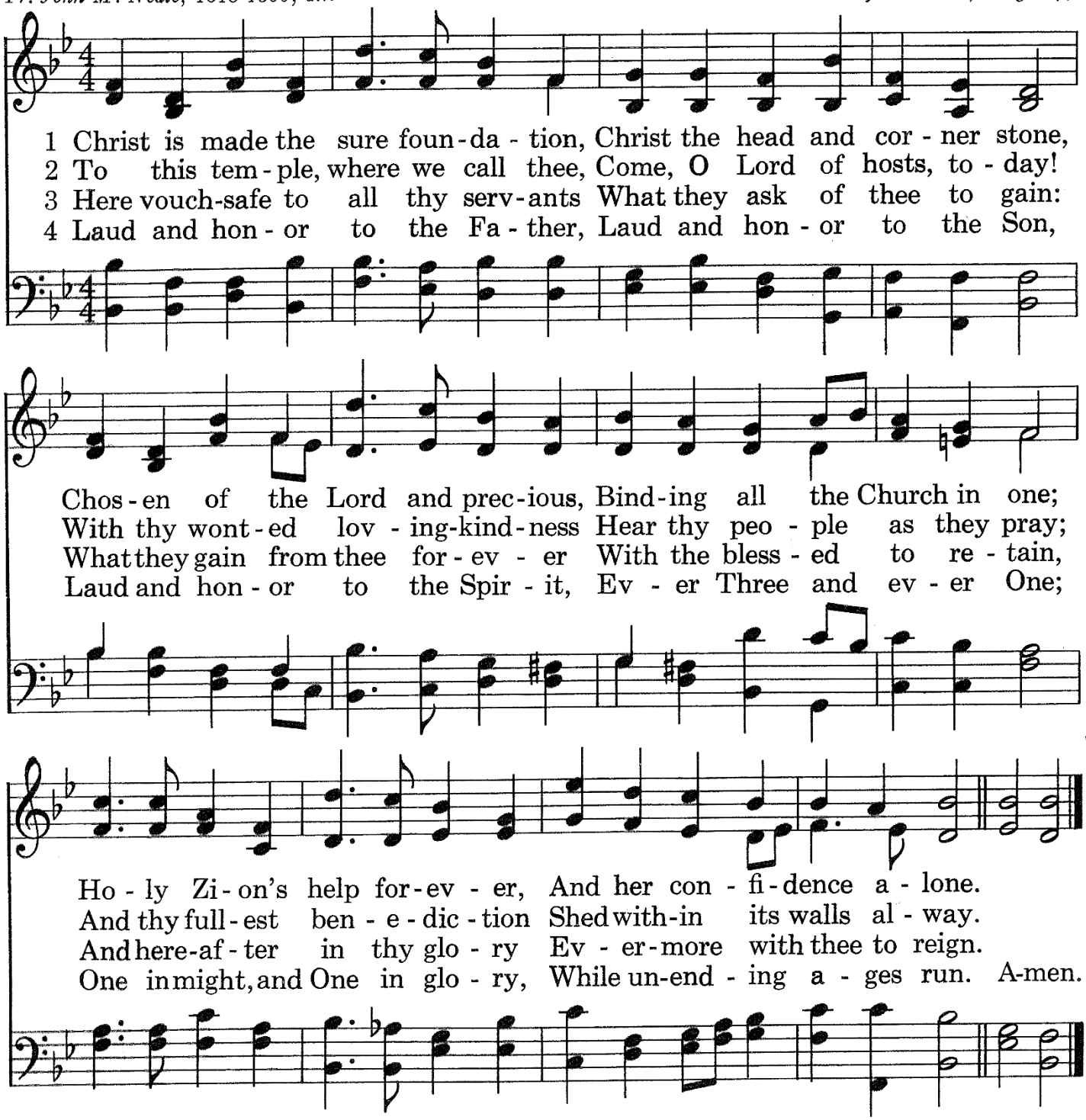
Leader: Come now, put down the burdens of your days. God is our salvation.

People: We rest in the presence of the Lord.

***HYMN #263** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

Latin: 7th century
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879



***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison) [1]

Almighty and Gracious God, throughout history and the wide world You have gathered people around Your Word to instruct and inspire. We give thanks for all who have received Your vision to follow in Your Way. Continue to open that vision to us, that we may become transformed by the renewing of Your Word in our hearts. Enable us to grow in love and understanding for each other. Create in us, O God, clean hearts and minds; Let us join with You in Your suffering and Your triumph. We desire to be Your children and we claim these blessings in Your name. Amen.

GREETINGS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Acts 17:22-31**

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

John 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

VOLUNTARY *They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love* P. Scholtes
(1938 – 2009)
arr. J. F. Wilson

SERMON "Simple, but not Easy" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN #218** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

John E. Bode, 1816-1874

ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.
Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

LITANY (inspired by John 14:15-21)

Leader: Our Holy God watches over us with love and deep compassion.
People: We have not been orphaned.
Leader: Jesus, our brother and the pioneer of our faith, leads us by truth, in word and deed.
People: What a friend we have in Jesus.
Leader: The Holy Spirit, our Advocate, Guide, and constant companion, breathes with us day and night.
People: The indwelling Spirit makes our bodies the Temple of God.
Leader: The Communion of Saints is alive with all the angels in the Presence of God.
People: Their love and prayers remain with us.
Leader: We have not been orphaned.
Together: Thanks be to God.

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 *Her Children Call Her Blessed* D. Barta
A tribute to Mothers based on Proverbs 31 *(*1953)*
ALAINA SMALL, treble

***DOXOLOGY #515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

God of grace, we hear Your call to generous giving in the way You meet our needs each day, and in the peace You give which passes understanding. Having received so much, we offer all we have of our time, talents and money for Your kingdom. Bless these gifts for the work of Your church. Amen.

***HYMN** *Because He Lives*

RESURRECTION

Gloria Gaither
William J. Gaither

William J. Gaither
Final chorus arranged by Ronn Huff

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***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Canzona dopo l'Epistola* G. Frescobaldi
(1583 – 1643)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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[1]by LT Leticia Rouser- www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-9.html
AV TEAM: Lee Hauenstein & Doug Brenner
CHILDREN'S MUSIC COORDINATOR: Rebecca Crivello
COVER ART: Photo by Yousef Espanioly on Unsplash
LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284
SCRIPTURE: NRSV reprinted by permission of the National Council of the Churches of Christ

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The flowers in the pulpit this morning are given
in loving memory of Chuck Hanks, by his family.

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The flowers on table are given in loving memory of Ted,
on his birthday, by Joanne Graves and his children.

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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. YOU MAY ALSO SUBMIT PRAYER CONCERNS ONLINE. FIND THE 'PRAYER REQUEST' BUTTON ON THE WORSHIP PAGE FOR ANY PRAYER CONCERNS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH REV. NANCY.

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Have you remembered First Church in your will?

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Worship Schedule

May 7- June 11, 2023
8:15am: Worship in Shaw Chapel
10:00am: Worship in the Sanctuary, Livestream,
Radio Broadcast on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

June 18 – September 10, 2023
9:00: Worship in the Sanctuary, Livestream
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Christian Formation Corner

Sunday, May 14, 2023 - Today is the Sixth Sunday of Easter and the liturgical color is white.

Nursery Care - Please check in at the welcome center. A nursery volunteer will be at the desk.

Sunday School – During the month of May, the Sunday School students are completing their lessons on the church year and focusing on Pentecost and the season after Pentecost.

Children's Day is June 11. The theme this year is "Kindness". Under the direction of Holly Columbus plans are underway for an exciting worship that will involve the children of all ages. Rebecca Crivello will orchestrate the musical component.

Fill a Wheelbarrow continues through May 28 - The Jr. High students of Make A Difference continue their fund raising project: "Fill a Wheelbarrow" for the Animal Rescue farm Live and Let Live of Chichester, NH. Look for our M.A.D. Wheelbarrow (generously donated) in Fellowship hall. Don't want to shop? Our students are happy to shop for you! Leave monetary donations (marked) in the collection plate or bring them to the church office. Thank you in advance for helping our students learn how to put the Word into action!
Below is the wish list of much needed items:
Paper towels, baby wipes, latex gloves (all sizes), heavy-duty trash bags, bleach

- Black oil sunflower seeds, apple cider vinegar, corn oil, grain store certificates
- A new or used heavy-duty vehicle for towing a large horse trailer
- A large horse or stock trailer
- Metal round pen panels and gates
- Land, old farm or other property for future expansion and pasturing of sanctuary animals
- Tractor/any farm equipment
- Wheelbarrows, shovels, pitchforks
- Pickup truck: must run; doesn't need to be inspected; onsite rescue use only

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

Information Meeting Coming Soon - On June 18 at 10:00 AM (immediately following the 9:00 AM service) there will be a Church-wide information meeting. Members of Prudential, Personnel, and Strategic Planning will be on hand to talk about changes to church staffing and will discuss some of the background that led to recent departures. All are welcome. We know this is Father's Day but due to the very busy schedule within our Church, this was the only day we could do this meeting and, as requested, have it before the summer season. To be sure that the meeting is as useful as possible, please send your questions in advance to Caryl.Sullivan@HPE.com. We request that you sign up at the welcome center so we can set up accordingly**.**

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9:00 AM Small Group Study – "Everything You wanted to know about Heaven but Are Afraid to Ask" - Have you ever wondered: What will we do in Heaven? What is eternity anyhow? Will we have bodies, wear clothes, and eat? What about people who do not believe? What has heaven to do with earth? Join Rev. Andy for a discussion about the destination of our earthly pilgrimage that we know so little about. Bring your questions, curiosity, a cup of coffee (and your sense of humor too.) Please know as in all studies, the relationships that we build are as important as what we learn.

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A cyber-security training seminar is being offered for First Church congregants. Learn about threats to your electronic computers/devices and steps to protect yourselves from electronic attacks and scams. Church staff and committee chairs have already received this valuable training to protect the church and it is now offered to the congregation. Sign up at the welcome center for **Tuesday, May 16, Tuesday, May 30 or Wednesday, June 7** from 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the dining room. Attendance is limited to 20 people for each session. Contact members of the Technology Committee (Joe Glajch, Chris Guild, Craig Neth, Roy Rumbaugh,) with any questions.

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Women's Association Lunch Outing – Join the Women's Association for a lunch outing to the Lobster Boat in Litchfield on Saturday, May 20. Following lunch those who would like to do so will be going to Sunnycrest Farm just up the road. Meet at the church at 11:00 AM to carpool. **Today is the last day to sign up** at the Welcome Center. Contact Carol Butler with any questions.

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2023 Elevator Appeal – Our elevator needs refurbishing and the Prudential Committee has decided to take out a loan in order to address this concern immediately. We are seeking gifts or pledges to help support our church being accessible to everyone. Pledge cards are available at the welcome center or you may donate online. Thank you for your support of this important project.

MEN'S CHOIR, *a TTBB four-part choral ensemble,* will sing at the 9:00 AM worship service on Sunday June 18, Father's Day. The choir will convene at 6:30 PM on five select Tuesdays and Thursdays including: June 1, 6, 8, 13 and a mandatory dress rehearsal on June 15. Participants are asked to make a minimum of 2 rehearsal calls in the first 4 scheduled, and the dress rehearsal. Please contact Joseph at jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org or (603) 882-4861 x15 to sign up. Walk-ins are always welcome, but it is easier to prepare music packets for enough folks ahead of time! Come and join in this long-standing tradition.

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Christmas Fair Craft Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 4:00 PM in the dining room. New crafters are always welcome! Contact Sandy Gribbin with any questions. Join the group this Wednesday, May 17.

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First Church is sponsoring the "No Place Like Home" golf tournament at the Nashua Country Club on August 7, 2023. This is to support our mission to Family Promise, Front Door Agency, and Stepping Stones. For more information, pick up a flyer at the welcome center or contact Margaret Brenner.

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Bible, Friends & Coffee meets on Mondays at 9:30 AM, through May 22, in the Ladies' Parlor.

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Coffee with Rev. Nancy meets on Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 PM, through May 30, at Riverwalk Café.

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Wednesday Morning Men's Study meets at 8:00 AM, through May 17, in the Ladies' Parlor.

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St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic will be at First Church on May 18 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. The clinic offers non-urgent, walk-in nurse visits, including flu and Covid vaccinations. The RV van parks in the lot near the thrift shop and the music school.

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The First Church Thrift Shop is open 10:00 AM-2:00 PM on Thursdays until June 9 and Saturday, June 3. They are accepting *SPRING & SUMMER CLOTHING for* boys' and girls' up to size 14, baby clothes, and women (all sizes), and costume jewelry, pocket books and accessories, small knickknacks. Leave donations - *clean and in good repair* - in the marked bin near the stained glass window in the courtyard lobby. Contact Gale Cummings, Beth Bartlett or the church office with any questions.

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Choirs in Worship Next Week

Sunday, May 21, 2023

8:15 Organ

10:00 Choral Union

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN MAY 14	8:15am	Worship Service (Shaw Chapel)
	10:00am	Worship Service, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
		Sunday School, Child Care
	9:15am	Chapel Chimers
	11:20am	Children's Choir (dining room)
MON MAY 15	9:30am	Bible, Friends & Coffee
	4:00pm	Organ Rehearsal
TUE MAY 16	9:00am	Staff Meeting
	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
	7:00pm	Cyber Security Training (dining room)
WED MAY 17	8:00am	Men's Group (Ladies' Parlor) end
	4:00pm	Craft Group (dining room)
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir/ Choral Union
THU MAY 18	9:00am	St. Joe's Mobile Health Clinic
	10:00am	Thrift Shop
	12:00pm	Chamber of Commerce (dining room)
	7:00pm	Decibells
FRI MAY 19	9:00am	Organ Rehearsal
SAT MAY 20	7:00am	Jubellation
	10:00am	DAR (Ladies Parlor)
	11:00am	SIS (dining room)
	11:30am	Women's Association @ Lobster Boat

THE FIRST CHURCH

STAFF

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@tfcucc.org
Acting Associate Minister, *Rev. Nancy Haynes*, nhaynes@tfcucc.org
Minister of Music, *Joseph R. Olefirowicz, CAGO,* jolefirowicz@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 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.