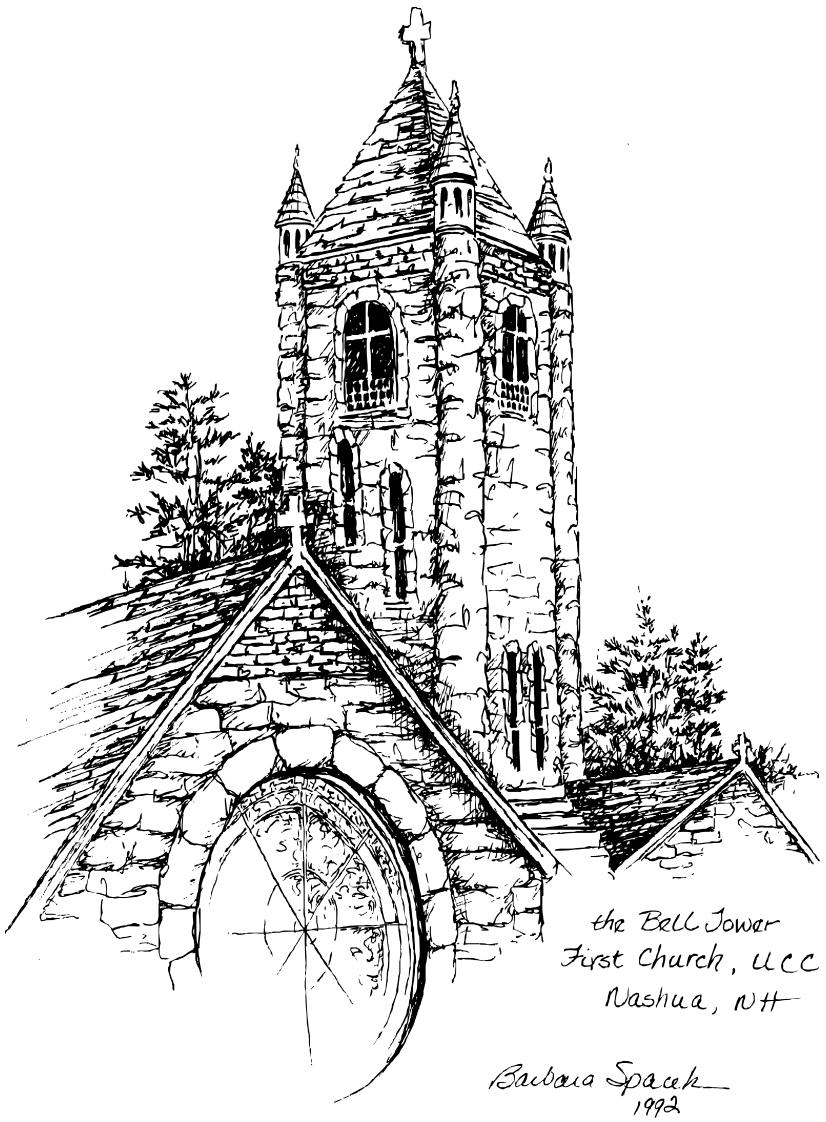


THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Communion Sunday
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 2023 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.

MEDITATION

Compassion is the sometimes fatal capacity for feeling what it's like to live inside somebody else's skin.
It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy for you too. Frederick Buechner

PRELUDE *Canon in D Major* J. Pachelbel
(1653 – 1706)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us declare the source of our help and hope.
People: Our help comes from the Lord, Who made the heavens and the earth.
Leader: The Lord is present with us at all times.
People: We are never left alone.
Leader: God's help is at hand every waking moment of our lives.
All: We place our hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore! Amen!

***HYMN #206** *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim* HANOVER
(at the end of the order of worship)

***OPENING PRAYER**

O God who is greater than the most powerful forces in this world, enable us to be still and know that You are God. Be for us a still, small voice, and speak that we might become makers of Your peace in our homes, in our communities, in our world. We pray all this in the name of the Jesus. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI #513**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, A-men, A-men.

GREETINGS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **2 Timothy 1:8-14**

8 Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join
with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, 9 who saved us and called
us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and
grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 but it has now
been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and
brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 For this gospel I was appointed a
herald and an apostle and a teacher, 12 and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not
ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to
guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. 13 Hold to the standard of sound teaching
that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the
good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples
came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those
who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the
earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be
filled. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of
God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness 'sake, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and
utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your
reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were
before you.

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "A Blessed Surprise" Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C. Evans

***HYMN #335** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* ERIE
(at the end of the order of worship)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

We present ourselves to You, Gracious God, but how little we trust You to provide. We often fear the path You call us to take and go our own way. In our disobedience we become slaves to sin and refuse Your wisdom and grace. Forgive us our lack of faith and trust in You. Restore our hearts and help us hear and heed Your call. Then we will know the depth of Your love and be generous to the people You send our way. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

A time of silence for personal confession

KYRIE #545 *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us* J. Merbecke

CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING *(1510 – 1585)*

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of Your salvation. So strengthen us with Your Spirit that we put our whole trust in You.

OFFERTORY *Just As I Am* W. B. Bradbury

JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone *(1816 - 1868)*
arr. Helvey

***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)

We recognize, Gracious God, that the greatest gift is the gift of love. May our offerings share the love of Christ to the world and bring about the greatest good for all. Amen.

The Communion

It is a tradition at First Church that we eat the bread and drink the cup together as the people of God renewing our covenant. We serve grape juice, bread and gluten free bread.

Invitation, Sursum Corda and Communion Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
Leader: Loving and Compassionate God, Who in Christ has known our every temptation and shares all our trials, we praise You that Christ lived and died for us and that He rose from the dead in fulfillment of the promises You made through the law and the prophets. By dying He destroyed our death, by rising He restored our life and has prepared a home for us. And so with all the company of the redeemed, we magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising Thee, saying…

SANCTUS #550 S. Wesley

(1766 – 1837)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. A-men.

Leader: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread and having blessed it, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "This is My body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is of the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." By eating of this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

COMMUNION *Panis Angelicus* C. Franck
(1822 – 1890)

Panis angelicus	Angelic bread
Fit panis hominum	becomes the bread of humankind;
Dat panis coelicus	The bread of Heaven
Figuris terminum	puts an end to all symbols.
O res mirablis	Oh, thing miraculous!
Manducat Dominum	This body of God will nourish
Pauper, servus et humilis	the poor, the servile, and the humble. (2x)
Te trina Deitas	You, Triune God
Unaque poscimus	And One, we beseech,
Sic nos tu visita	That You visit us,
Sicut te colimus	As we worship You
Per tuas semitas	By your ways,
Duc nos quo tendimus	lead us where we are heading,
Ad lucem quam in habitas	to the Light that you inhabit. (2x)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

***HYMN #440** *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* MATERNA
(at the end of the order of worship)

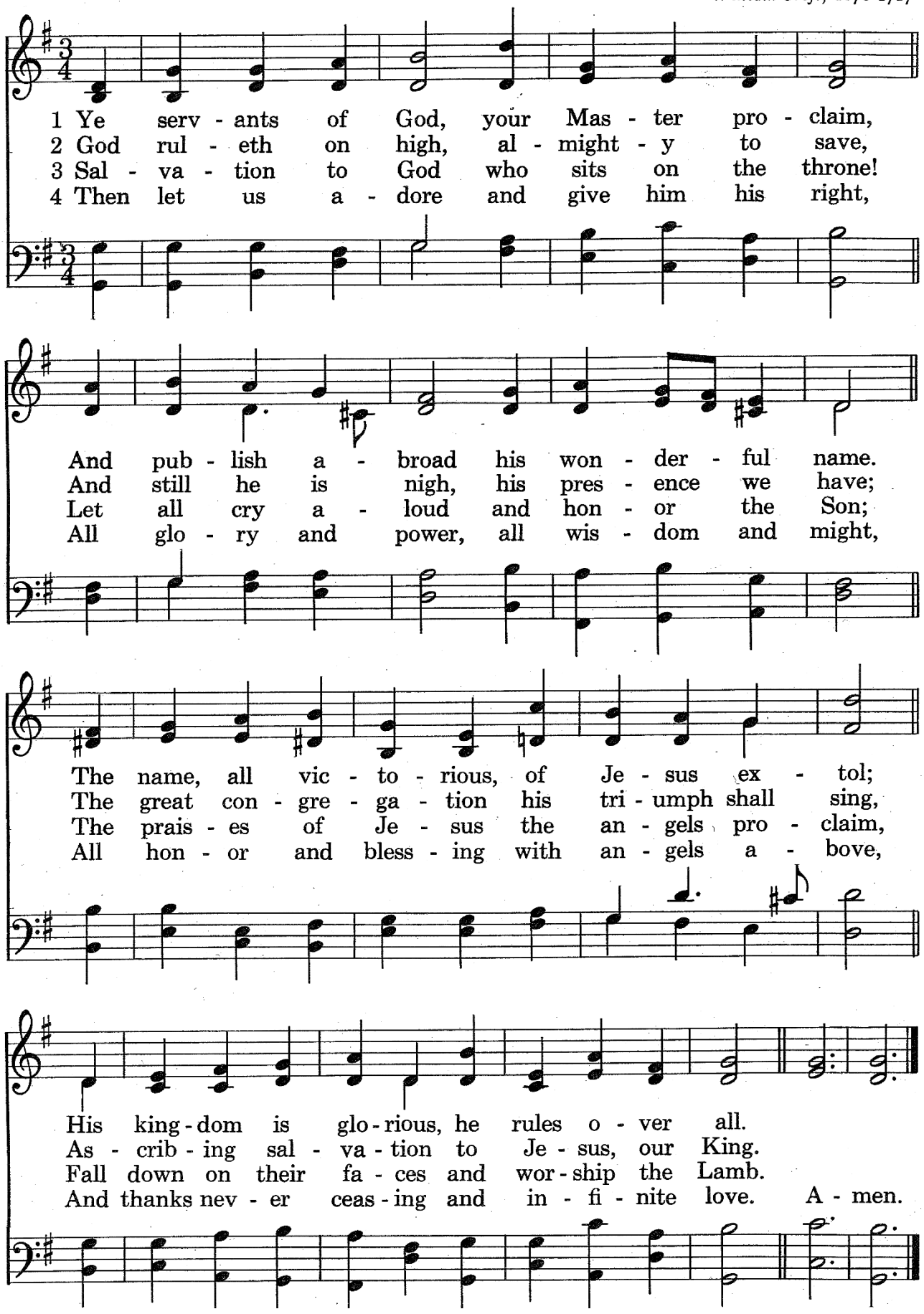
***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Toccata* L. Boëllmann
from "Suite Gothique" *(1862 – 1897)*

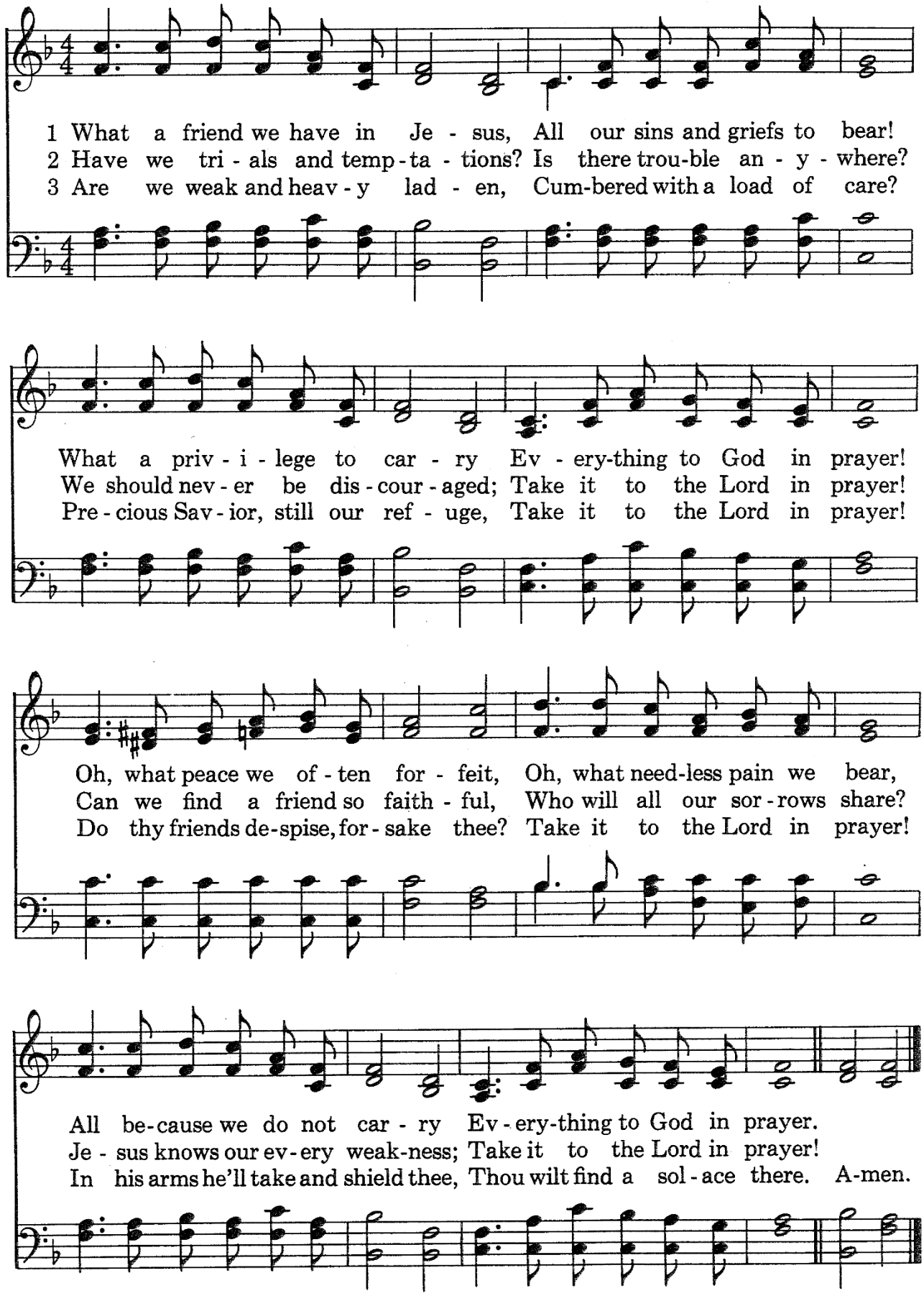
OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

HYMN #206 *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

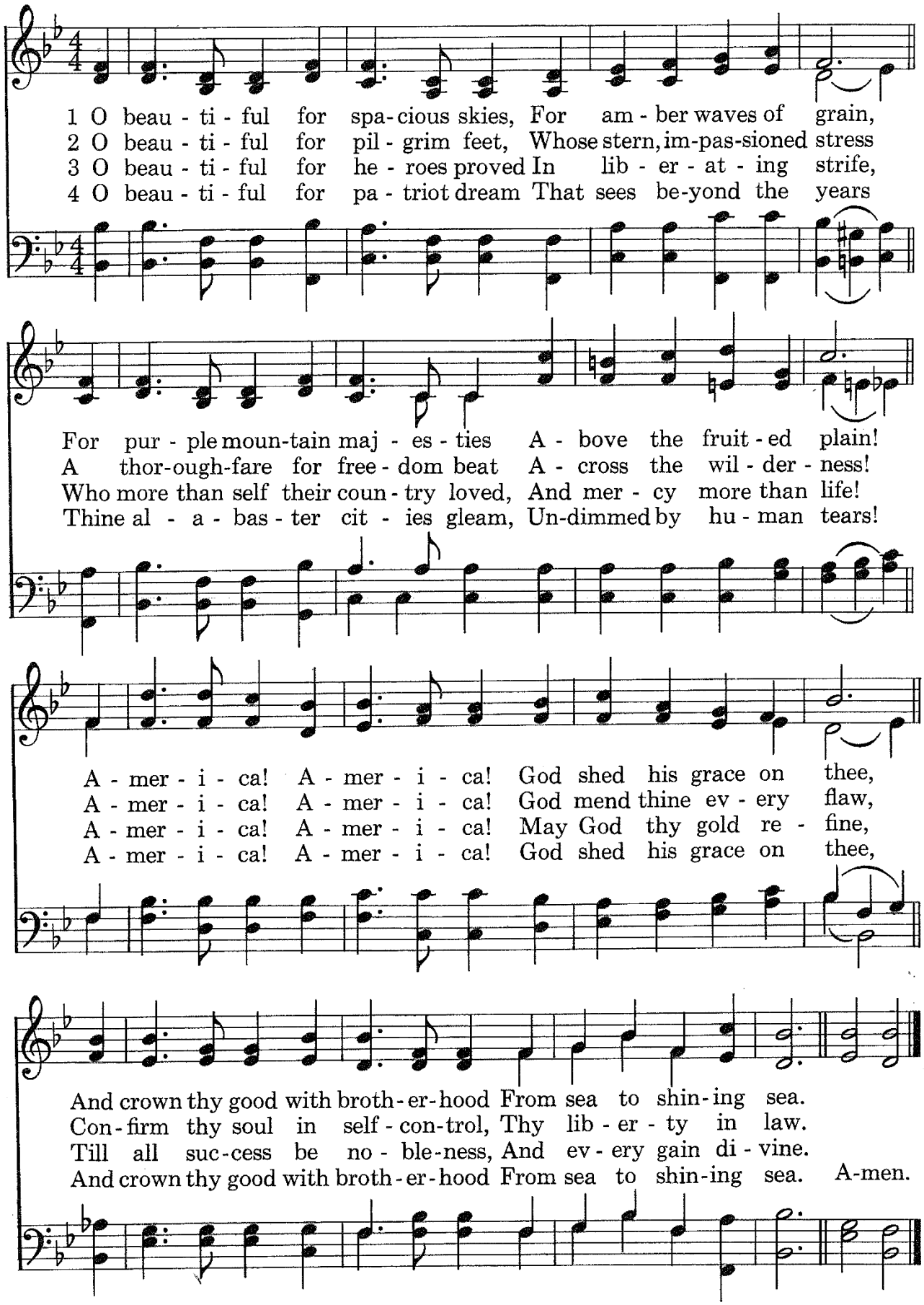
Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

HANOVER 10.10.11.11.
William Croft, 1678-1727

HYMN #335 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

Joseph Scriven, 1819-1886

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

HYMN #440 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

Katharine Lee Bates, 1859-1929

MATERNA C.M.D.
Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903

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HEARING AIDS 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 you will?

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Worship Schedule

June 18 – September 10, 2023
9:00am: Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
11:00am: Radio Broadcast on WSMN AM 1590 & FM 95.3

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

Announcements - New/Current

Nursery Care is on break for the summer months.

++++

Summer Worship Busy Bags - During the summer months when the Sunday School is on hiatus the children are welcomed to join their parents in worship. "Busy Bags" will be available to assist in keeping the children engaged. Pick up a bag at the welcome center or seek out an usher and they will assist you.

++++

Did you Know? The inner ring of the communion tray contains Gluten Free cups (indicated by a blue "Gluten Free" label). They are provided for our members who adhere to a gluten free diet to allow them to share in the Sacrament. PLEASE DO NOT take one if your diet is not restricted. The gluten-free cups cost more and we order a lesser quantity than the regular cups so we run the risk of not having them available for those that truly need them. Thank you!

++++

Prayer after Worship, originally scheduled for today, has been postponed to a later day. Stay tuned for more information.

++++

Golf Photographer Needed - The Golf Committee is in need of a photographer for our Charity Golf Tournament on Monday, August 7th at the Nashua Country Club.

Each year, it's been a special treat to record each of our foursomes, while they're out on the course and later make their pictures available to the players. Last year, we stepped it up some and with special help from our photographers we presented a slide show of their pictures during our dinner. It was a big hit! We have one volunteer on board this year, but with one more, the workload is halved. Ideally, our second volunteer photographer would also have to have the experience to upload the pictures into a slide show application on a laptop, and then connect to the Country Club's audio/visual system (a simple connection) for viewing during the dinner. If interested, please contact Mike Winton – contact info is in the church directory.

“No Place Like Home” golf tournament - **August 7, 2023 - Nashua Country Club** - Sponsored by The First Church, this is to support our mission to Family Promise, Front Door Agency, and Stepping Stones.
GOLFER REGISTRATION: "There's No Place Like Home" Tournament - Aug 7th, 2023 - Nashua Country Club (google.com)

FLYER: https://tfcucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-No-Place-Like-Home-Golf-flyer-WEB-VERSION.pdf Flyers are also available at the church’s welcome center.
Questions? Contact Margaret Brenner

++++

It’s Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter (NSKS) Backpack time again! Help us fill 70 backpacks for The Soup Kitchen’s Backpack Program. This program supports local children in grades K-12 with much needed school supplies! The Board of Christian Outreach invites you to make a financial donation of any amount to assist with the purchase of supplies. Our goal is to raise $2500.00, to fill 70 backpacks. **$40 will help to fill one backpack.** Please send a check by August 1st with “NSKS Backpacks"’ in the memo line.
Outreach will be filling the backpacks on **Thursday, August 3, at 6:00 PM** and they invite you to help them. Feel free to contact Kathie McIntyre or the church office with any questions.

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Women’s Association Lunch in the Park - All women of the church are invited to meet at Greeley Park on Concord Street every Friday at noon. Meet near the bandstand (located on the right as you come from the church). Bring your lunch and a lawn chair. The group will not meet if there is inclement weather.

++++

2023 Elevator Appeal – Good News! Pine State Elevator is working on the elevator and we are hopeful that it will be operational in the next few weeks! Thank you to all who have donated to our elevator appeal to date. We continue to seek gifts or pledges to help support our church being accessible to everyone. Pledge cards are available on line, or at the welcome center. To date, we have raised in excess of $57,000 towards our goal of $103,000. Thank you for your generous support!

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Giving Options - During the summer months and all year long we have several convenient options available to keep your giving up to date. You can mail in your offering, set up automatic donations through your bank, give during worship, or set up automatic donations online on our website tfcucc.org/give/.
Scan the QR Code to view online giving, and set it up today!

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.

++++

CareNotes Inspirational Booklets cover a range of topics to help individuals heal mind, body and spirit. They are designed to help those who are dealing with emotional situations who are looking for guidance and support. The booklets are available in the rack near the welcome center. Please help yourself to any of the booklets.

++++

St. Joseph Mobile Health Clinic will be at First Church on the following dates: July 6 and July 20 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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This Week at First Church

SUN JUL 2	9:00am	Worship & Livestream
	11:00pm	Worship Service Radio Broadcast
TUE JUL 4		Independence Day – Church Office Closed
	4:00pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
THU JUL 6	9:00am	Mobile Health Clinic
SAT JUL 8	11:00am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE 2023

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 18	Men's Choir *(TTBB)*
June 25	Steve Blunt, *baritone & guitar*
July 2	Joseph R. Olefirowicz, *baritone*
July 9	Craig Plummer, *tenor*
July 16	Vivian Halvorson, *clarinet*
July 23	Susan Cobb, *soprano*
July 30	Dale Neth, *solo handbells*
August 6	Debbie Nordyke, *mezzo soprano* Harry Nordyke, *tenor & guitar*
August 13	Don Fluckinger, *euphonium*
August 20	Brett Greene, *organ*
August 27	Richard Benefield, *organ*
September 3	Mark A. Cleveland, *bass-baritone*
September 10	Craig Plummer, *tenor*

FIRST MUSIC
FM
CONCERT SERIES 2023 – 24 SEASON

SEASON XVI
SWEET SIXTEEN!

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

KINGS RETURN

America's Premiere *A Cappella* Quartet

Sponsored by Edward and Suzanne Boyd

SUNDAY
NOV
19

SUNDAY
DEC
17

CHRISTMAS at FIRST

Chancel Choir of The First Church
Muddy Brook Brass
Poisson • Olefirowicz
Nicholas White MAGNIFICAT

3rd Advent Worship Services

ORGAN MASTERS V

Isabelle Demers, organ

SUNDAY
MAR
10

SUNDAY
APR
14

NEAVE TRIO

Grammy-Nominated Chamber Music

ATLANTIC BRASS QUINTET

Sasaki • Leopold • Orgel • Faieta • Manning

SUNDAY
MAY
05

UNDERWRITTEN by THE FRIENDS OF FIRST MUSIC

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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
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 for the first time. Please sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or fill out the **visitor card** found in the pew racks. Fill out the back of the card, and put it in the offering plate or hand it to a minister, Usher or Deacon so we may acknowledge your visit. Join in the time of fellowship, in Chapel Hall, following worship. If you have any questions about the life and ministry of First Church please seek out the individuals wearing colored name tags; they are members of the various boards and committees.

INFORMATION

First Church was gathered on December 16, 1685 as The Church of Christ in Dunstable. On the same day Thomas Weld was ordained and settled as minister of the church. The current building, built in 1894, is the tenth building to house the First Church community. In 1961, the church entered fellowship with the United Church of Christ. We welcome into our membership any who will own the covenant of First Church and seek to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in the community and world. Those interested in joining the church should contact the church office for information. New members are received during worship in November, February and May. The Sacrament of Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month and the Sacrament of Baptism on the last. First Church is supported almost entirely by pledges. Every member is expected to make a financial pledge according to their ability.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is available to all in need. Please keep the ministers informed of occasions of sickness, sorrow, and joy. Let the church office know if you or family member or friend is hospitalized.

COMMUNICATIONS

If you have a change of address, phone number, or email address, please let the church office know so that we may keep our records current.

All information for the weekly bulletin must be in the office by noon on Wednesday. All information for the monthly newsletter must be in the office by 4:30 PM on the second Monday of the month.

<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 & 12:30-3:30pm
Visit our web site at tfcucc.org - Find us on Facebook

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