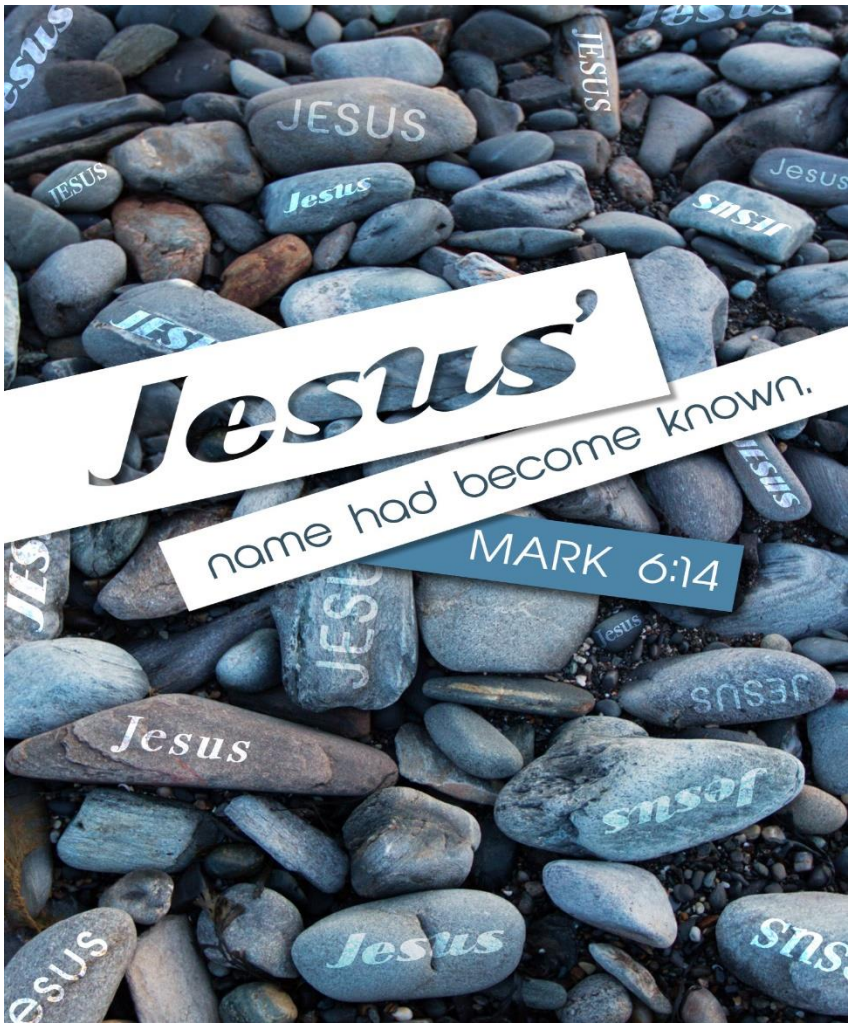

THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 14, 2024 9:00 AM

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*If it is comfortable for you to do so, please stand

APPROACH TO GOD

Let us keep silence as we prepare for worship.

TOWER CHIME Norma MacKinley-Smith

MEDITATION "God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth." - John 4:24

PRELUDE *Nine Hymn Preludes* G. Young *(1919 – 1998)*

vi. Offertory on DENNIS

i. Prelude on ST. CATHERINE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it! From the east to the west, from the north to the south, God's Spirit moves across the face of the earth.

People: From the east to the west, from the north to the south, we gather together, united by God's Spirit, to celebrate God's glory and proclaim His praise!

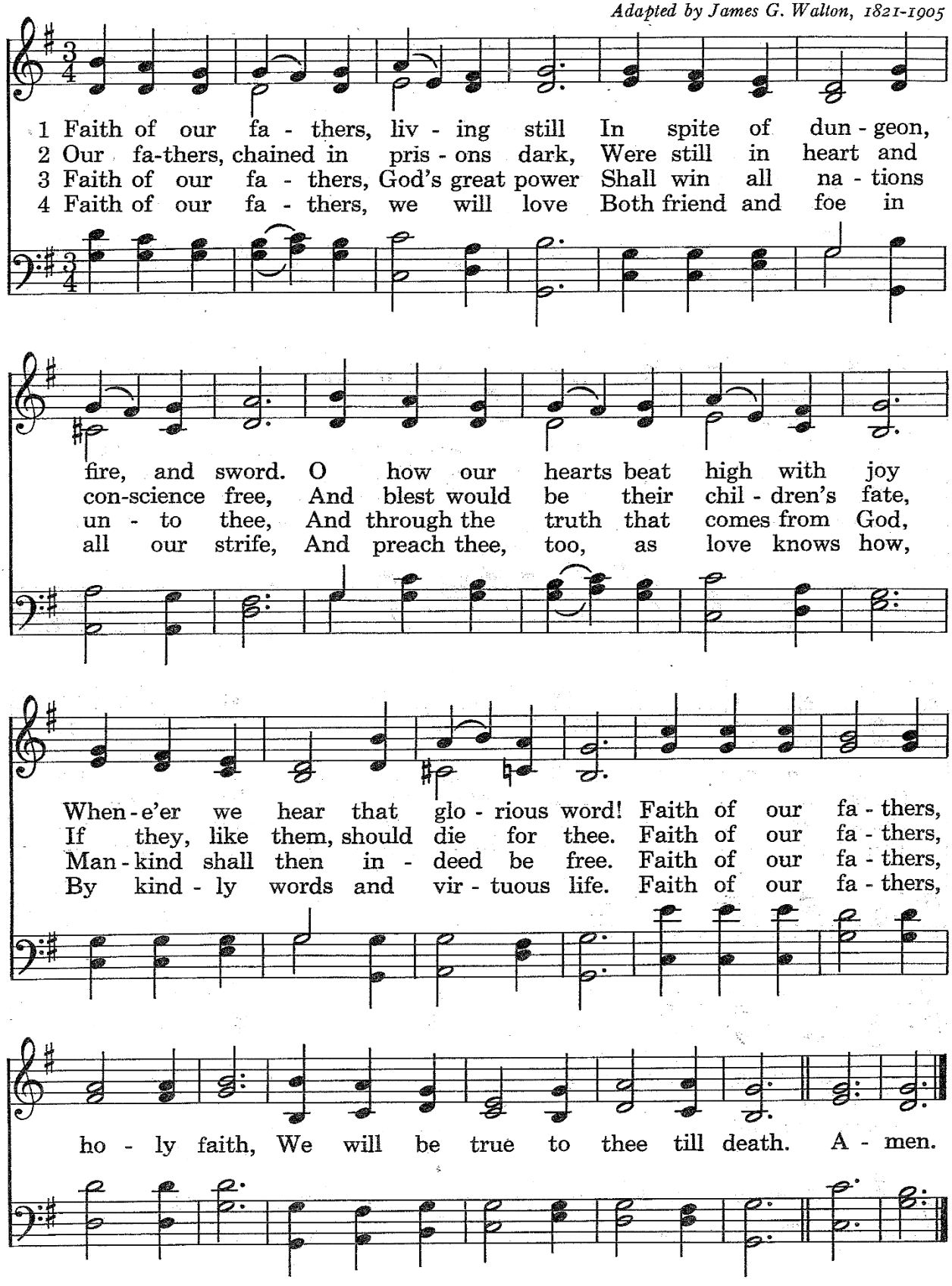
All: Let's worship God together!

***HYMN 365** *Faith of Our Fathers* ST. CATHERINE

(see next page)

Faith of Our Fathers

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

ST. CATHERINE 8.8.8.8.8.8.
Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888
Adapted by James G. Walton, 1821-1905

PILGRIMAGE AND CONFLICT

CCLI # 3034682

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

O God our Help and Hope, we thank You that today You have called us to worship and grow together. You alone know our needs. Satisfy them with Your unchanging love. In Your presence may we find comfort in sorrow, guidance in perplexity, strength to meet temptation, and courage to keep our faith in a world that is hostile or indifferent. Above all, may we meet Jesus and go out from our worship empowered by the Holy Spirit. We ask this in Your in your name. Amen

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Amos 7:7-15**

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword." Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'" And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

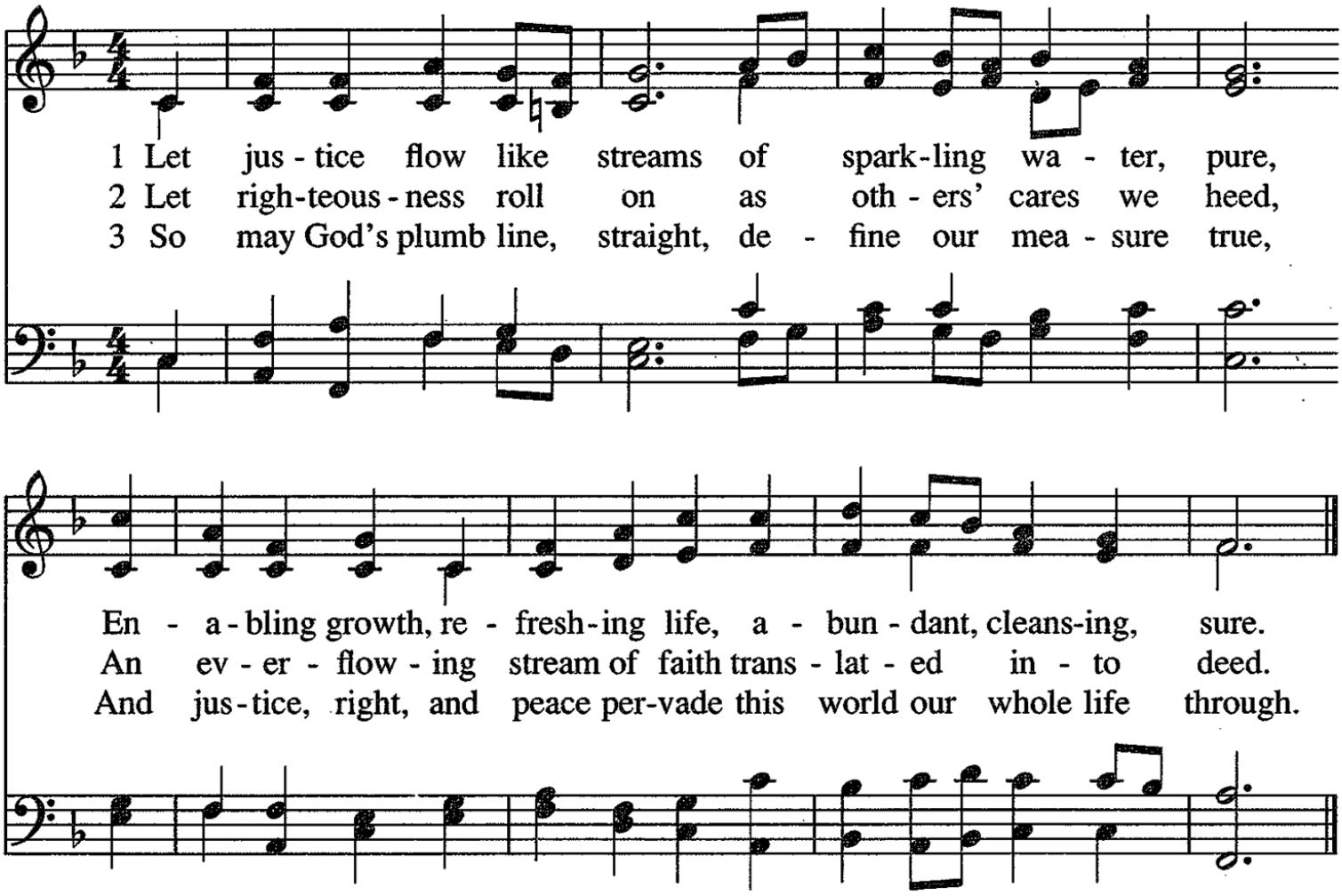
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* G. N. Allen
STAFF PARTY QUARTET *(1812 - 1871)*
adap. T. Dorsey

SERMON "Truth Telling" Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN** *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* ST. THOMAS

Jane Parker Huber, 1984 *Amos 5:14–15, 24; 7:7–8*



Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.

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RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

LITANY (Based on Psalm 23)

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.
People: It is You, Lord who makes me lie down in green pastures;
Leader: It is You who leads me beside the still waters.
People: You restore my soul and guide me in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.
Leader: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff comfort me.
People: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.
All: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in Your house, O Lord, forever.

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 *This Little Light of Mine – Do Lord* Spirituals
arr. V. Hicks

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

We give these gifts to You, Gracious God, in hope that they will bless our world. We are confident that they speak our love for You. In gratitude and praise, we are Your people through the call of Christ. Amen.

***HYMN 383** *Forward Through the Ages* ST. GERTRUDE

(see next page)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Laudate!* C. Mawby

Praise! *(1936 - 2019)*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Sandra and Roy Rumbaugh

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.

STAFF PARTY QUARTET: Jamie Saucier, tenor; Eric Ruthenberg, lead; Marc Rosenbaum, baritone; Scott Taylor, bass

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

Have you remembered The First Church in your will?

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.

Forward Through the Ages

Frederick L. Hosmer, 1840-1929

ST. GERTRUDE 6.5.6.5.D. *with Refrain*
Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900

1 Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.
Gifts in differing measure,
Hearts of one accord,
Manifold the service,
One the sure reward;
Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.

2 Wider grows the kingdom,
Reign of love and light;
For it we must labor,
Till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it,
Martyrs testified,
Poets sung its glory,
Heroes for it died.
Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.

3 Not alone we conquer,
Not alone we fall;
In each loss or triumph
Lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose
In one living whole,
Move we on together
To the shining goal!
Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.

CCLI# 3034682

Summer Worship Schedule

June 16-September 8, 2024
One Service at 9:00 am
In-person Worship & Livestream
Radio Broadcast on WSMN FM 95.3 & AM 1590
Nursery Care on break through the summer

Summer Office Hours
Monday – Thursday 9:00 am– 3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am– noon

***Rally Day – Sunday, Sept. 15th**
One service at 10:00 am
In-person Worship, Sunday School & Livestream

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

ADULT LEARNING CENTER (ALC)-The Adult Learning Center's Early Childhood Adventures Program would like to thank Gail Cummings, Beth Bartlett, and Jane Bowles, (Thrift Shop), for delivering and setting up a beautiful display of children's clothing in our center. The clothing was lovingly labeled and organized by size so young parents could easily help themselves as they arrived to pick up their children. This gently used clothing, all in good repair, will get a second life and help ease the financial burden on our working parents. Thank you very much for your kindness and generosity. -Carol Baldwin, Executive Director ALC

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CYBER SECURITY TRAINING- We will be offering a Cyber Security Training on Tuesday, July 23rd at 1 pm. The training will take place at the Hunt Community Theater, 10 Allds Street, Nashua. All are welcome. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

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NSKS BACKPACKS- It is Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter (NSKS) Backpack time again! Outreach invites you to donate any amount of money to assist with the purchase of the needed school supplies. Our goal is $2500.00, so all contributions will greatly help as we fill 70 backpacks this year. Please send a check made out to First Church UCC, by July 31st with "NSKS BACKPACK PROGRAM" in the memo line. **If you would like to help fill the backpacks with us on Thursday, August 1st at 6:00 pm, in the dining room, please contact Kathie McIntyre**. If you have questions, please contact Kathie McIntyre or the church office. Thank you!

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GOLF FELLOWSHIP- Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, August 14th** at the beautiful Nashua Country Club. Tee times will begin at **8:30 am**, with space for up to 32 golfers. This event is designed to combine the enjoyment of the game with fellowship among church members and friends. **Sign up is easy!**
Register at the Welcome Center on Sundays, or sign up online for your convenience at https://forms.gle/snRC8CoEy1JjErpc9 We look forward to a fun and spirit-filled day on the green!

Choirs in Worship Next Week
Sunday, July 21, 2024 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 Summer Choir

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN JUL14	9:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
TUE JUL 16	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED JUL 17	6:30 pm	Summer Choir
THU JUL 18	12:00 pm	Chamber of Commerce (dining room)
SAT JUL 20	11:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE 2024

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 16	**MEN'S CHOIR**
June 23	**SUSAN COBB, soprano**
June 30	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, piano**
July 7	**KATIE WEISS, soprano**
July 14	**STAFF PARTY QUARTET**
July 21	**SUMMER CHOIR**
July 28	**STEVE BLUNT, baritone & guitar**
August 4	**DEBBIE NORDYKE, mezzo soprano**
	HARRY NORDYKE, tenor & guitar
August 11	**RICHARD BENEFIELD, organ**
August 18	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone**
August 25	**WOMEN'S CHOIR**
September 1	**MARK A. CLEVELAND, bass-baritone**
September 8	**CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor**

Summer Choir rehearsal:	**Wed. July 17th @ 6:30 pm**
Worship:	**Sun. July 21st @ 9:00 am**
Women's Choir rehearsal:	**Wed. August 21st @ 6:30 pm**
Worship:	**Sun. August 25th @ 9:00 am**

HORTON CENTER HAPPENINGS

More Info at www.HortonCenter.org

YOUTH

- Week-long and half-week long camp sessions June - Aug.

  Scholarships available!

- Leaders in Training
  June 27-29

- NEW: Pride on the Mountain camp for LGBTQIA+ youth
  August 4-7

- Fall Confirmation Retreat October 4-6

ADULTS

- Adult Women's Retreat "Peace, Faith, and Rejuvenation"
  August 1-4

- Adult volunteer counselors for camp sessions each week

- Wilderness First Aid certification course June 8-9

- Quilting/Crafting retreat September 6-8

EVERYONE

- Opening Work Days - volunteers welcome! May 17-19

- Open House event
  June 15

- Family and Friends Weekend
  Aug. 30- Sept. 2

- Retreat season availabilities for your church/group!

  August - October

Contact Tivvi Pare with questions: TPare@nhcucc.org

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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-MA,CAGO,* jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org
Church Business and Marketing Manager, *Dianne Smigliani*, dsmigliani@tfcucc.org
Office Manager, Tasha Drew, tdrew@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 a 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 Office Manager.

THE FIRST CHURCH

One Concord Street * Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 * 603-882-4861
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-noon and 1:00-3:00pm
Friday 9:00am-noon
Visit our web site at www.tfcucc.org

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