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

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday

August 4, 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 Jim Stone

MEDITATION Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." -John 6:35

PRELUDE *Idylle mélancolique* *(from 24 Piéces en style libre)* Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Bread of Life has come among us.
People: What is this Bread of Life?
Leader: It is none other than Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son!
People: We hunger for the true bread that will nourish our souls.
Leader: Come, then, to Christ who feeds us with his very life!
People: We come, needing sustenance and nurturing.

***HYMN 13** *Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him* HYFRYDOL

(see next page)

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him

Based on Psalm 148
"Foundling Hospital Collection," 1796

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody by Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

ADORATION AND PRAISE
CCLI # 3034682

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Life Giving Spirit, You are the God in whom we live and move and have our being, the God who is made known in Christ Jesus. Bless us, one and all as we wait on You this day. Please remove from our minds and hearts whatever hinders our worship or dampens our joy. Increase within us that holy living and deeper commitment to follow where You lead us. May our hymns and prayers, our searching thoughts, and our hearing of the Scriptures, be an exercise in faithfulness and service. By You, with You and for You, may our lives publish Your praise. In the name of Christ 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/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Psalm 78: 23-29**

Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven;
he rained down on them manna to eat, and gave them the grain of heaven.
Mortals ate of the bread of angels; he sent them food in abundance. He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;
he rained flesh upon them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;
he let them fall within their camp, all around their dwellings.
And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

John 6: 24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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

SERMON "The Bread of Life" Rev. Nancy Haynes

HYMN 97 *God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years* SANDON
(see next page)

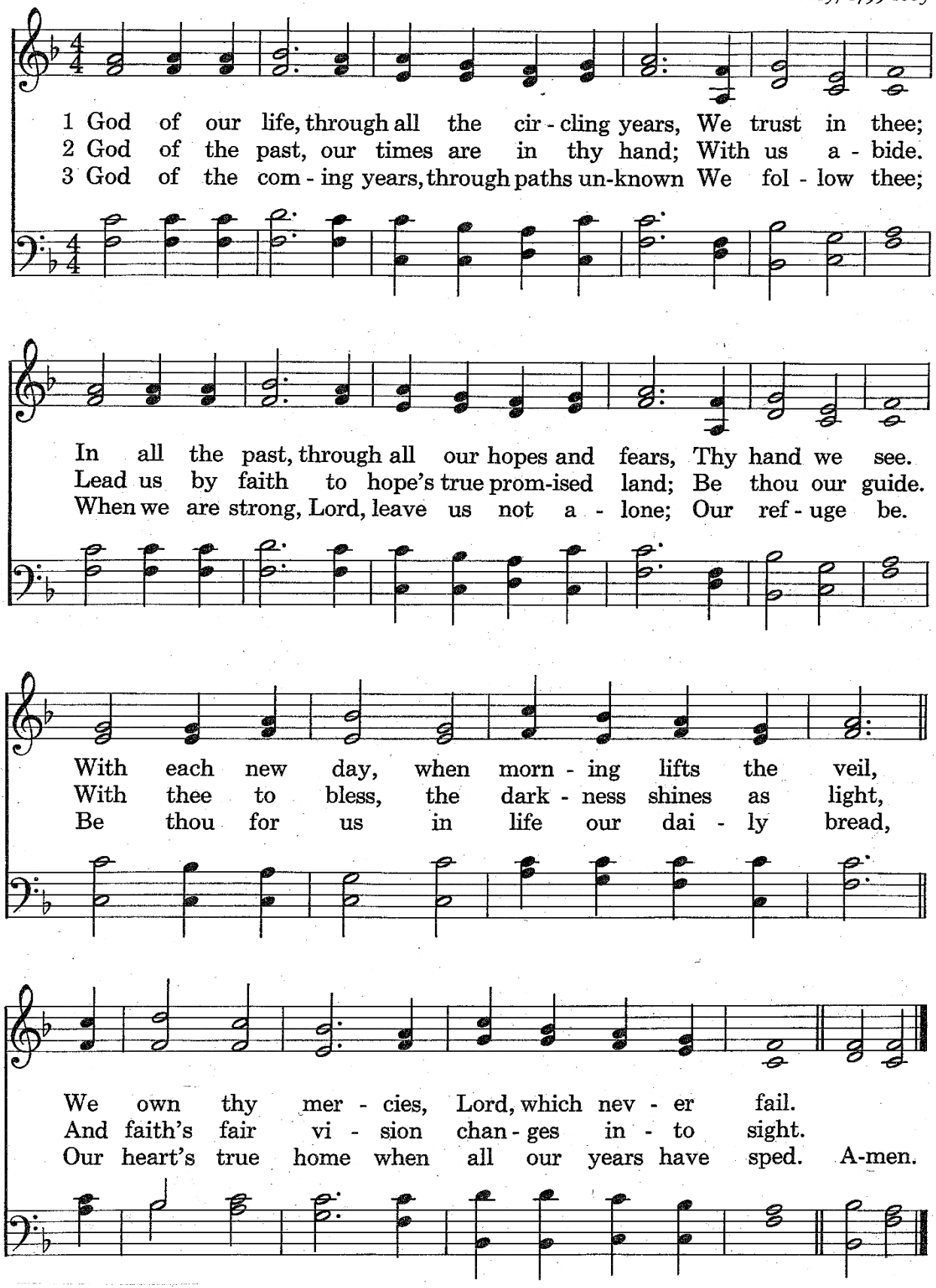
RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) A New Creed
We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years

Hugh T. Kerr, 1872-1950, alt.

SANDON 10.4.10.4.10.10.
Charles H. Purday, 1799-1885



Text by: The Church School Hymnal, First Edition.© 1928 F. M. Braselman; Renewed 1956 Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Used by permission. CCLI#3034682

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Eternal God, in Whom we live and move and have our being, Whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and Whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to You, confessing our faults, confiding in Your grace, and finding in You our refuge and strength, through Jesus Christ Your Son.

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

Jesus looked up and said to a sinner, "Where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you? Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again."

OFFERTORY *Unclouded Sky / Uncloudy Day* Josiah Kelley Alwood
DEBBIE NORDYKE, mezzo soprano (1828 -1909)
HARRY NORDYKE, tenor & guitar

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

O God, we humbly admit that we search so often for bread that perishes, rather than the bread of eternal life. We foolishly think that happiness and fulfillment can be attained from our own hands, rather than from Your hands. We offer these gifts with the understanding that You have already given us the bread of heaven. You are the Bread of Life. We come seeking to never be hungry or thirsty again. Amen.

THE COMMUNION

It is a tradition at The First Church that we eat the bread and drink the cup together as the people of God renewing our covenant. We serve grape juice 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: Let us pray.

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.

INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF THE BREAD

I Believe Jimmy Fortune
(1955 -)
John Rimel
(ca. 1945 -)

INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF THE CUP

Trust and Obey Daniel B. Towner
(1850 - 1919)

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 272** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* DENNIS

(see next page)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Prelude on "Hyfrydol"* Healey Willan (1880-1968)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Craig Neth and Roy Rumbaugh

COVER ART: http://www.flickr.com/photos/wolfgangfoto/2337441318/, Attribution-NoDerivs 2.0 Generic (CC BY-ND 2.0)

GUEST ORGANIST: Richard Benefield

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

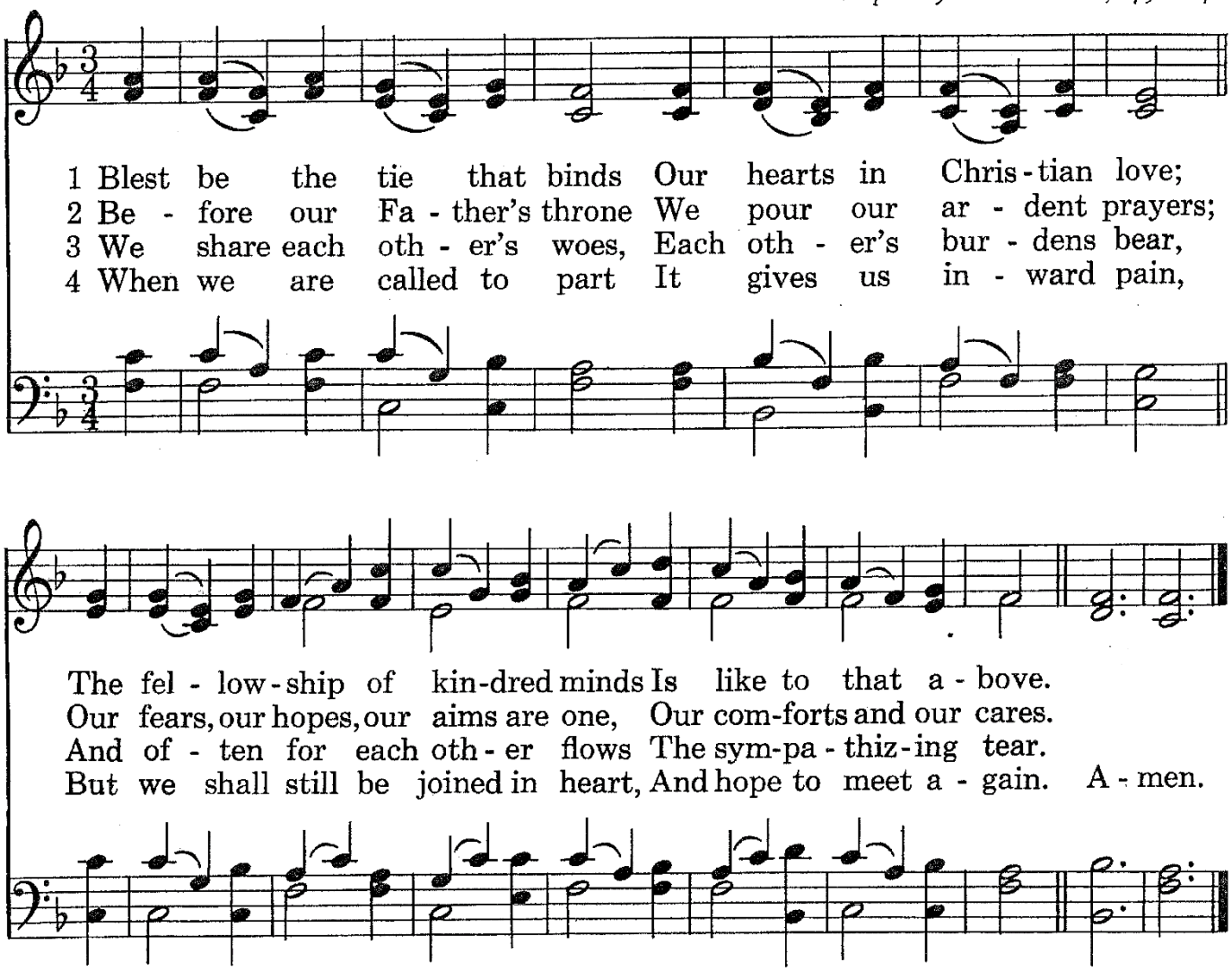
Have you remembered The First Church in your will?

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.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

John Fawcett, 1739/40-1817

DENNIS S.M.
Melody by J. G. Nägeli, 1768?-1836
Adapted by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872



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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

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 children engaged. Pick up a bag at the Welcome Center or seek out an usher and they will assist you.

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THE THANK YOU PROJECT (TYP) ANNUAL WATER WALK TAKES PLACE SAT. SEPT. 14 AT GREELEY PARK FROM 8:30AM TO 12 NOON. Help us bring clean water to those in need. **DID YOU KNOW?** - 63 million people (3 in 10) in Nigeria lack access to clean water. 115 people in Africa die every hour from diseases linked to contaminated water. The TYP is changing this reality. The effort of gathering water takes away from the ability of children to focus on school & the cycle continues. By providing clean water wells, the TYP gives a long term solution to those affected by the lack of drinking water, which ultimately positively impacts the life expectancy of the entire population and generation . To date, the TYP has built six water wells [at a cost of $35,000/well + $720 annually ($60/month) in maintenance costs FOR EACH WELL]. The wells are solar powered and have changed the lives of thousands. The TYP also has provided college scholarships to those who cannot afford college in Nigeria (tuition is only $2,0000/year). Education can help stimulate change. Please help us complete well #7!

Visit the TYP Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/TYPWaterWalk
or our website https://thankyouproject.org/ to learn more.

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WOMEN'S CHOIR- Join us for rehearsal on Wednesday, August 21st at 6:30 pm. Sing in worship on Sunday, August 25th at 9:00am. We look forward to seeing you!

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Music in Worship Next Week

Sunday, August 11, 2024 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 Richard Benefield, organ

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN AUG 4	9:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
TUE AUG 6	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED AUG 7	11:45 am	BNI (dining room)
	6:00 pm	PEO (dining room)
THU AUG 8	6:30 pm	Quilt Guild (dining room)
FRI AUG 9	3:00 pm	Hunt Community Service
SAT AUG 10	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**

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

FIRST MUSIC

FM

CONCERT SERIES 2024 – 25 SEASON

SEASON XVII

Bach to Broadway and Beyond

BRINGING the JOY of MUSIC to the GATE CITY

LIZ CALLAWAY LIVE!

Broadway Legend, EMMY Winner,
TONY & GRAMMY® Nominee

Alex Rybeck, piano

SUNDAY OCT 20

CANTATA 61

SUNDAY DEC 22

CHRISTMAS at FIRST

Chancel Choir of The First Church
First Music Chamber Strings
Janet Poisson, soprano • Kyle Masterson, tenor
Joshua L. Gore, bass • Joseph R. Olefirowicz, conductor

4th Advent Worship Services

CELLO MASTERS II

Roric Cunningham, cello
Nadia Yamauchi Azzi, piano

SUNDAY MAR 09

SUNDAY APR 06

POPS FOR PIPES XIII

Marek Kudlicki, organ

AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Jazz Vocalist Michelle Mailhot
Mark Shilansky Quartet

SUNDAY MAY 04

UNDERWRITTEN BY THE FRIENDS OF FIRST MUSIC

THE FIRST CHURCH
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1 CONCORD STREET • NASHUA, NH
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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
Christian Formation Coordinator, *Amanda Steere*, asteere@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.