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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024 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 CHIME Jim Stone

MEDITATION "I don't want the world to define God for me. I want the Holy Spirit to reveal God to me." -Aiden Wilson Tozer

PRELUDE *Nine Hymn Preludes* G. Young

vi. Offertory on DENNIS *(1919 – 1998)*

i. Prelude on ST. CATHERINE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!

People: For God has done and is doing wondrous things for us.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.

People: For Christ has called each of us and blessed us with unique talents!

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.

People: All of us, with all our gifts, we are the body of Christ.

All: Come let us worship God, who binds us together in love and service.

***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)

God of wind and fire, embolden us this day to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Help us to proclaim the wondrous things that You have done and continue to do in our lives. Give us strength and courage to share the Good News of Your love and Your presence. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY Charles Okorie

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Acts 2: 1-21**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

SOLO *My Redeemer is Faithful and True* S. C. Chapman
CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor *(*1962)*

SERMON "The Holy Spirit is at Work" Rev. Nancy Haynes

***HYMN 232** *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* MOORECAMBE

(see next page)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

AFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) The First Church Covenant

Relying upon Divine help we promise to cooperate as members of this Church in the study and practice of that law which Christ taught as supreme, "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind: and thy neighbor as thyself"; to attend its services; to contribute to its support according to our ability; to aid in the extension of the Kingdom of God; and to promote efficiency, purity and peace in this household of faith.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

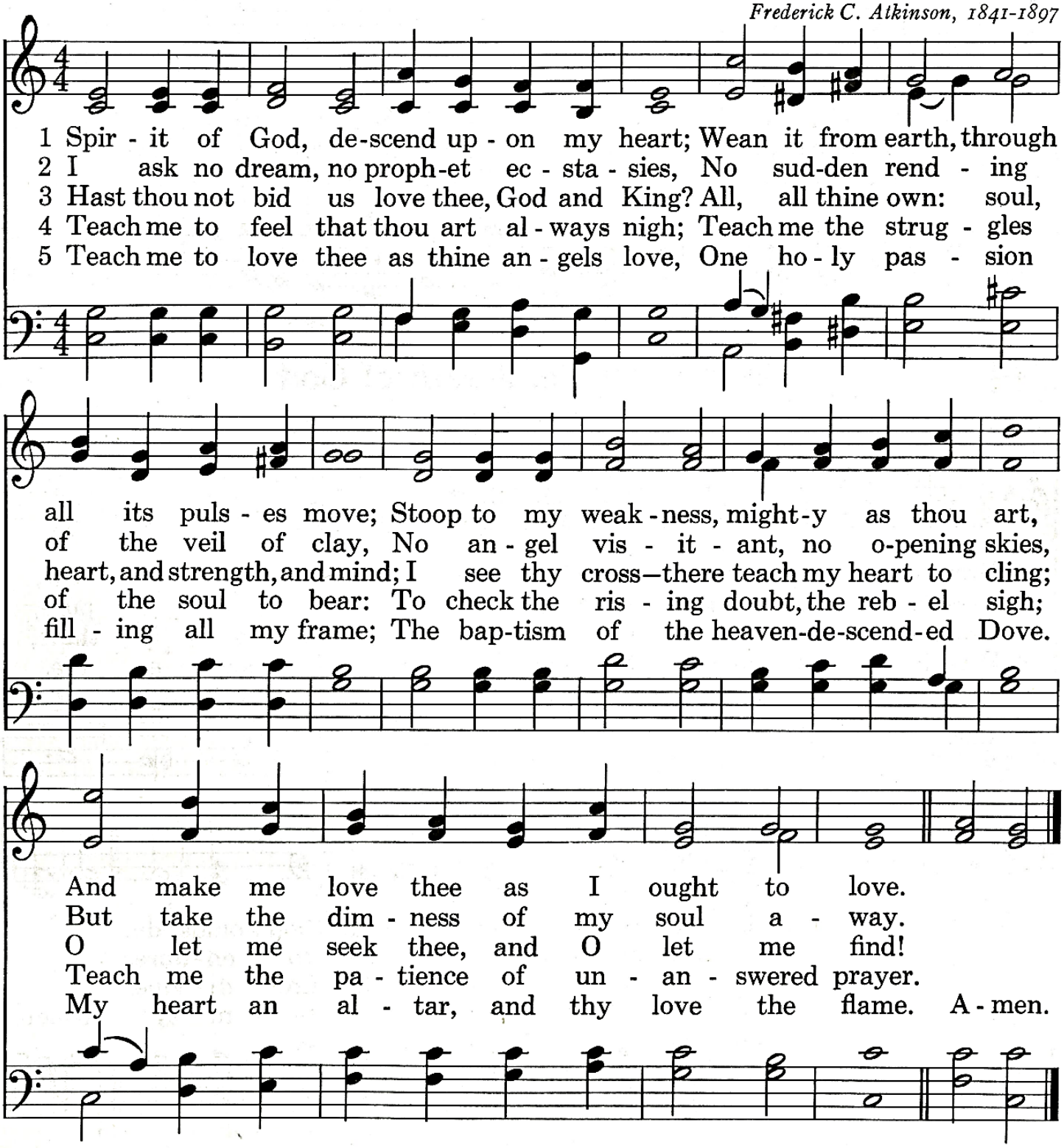
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Attr. to George Croly, 1780-1860

MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.
Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897



CCLI# 3034682

OFFERTORY *Blessed Assurance* P. P. Knapp
(1839 – 1908)

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

O God, we commit to use all our gifts – wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, teaching, proclamation, discernment, service and presence, administration, hospitality, and finances–in the service of acting as co-workers with You and each other. May our gifts be a reflection of our thankfulness for Your abundant blessings. Amen

***HYMN** *It is Well with My Soul* VILLE DU HAVRE
(see next page)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Toccata in E minor* J. Pachelbel
(1653 – 1706)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

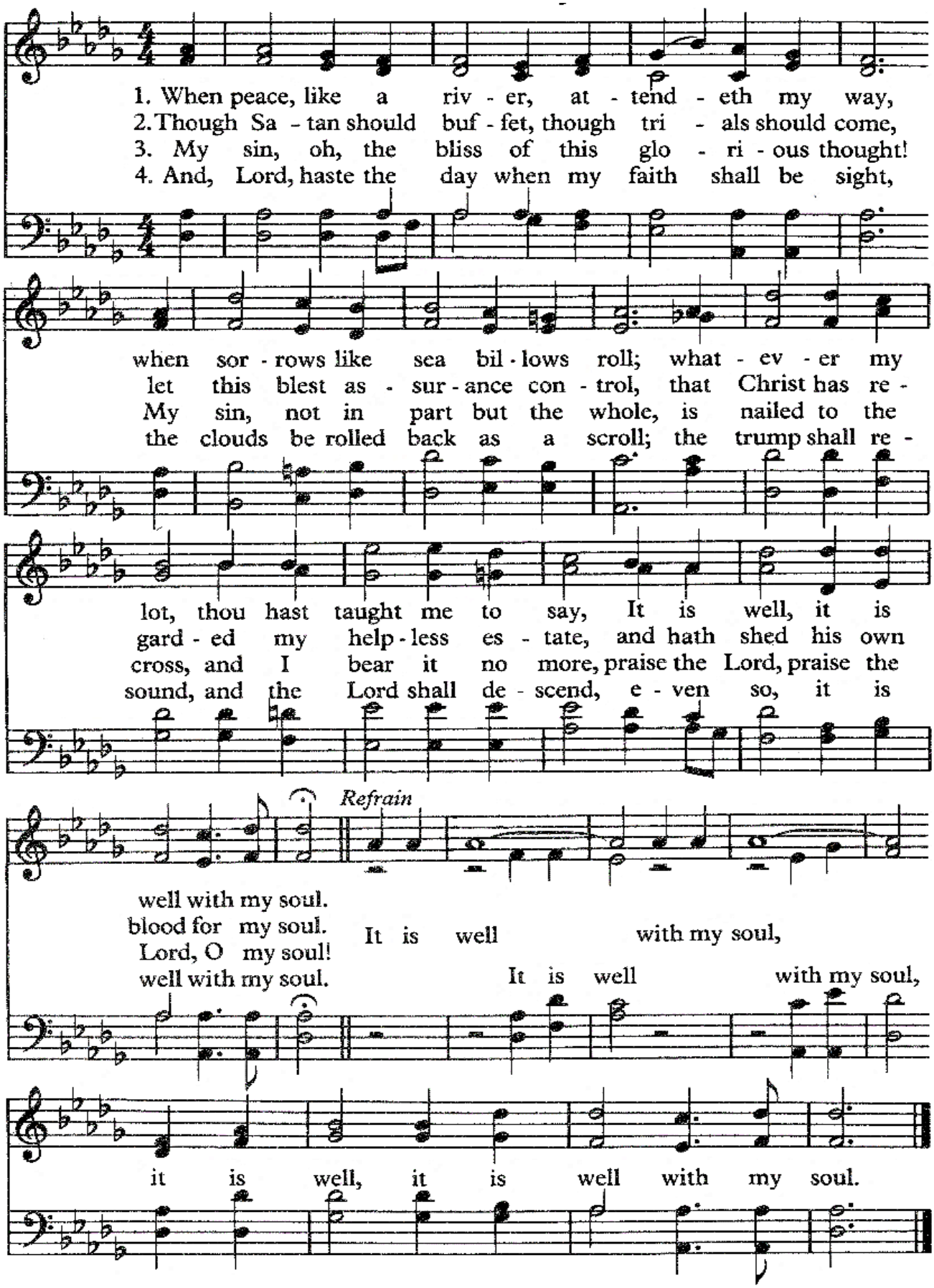
AV TEAM: Dale and Craig Neth
COVER ART: Barbara Spacek
LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284
SCRIPTURE: NRSV reprinted by permission of the National Council of the Churches of Christ.

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

Flowers in the pulpit are given by Diane Matthes is loving memory of her husband, Fred.

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.

It is Well with My Soul



WORDS: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873
MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

VILLE DU HAVRE

United Methodist Hymnal copyright ©1989. Used by permission. CCLI#3034682

RALLY DAY – SUNDAY, SEPT. 15TH
One service at 10:00 am
In-person Worship, Sunday School & Livestream
Radio Broadcast on WSMN FM 95.3 & AM 1590
Nursery Care available

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.

++++

SPECIAL MEETING: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH –The Search Team presents Rev. Nancy Haynes for Associate Minister. Following worship this morning, we invite you to join us as we seek to fill our Associate Minister position. There will be a special meeting with the purpose of voting Rev. Nancy into this full time, permanent position. We highly encourage you to stay for this important meeting.

++++

FRIENDS OF FIRST MUSIC- Fundraising for The First Music Concert Series XVII is approaching! Please consider donating to this integral music outreach to our community and region. We thank our long-time donors for their continued support and could always use new donors to keep our programming alive! Support the vision, which has already brought 16 seasons of fine music to the greater Nashua community. Want to become a ***"Friend of First Music?"*** – ask us how! Please contact jolefirowicz@tfcucc.org or call (603) 882-4861 X15 for more information.

++++

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 TYP has built six water wells [at a cost of $35,000/well + $720 annually ($60/month) in maintenance costs FOR EACH WELL]. 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.

++++

THRIFT SHOP OPENS THURSDAY, SEPT. 19TH – Donations can be left in the bin at the courtyard entrance. The Thrift Shop will be open on Thursdays from 10 am-2 pm and the first Saturday of each month 10 am – 2 pm (closed Jan. and Feb.).

++++

MORNING BIBLE STUDIES KICK OFF – The morning bible studies will be starting up soon! Bible, Friends and Coffee will meet on Monday mornings at 9:30 am starting on September 16th. The Men's Group will meet on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am, starting on September 18th. We look forward to seeing you there!

Music in Worship Next Week

Sunday, September 15, 2024 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Rally Day

10:00 Chancel Choir

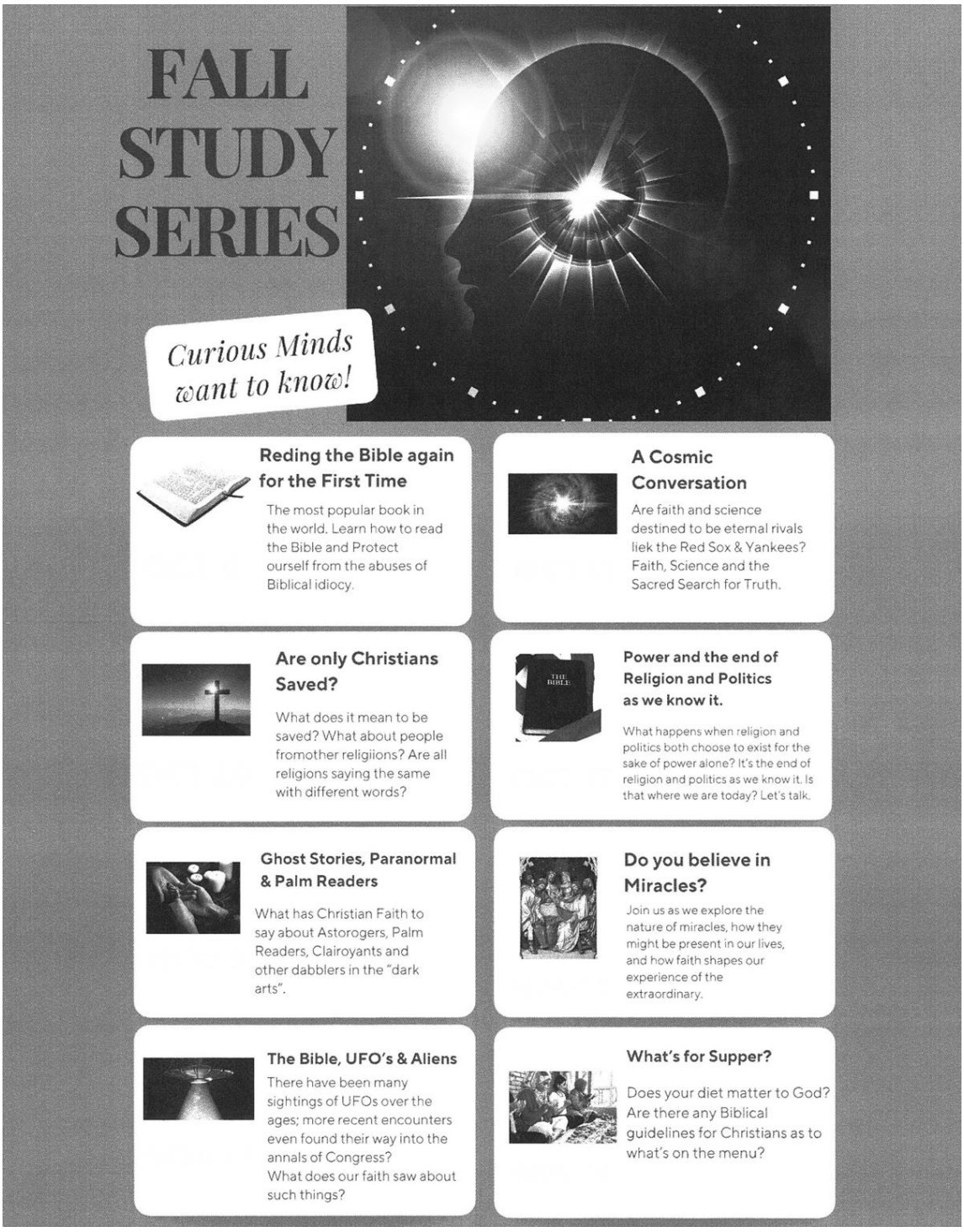
THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN SEP 8	9:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
		Special Meeting following worship
MON SEP 9		Newsletter Deadline
	7:00 pm	All Boards
TUE SEP 10	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
	6:00 pm	Jazz First (dining room)
	7:00 pm	Thank You Project (room 10)
WED SEP 11	6:45pm	Chancel Choir
THU SEP 12	6:30pm	Quilt Guild (dining room)
FRI SEP 13	3:00pm	Hunt Community Service
SAT SEP 14	9:00am	Water Walk
	11:00am	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 services at 9 am.

Thank you to the following musicians who contributed with their time and talents this summer: Richard Benefield, Steve Blunt, Mark Cleveland, Susan Cobb, Men's Choir, Debbie Nordyke, Harry Nordyke, Joseph R. Olefirowicz, Craig Plummer, Staff Party Quartet, Summer Choir, Katie Weiss, Women's Choir.



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
FIRST-MUSIC.ORG • 603.882.4861

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 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 The First Church please seek out the individuals wearing colored nametags; they are members of the various boards and committees.

INFORMATION

The 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 The 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. The 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 Tuesday. All information for the monthly newsletter must be in the office by 4:00 PM on the second Monday of the month (August through May).

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 1:00-4:00pm
Friday 9:00am-noon
www.tfcucc.org

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