



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
All Saints Sunday

November 3, 2024

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.

TOWER CHIME

Dale Neth

MEDITATION

For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who thee by
faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be
forever blest. – R. Vaughan Williams

PRELUDE

Nocturne in E-Flat, Op. 9, No. 2

F. Chopin
(1810 – 1849)

INTROITUS

In God Alone

TAIZÉ

CHANCEL CHOIR

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Revelation 22

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The Spirit of God calls to us. Let everyone who hears within their hearts
respond. Hear the whole earth rejoice and the coastlands sing of our
God's steadfast love.

People: **We come to rejoice in the Holy One, our God. We give thanks for God
sets us free!**

Leader: Let everyone who is thirsty for the Spirit come and receive the water of
life as a gift.

People: **We are here and rejoice in the Holy One, our God. We give thanks for
God's steadfast love that brings joy to our hearts in the night, lights
our lives like the dawn, and sets us free. Amen.**

William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.

R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-

In unison

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, Who thee by faith be -
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for-tress, and their might: Thou, Lord, their cap-tain
 3 O may thy sol - diers, faith-ful, true, and bold, Fight as the saints who
 4 O blest com-mun - ion, fel - low-ship di - vine! We fee-bly strug-gle,
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long, Steals on the ear the

fore the world con-fessed, Thy name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the dark-ness drear, their one true light.
 nobly fought of old, And win with them the vic-tor's crown of gold.
 they in glo-ry shine; Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 dis-tant tri-umph song, And hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A-men.

***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Almighty God, by Your Holy Spirit you have made us one with Your saints in heaven and on earth: Help us to see your presence burning in the hearts of others; grant that we may be united in a fellowship of love and prayer; give us the courage to pick up our cross and respond to the needs of the world, give us the stamina to follow You, to be Your hands and heart in the world; enable us to witness to Your grace and mercy. We pray all this through the love of Your son, Jesus Christ. 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

WITNESSING STEWARD

Carol Baldwin

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the LORD your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children, may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’ —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRATIA TIBI *Thanks Be to Thee*

T. Tallis
(1505 – 1585)

SERMON “Homework for All Saints Day”

Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

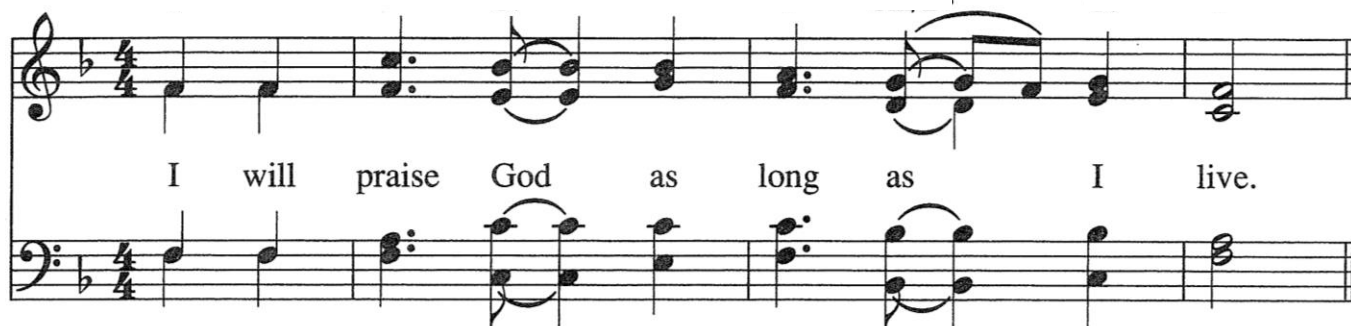
RESPONSIVE PSALM 146

JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, psalmist

The Psalm will be intoned once: The Congregation sings the same Response, and then again at the “*R*” indication.

Response

Antiphon: Judy Hunnicutt, 1994



R

¹Praise be to God!

Praise God, Ó my soul!

²I will praise God as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my
life long.

³Do not put your trust in nobles, in
mortals,
in whom there is no help.

⁴When their breath departs, they return to
the earth;
on that very day their plans shall
perish. *R*

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God
of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Sovereign their
God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and
all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry. *R*

God sets the prisoners free;

⁸God opens the eyes of those who
cannot see.

God lifts up those who are bowed down;
God loves those who are righteous.

⁹God watches over the strangers, and
upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked God brings
to ruin.

¹⁰The Sovereign will reign forever, your
God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise be to God! *R*

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy God, We confess that our love falls short. We love You, but not with our whole heart; we love our neighbors, but not as ourselves. Too often, we cling to comfort and judge from afar, forgetting Your call to live with open hands and open hearts. Forgive us, we pray. Renew in us a spirit of compassion, that we may love fully, as You have loved us. In Christ's name, 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: We open our lips and confess our hearts. God hears our words and makes us new by the Holy Spirit to bring hope and joy to all the world.

People: **We hear the good news, we believe the good news, we will live out the good news. Thanks be to God. Amen!**

OFFERTORY

Lux Aeterna

J. Rutter

from “*Requiem*”

(*1945)

JANET POISSON, soprano

KATIE LYON-PINGREE, harp

I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me: Blessed.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest

For they rest from their labours.

Even so, saith the Spirit, for they rest...

Lux Aeterna, luceat eis, Domine

Cum sanctis tuis, in aeternum

Quia pius est (4x)

Requiem aeternam, dona eis Domine

Et lux perpetua, luceat eis

Requiem aeternam... Aeternam

Light eternal: may it shine upon them, O Lord

With Thy saints in eternity

For Thou art merciful.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord

And may perpetual light shine upon them.

Rest... Eternal rest.

*DOXOLOGY 515

OLD HUNDRETH LM

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Gracious God, We thank You for the saints who have gone before us, those who walked in faith, love, and courage. As we honor their legacy with these gifts, we dedicate ourselves to Your calling— to live with integrity, to serve with compassion, and to love without fear. May their witness inspire us as we walk our path. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE (Remembering the Communion of the Saints)

Leader: We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses.

People: **Death has no dominion over them.**

Leader: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

People: **For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Leader: Naming the Saints:

Nancy Borski
Kay Chrissis
Kris Durmer
Jan Evans
Linda Geers
Betty Jordan
Robert Earl Neth
Suzanne Shattuck
James Tamposi
James Towle
Rev. Dr. Vera M. Wingate

Merle Buck
Brian Courville
Judi Easton
Richard Farr
Robert Geers
Karen Mercer
Richard F. Olefirowicz
James "Sully" Sullivan
David Towle
Bradley Whitney

Leader: Living God, we give thanks for receiving our loved ones into Your care.
People: **O God, keep them forever in Your arms. May they stay forever in our hearts.
Because of their living, teach us to live faithfully. 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

Agnus Dei
from "Requiem"

J. Rutter

<i>Agnus Dei</i>	Lamb of God,
<i>qui tollis peccata mundi</i>	who takes away the sins of the world
<i>Dona eis Requiem</i>	grant us rest.

Man, that is born of a woman, hath but a short time to live
And is full of misery. – He cometh up and is cut down like a flower.
He fleeth as it were a shadow (2x).
In the midst of life, we are in death; whom may we seek for succour? Whom!?

I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord.
He that believeth in me, though he were dead yet shall he live.
And whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.

INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF THE CUP

Pie Jesu
from "Requiem"

J. Rutter

<i>Pie Jesu, Domine</i>	Merciful Jesus, Lord
<i>dona eis requiem</i>	grant them rest
<i>requiem aeternam</i>	rest eternal
<i>dona eis Domine</i>	grant them, Lord
<i>dona eis requiem</i>	grant them rest
<i>sempiternam requiem</i>	eternal rest

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.

Henry Alford, 1810-1871

ALFORD 7.6.8.6.D.
John B. Dykes 1823-1876

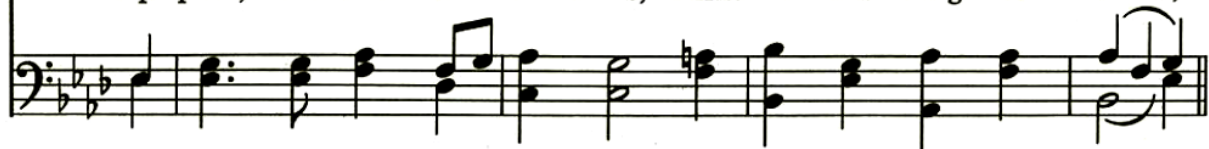
1 Ten thou-sand times ten thou-sand, In spar-ling rai-ment bright;
2 What rush of al-le-lu-ias Fills all the earth and sky!
3 Bring near thy great sal-va-tion, Thou Lamb for sin-ners slain;



The ar-mies of the ran-somed saints Throng up the steep-s of light;
What ring-ing of a thou-sand harps Be-speaks the tri-umph night!
Fill up the roll of thine e-lect, Then take thy power and reign;



'Tis fin-ished, all is fin-ished, Their fight with death and sin;
O day, for which cre-a-tion And all its tribes were made!
Ap-pear, De-sire of na-tions, Thine ex-iles long for home;



Fling o-pen wide the gold-en gates, And let the vic-tors in!
O joy, for all its for-mer woes, A thou-sand-fold re-paid!
Show in the heavens thy promised sign, Thou Prince and Savior, come! A-men.



*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTUS *And When the Strife is Fierce* SARUM

POSTLUDE *On the Wings of Song*, Op. 34, No. 2 F. Mendelssohn
(1809 – 1847)

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Craig Neth 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 SINGERS: Janet Poisson, soprano; Brianne Biastoff, alto;
Zoe Harper, tenor; Joshua L. Gore, bass

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.

Worship Schedule

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

8:15 am Worship in Shaw Chapel
10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
Radio Broadcast on WSMN FM 95.3 & AM 1590
Sunday School & Nursery Care available

NOTES FROM THE CHANCEL

This morning in worship, on **All Saints Sunday** our **Chancel Choir**, soprano soloist and **guest harpist** bring some very special offerings to the glory of God. It is a pleasure to welcome back **Katie Lyon-Pingree**, principal harp of the **Boston Ballet**, to worship this morning. Katie has been with us in the past for Britten's CEREMONY OF CAROLS along with other worship services as well. Katie was one of the *angels* who sat with me, accompanying my father in hospice this past August, so her presence this morning has an additional meaning as we commemorate those who have passed on to their heavenly reward.

Underscoring this, are three movements offered from the beloved **John Rutter REQUIEM**. – After the choir opens our worship with the meditative sounds of the **Taizé brothers** – we transition to movements (*performed out of sequence from the original score*) to support the **Offertory, Bread and Cup**. – In the Offertory, the LUX AETERNA (*eternal light*) provides us with the time to reflect on our dearly departed, whether they have gone from us this past year, or another point in our lives. The sound of a heavenly voice (through **Janet Poisson**, our Staff Singer Soprano), guides the “blessed” to the eternal light, as we ask the Lord to grant the departed their “eternal rest.”

During Communion, the dramatic AGNUS DEI interpolates the liturgical “Lamb of God” (we often sing during Communion distribution), with the harsh realities of departing this world. At the same time, it underscores the promise of Christ being our “Resurrection and Life” for eternity, should we *choose* to believe in Him. Through such faith: we too “shall never die.”

One of the simplest Requiem musical settings of the PIE JESU follows, in a gentle dialogue between our Soprano soloist, harpist, organ and the choir. It pleads for the mercy of Christ to “grant eternal rest” to those beloved who are no longer with us. Our hope this morning, is that these musical offerings to God's glory may bring solace, comfort, peace and hope in times of your own grief, mourning or reflection.

Christian Formation Corner

November 3, 2024 - Today is the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost and the liturgical color is white.

Nursery News – The nursery school is open and staffed. Parents can check in at the welcome center and then proceed to the nursery. The Welcome Center staff can also assist in providing directions.

Busy Bags - are available at the welcome center for when children choose to remain in worship.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

MORNING BIBLE STUDIES – We have two morning Bible study sessions each week. Bible, Friends and Coffee meets on Monday mornings at 9:30 am. The Men's Group meets on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am. We look forward to seeing you there!

THRIFT SHOP-Fall and winter clothing for women and children can be left in the bin at the Courtyard entrance. Please make sure they are clean. Looking for sizes: Girls 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Boys 3-4, 5-6. If you would like to work in the shop on a Thursday, contact Beth Bartlett.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION- All women of the church...members and friends...are invited to our very special Women's Association CATERED brunch on Saturday, November 16, at 11:30 AM in the dining room. This is our way of letting you know how much we appreciate you and how thankful we are for you! If you have never been to one of our events, this is the time!! Come and be waited on! Even the board members will be able to participate!!! Following the brunch, we will have Oonagh Williams, a dynamic speaker, award-winning chef/instructor, consultant and cookbook, author to entertain you with her expertise on healthy eating. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by November 10th.

CURIOUS MINDS- November 3rd-Ghost Stories, the Paranormal and Palm Readers.

November 10th-Do you believe in miracles?

November 17th-The Bible, UFOs and Aliens.

November 24th-What's for Supper?

Each study takes place at 9:00 am in Nauss Hall. We look forward to seeing you there! -Rev. Andy

THANKSGIVING BASKETS AND WHITE DOVE/SILVER DOVE PROGRAMS 2024- Over the past couple of years our protocol for the Thanksgiving baskets and White Dove/Silver Dove programs has changed. Originally we were doing gift cards due to the pandemic and I know some of you were disappointed we weren't doing it the "old" way....choosing families and actually buying for them. The agencies have told me that their clients actually prefer the gift cards both for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The gift cards for **Thanksgiving need to be collected by November 15th**, so the recipients will have time to do their shopping before Thanksgiving. Gift cards for the **White Dove/Silver dove Christmas program are needed by December 11th**. Contact Carol Butler (information in the directory) with any questions.

FAMILY PROMISE-The First Church Team who prepare Family Promise dinners monthly could use some extra helping hands. We prepare dinners for the third week of every month at Family Promise. We are looking for helpers who can cook, drop off part of a meal and/or help serve meals. If you think you would like to learn more or to help out, please contact Beth Raymond 603-595-0053. Thank you!

CROP WALK- CROP/Hunger Walk: TODAY (11/3) @ Noon. Our First Church Team is looking for walkers, pledgers and donors. It's not too late to support our effort. Check out the table in the Welcome Center for more information.

You may also pledge support for our team online by:

1. Going to **Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk**
2. Click Donate at the top.
3. Enter our team name **First Church Nashua (UCC) Walkers.**
4. Add your generous donation.



<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/first-church-nashua-ucc-walkers>

MAD HONORS VETERANS PROJECT

Are you a Veteran? Are you still servicing or have a family member in service. Your First Church Junior High Make A Difference (MAD) students would like to honor you by giving everyone a chance to read your service information and be able to thank you in person.

A bulletin board will be placed in Fellowship Hall with your information and picture. The board will be up from Sunday Nov. 10, through Thanksgiving weekend. We look forward to filling up our board!

Thank you,
The students of MAD

1. Name

2. Branch of Service

3. Rank

4. Deployment

5. Years of Service

6. Picture while in Service

Please submit the above information to the Christian Formation office by November 10th.

Choirs in Worship Next Week

Sunday, November 10, 2024 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8:15 Staff Singers

10:00 First Folk, Chancel Choir

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN NOV 3

Daylight Savings

8:15 am Worship (Chapel)

9:00 am Curious Minds Study (Nauss Hall)

9:15 am Christmas Kids (Chapel)

10:00 am Worship, Livestream

Radio Broadcast, Sunday School

11:30 am Teacher's Meeting (room 15)

12:00 pm Crop Walk

MON NOV 4

9:30 am Bible, Friends & Coffee (Ladies Parlor)

7:00 pm All Boards

TUE NOV 5

1:00 pm Stewardship

4:00 pm Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter

WED NOV 6

8:30 am Men's Group (Ladies Parlor)

11:45 am BNI (dining room)

6:45 pm Chancel Choir

THU NOV 7

10:00 am Thrift Shop

10:00 am Mobile Clinic

10:00 am Pastoral Counseling Service (room 10)

6:45 pm Decibells

FRI NOV 8

3:00 pm Hunt Communion Service

SAT NOV 9

11:00 am Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

12:00 pm Merle Buck Memorial Service



THE FIRST CHURCH

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

STAFF

Senior Minister, *Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong*, aarmstrong@tfcucc.org
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

