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

August 3, 2025 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 "It is better to live rich than to die rich."
— Samuel Johnson

PRELUDE *Five Lyrical Pieces for Organ* (2025) D. Lasky
I. *Cantabile* *(*1957)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God, we acknowledge that so many things draw us away from You.
People: We are tempted by trinkets and gadgets.
Leader: We place our interest in temporal things.
People: But Christ calls us to a higher level.
Leader: We are called to focus our lives on living as God would have us live.
People: We are called to be open to ways of service and compassion.

***HYMN 7** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO
(see next page)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
Welsh Hymn Melody

CCLI # 3034682

***OPENING PRAYER** (Unison)

Gracious and Loving God, You invite us to a banquet where the last may be first and the humble and the mighty trade places. Teach us, in our worship and in our daily lives, to trust Your abundance and to share it freely, without fear of scarcity. Open our hearts to greet strangers as angels You have sent. Send Your Spirit among us now, that we may hear Your call, live into Your truth, and fulfill our Gospel calling. In Christ's name, we pray. 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 **Colossians 3:1-11**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."
Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

SERMON "Being Rich Toward God" Rev. Nancy Haynes

***HYMN 319** *Just As I Am* WOODWORTH
(see next page)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

Just As I Am

Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

WOODWORTH L.M.
William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

CCLI # 3034682

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.

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.

People: Amen

OFFERTORY *I'm Longing For Home* Rev. R. Cravens
DEBORAH GRAHAM NORDYKE, mezzo soprano *(1911 – 1983)*
HARRY NORDYKE, tenor & guitar

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)

Gracious God, we live in a world where greed too often defines our worth and possessions try to claim our identity. Yet in Your gaze, we are seen not for what we own but for who we are—beloved children, created in Your image. Free us from the bonds of our possessions that we may live and give in ways that honor Your name. We dedicate these gifts and our lives to Your work of building a kingdom where all find rest and hope. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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

Holy, Holy, Holy — J. B. Dykes *(1823 – 1876)*

INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF THE CUP

On Our Way Rejoicing — J. S. B. Monsell *(1811– 1875)*

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 245** *Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me* REDHEAD NO. 76

(see next page)

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTUS *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* — J. G. Nageli *(1773– 1836)*

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

VI. Offertory on DENNIS

Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me

Thomas T. Lynch, 1818-1871

REDHEAD NO. 76 7.7.7.7.7.7.
Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Alternative tune, RATISBON, *No. 43*

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OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Sandra and Roy Rumbaugh

COVERART: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Powell_Frith_-_Poverty_and_Wealth.JPG

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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.

Summer Worship Schedule

June 1st – September 7th, 2025
One Service at 9:00 am
In-person Worship and Livestream
WSMN 95.3 FM, 1590 AM
Sunday School and Nursery Care on break through the summer

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday 9 am – 3 pm, Friday 9 am – noon.

RALLY DAY – Sunday, September 14th
One Service at 10:00 am
In-person Worship and Livestream
WSMN 95.3 FM, 1590 AM
Sunday School and Nursery Care resume

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

SUNDAY SCHOOL/NURSERY CARE – Sunday School and Nursery Care are on a break for the summer months. Busy bags are available at the Welcome Center for children who attend worship with their family. We look forward to seeing you on **Rally Day, September 14th at 10:00 am!**

CHRISTIAN FORMATION- Our Christian Formation ministry is looking for some additional volunteers to help our youngest students in the nursery. The schedule is rotating, so you wouldn't serve every week. If you are interested in serving in the nursery or anywhere else in our Sunday School program, please reach out to our Christian Formation Coordinator, Amanda Steere - **asteere@tfcucc.org**

NASHUA SOUP KITCHEN (NSKS) BACKPACKS – There is still time to donate to the NSKS Backpack program. Outreach invites you to donate any amount of money to assist with the purchase of the needed school supplies. Please send a check or drop it in the offering plate (Made to The First Church) **with "NSKS BACKPACK PROGRAM" in the memo line.** You are welcome to fill an entire backpack on your own. You may bring your backpack to the NSKS the first week of August. Thank you for your continued generosity of this very important community/church program! Contact Kathie McIntyre: **kathleenmcintyre@comcast.net** or the church office with any questions.

HOLIDAY FAIR – The Holiday Fair is in need of chairpersons for the following sub-committees: Games, Craft Items, and Cashiers. Please contact **Yvonne Laurie (603) 321-0923 or** ylaurie54@gmail.com **Our next meeting takes place on Tuesday, August 12th at 10 am in room 15.**

IN SEARCH OF A GRAPHIC ARTIST AND CREATIVE WRITER-

The First Church Capital Campaign Committee is looking to fill two volunteer jobs on our Team. Someone who has great graphic arts skills and someone who is an excellent creative writer. This can be one person or two. This or these volunteers will be needed for September to February 2026 for 2-3 hours a week. If you have either of these skill sets or know someone who can volunteer some time to help, please reach out to Caryl Sullivan (603-305-5557) for more information.

Music in Worship Next Week
Sunday,August 10th, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 Richard Benefield, organ

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN AUG 3	9:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
	10:15 am	College Bible Study (room 15)
MON AUG 4	6:30 pm	Christian Formation (dining room)
TUE AUG 5	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
	5:00 pm	Jazz First (dining room)
WED AUG 6	11:45 am	BNI (dining room)
THU AUG 7	6:30 pm	Music Committee (room 15)
		Friends Campaign Mailing
FRI AUG 8	3:00 pm	Hunt Community
SAT AUG 9	11:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE 2025

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 8	**MEN'S CHOIR (TTBB)**
June 15	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, baritone**
June 22	**NICOLE PLUMMER, mezzo soprano**
June 29	**WOMEN'S CHOIR (SA)**
July 6	**KATIE WEISS, soprano**
July 13	**TIMOTHY SKINNER, clarinet**
July 20	**JOHNATHAN STERLING, piano**
July 27	**SUMMER CHOIR (SATB)**
August 3	**DEBBIE NORDYKE, mezzo soprano**
	HARRY NORDYKE, tenor & guitar
August 10	**RICHARD BENEFIELD, organ**
August 17	**SUSAN COBB, soprano**
August 24	**CRAIG PLUMMER, tenor**
August 31	**JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, piano**
September 7	**MARK A. CLEVELAND, bass-baritone**

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
Interim Sexton, *Bruce Lund,* blund@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-3:00 pm, Friday 9:00am-noon
www.tfcucc.org