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

First Sunday after Pentecost
Trinity Sunday

May 31, 2026 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

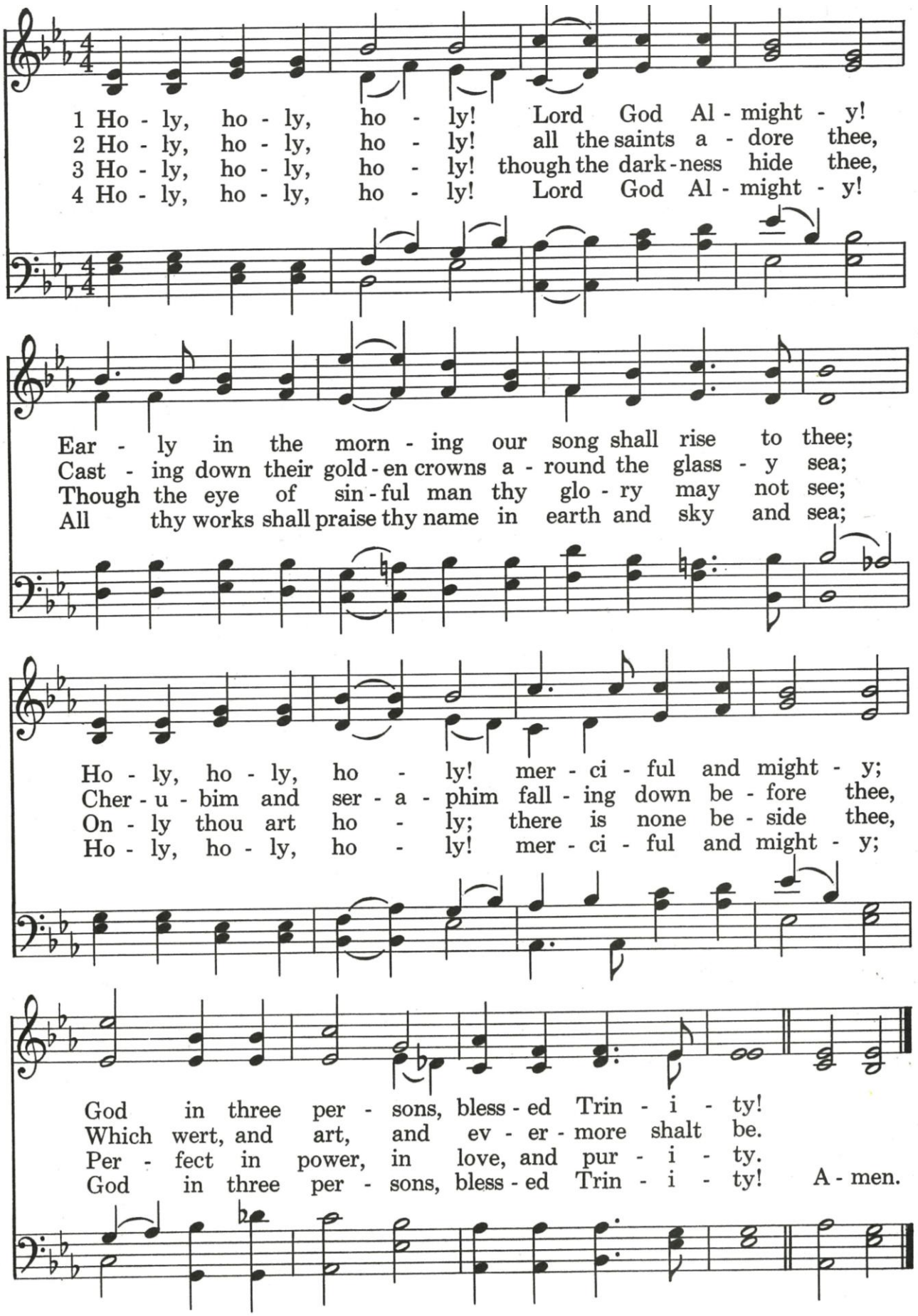
MEDITATION "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." -Proverbs 3:5-6

PRELUDE *Five Antiphons*, *Op. 18, No. 5* M. Dupré
How Fair and Pleasant Art Thou *(1886 – 1971)*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 127)

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: We come together at a moment of great joy and completion in the life of our church. But scripture reminds us today that our successes do not belong to our hands alone.
People: Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.
Leader: We live in a world that tells us to hustle, to worry, eating the bread of anxious toil. But the Psalmist reminds us of a deeper truth:
People: God provides for His beloved even while they sleep.
Leader: So let us pause. Let us exhale. Let us shift our gaze from what *we* have accomplished to what *God* is doing in among us.
People: Let us grow into God's future. Let us worship God!

***HYMN 251** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* NICAEA



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***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Almighty God, unless You build the house, the builders truly labor in vain. We give You our praise and adoration because we know Your hand has been leading us every step of the way. Thank You for the faith, the resilience, and the beautiful generosity of Your people and this congregation. Strip away any institutional pride or lingering anxiety from our hearts this morning. Open our eyes to see that this day is not a finish line, but a fresh beginning. Knit us together in fellowship, fill us with the joy of Your presence, and launch us into Your promised future with bold confidence. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MOMENT Caryl Sullivan and Charlie Morris

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Psalm 127:1-2**

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain, Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Luke 12:22-31

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how

much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

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

VOLUNTARY *A Simple Celebration* B. Johnson
DECIBELLS *(*1949)*

SERMON "Growing into God's Future"
Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***HYMN 3** *God Himself Is With Us* ARNSBERG
(see following page)

***A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AND HOPE: GROWING INTO GOD'S FUTURE**

Leader: Eternal God, You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. For three hundred and forty-one years, Your hand has been upon First Church. We stand today on the shoulders of the Saints who came before us—those who planted gardens, built walls, survived pandemics, and kept the flame of faith burning through changing generations.

People: We honor their legacy, and we give You thanks for their enduring faith.

Leader: Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Today, we celebrate the abundant conclusion of our capital campaign: Honoring Our Past—Growing into God's Future. We thank You for the hands that worked, the hearts that prayed, and the generosity that overflowed in this community.

People: With joyful hearts, we praise You for every tangible expression of our faith.

Leader: We give You thanks for roofs that will be repaired, windows that will be replaced, and infrastructure that will be renewed. Yet we remember that these endeavors are more than bricks and mortar. They are a trellis for Your living Vine.

People: **We dedicate these physical resources to the service of Your kingdom.**

Leader: Let these walls always look outward. May this campus be a sanctuary and a launch pad for the missions that carry Your love into the heart of Nashua,

People: **May our investments protect the warmth, the kindness, and the culture of Your grace.**

Leader: Forgive us, O God, when we fall into the trap of our own self-reliance, or when we eat the bread of anxious toil. Deliver us from the temptation to think our work is finished, or that your future can be neatly contained within our current plans and budgets.

People: **Teach us to grow like the lilies of the field, trusting in Your bold and tender care.**

Leader: As we step across this threshold, we intentionally open our doors, our hearts, and our resources to the ministries we have not yet imagined, the challenges we have not yet faced, and the neighbors yet to be named whom You are already drawing to this place.

People: **We surrender our need for control, and we step forward with joy and confidence.**

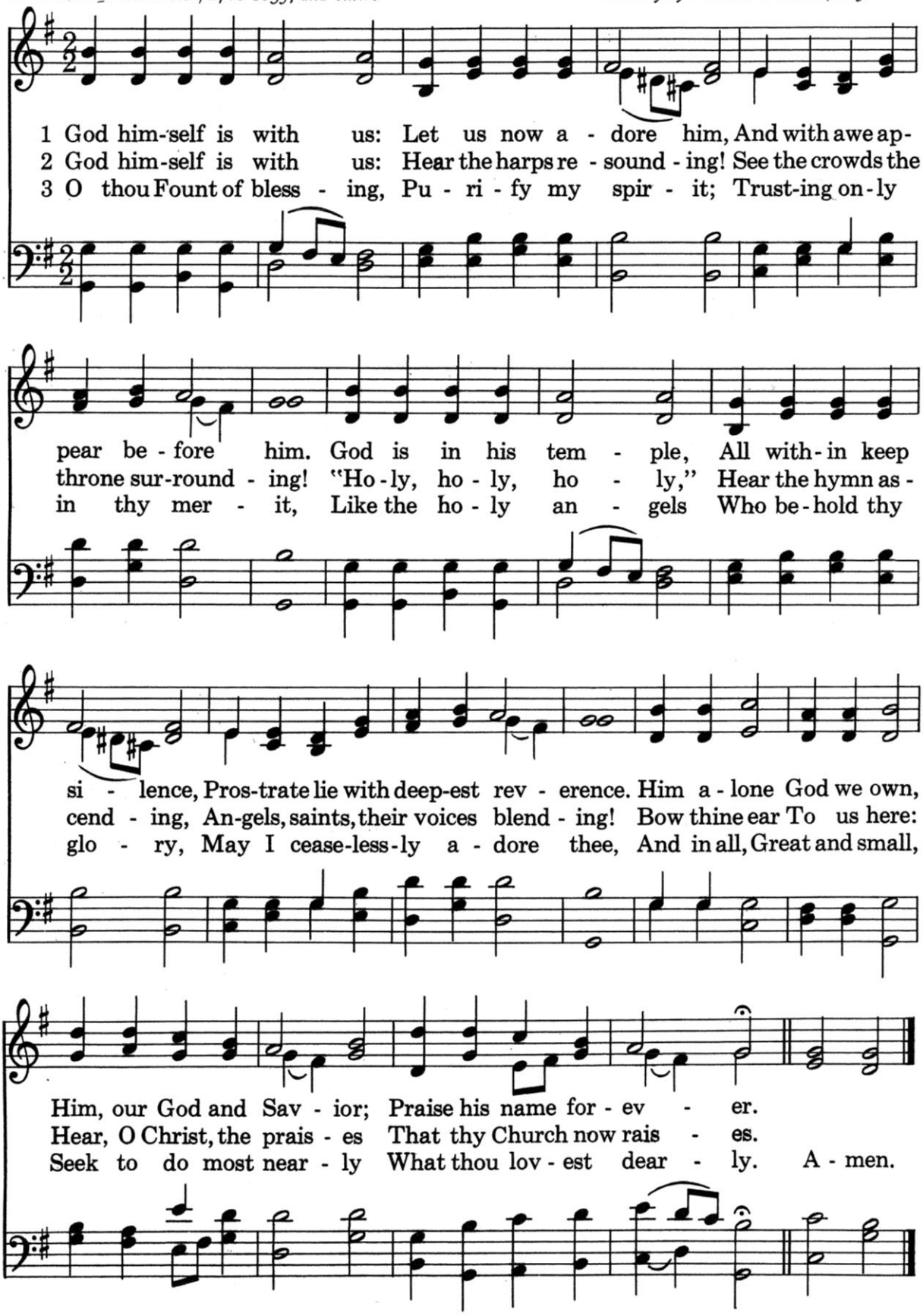
Leader: Guide us, O Lord, as we grow into the future You envision for us. Keep us united in fellowship, rooted in faith, and filled with Your Holy Spirit.

All: **Together, we trust Your promise, we celebrate Your goodness, and we commit our days to Your unfolding future. Amen.**

God Himself Is With Us

Gerhardt Tersteegen, 1697-1769
Tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760-1835, and others

ARNSBERG 6.6.8.6.6.8.3.3.6.6.
Melody by Joachim Neander, 1650-1680



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RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

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 *Take Time to Be Holy* W. D. Longstaff
(1822 – 1894)
arr. Wagner

*** DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM
arr. Heider

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Holy God, You provide for the lilies of the field and You care for each one of us. Deliver us from anxious worry, and accept these offerings as a tangible sign of our trust in Your goodness. Use these gifts to fuel our missions, bless our community, and spread Your love far beyond our walls. Amen.

***HYMN 2** *All Glory Be to God on High* ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH'

ADORATION AND PRAISE

CCLI # 3034682

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Procession and March* P. McKlveen
*(*1960)*

Have you remembered The First Church in your will?

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Joe Glajch and Don Smith-Weiss
LICENSING: CCLI (print) 3034682; CCLI (streaming) 20119862; CCS 12820; OneLicense A-736284
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HEARING AIDS AND LARGE PRINT BULLETINS
ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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, MAY 31st
9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
Radio Broadcast on WSMN FM 95.3 & AM 1590

Christian Formation Corner

MAY 31, 2026 - Today is the First Sunday after Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and the liturgical color is white.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CARE- There is no Sunday School and Nursery Care through the summer months. Children are welcome to attend worship with their family. Busy bags are available at the Welcome Center for children attending worship. See you at **Rally Day, on Sept. 13th**.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

MEN'S CHOIR TO SING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH AT 9:00 AM – Looking for all of our First Church men who like to sing, to join us for our yearly Men's Choir project. Rehearsals will be held on June 2nd, 4th, 9th and 11th at 6:30 pm Contact Joseph with any questions.

USHER APPRECIATION AT LUI LUI'S (NASHUA) – We want to say thank you to our Ushering Team for their dedicated service and are also looking to grow our team!! **Wednesday, June 3rd at 6 pm**, join Rev. Andy and the Ushering Committee (Bill Thorp, Jennifer Roy, Jeanne Chaloner, and Leslie Jasper). We will gather for a night of food, fun and conversation. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

THE FIRST CHURCH THRIFT SHOP is open on **Thursdays, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM (Open Sat. June 6th from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM).** Donations of women's and children's clothing is being accepted. Leave items in the bin at the courtyard entrance. All proceeds go to community outreach. **Last day 6/18.** Thank you for all of your support!!

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION- The last event until the Fall for the Women's Association will be our Spring potluck and Yankee Swap on **Monday, June 8th at 6 PM in the dining room**. We ask that everyone arrive by 6 pm. Please keep gifts a surprise and within $10. Sign up at the Welcome Center. Contact Trish Stone, Susie Boyd or Brooks Thompson with any questions.

MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH- One of our neighboring agencies, The Tolles Street Mission, is looking for volunteers. They provide a weekly food pantry and community resource center serving those in need. Volunteers are needed to assist in filling food bags on alternate **Wednesdays 10:15 am – 12:15 pm. Contact Maureen, the Food Pantry Coordinator at (603) 820-1114** if you are interested. Thank you!

CHOIRS IN WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, June 7, 2026 –Second Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 Chancel Choir

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN MAY 31	Celebration Sunday for Capital Campaign	
	9:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
MON JUN 1	7:00 pm	All Boards
TUE JUN 2	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
	6:45 pm	Men's Choir
WED JUN 3	10:00 am	Women's Association (room 15)
	11:45 am	BNI (dining room)
THU JUN 4	10:00 am	Thrift Shop
	6:30 pm	Men's Choir
SAT JUN 6	10:00 am	Thrift Shop
	11:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (Meet at Greeley Park)
	11:00 am	Martha Smith Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

THE FIRST CHURCH

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
Communication/Copyright/Marketing Coordinator, *Jim Ferguson III*, jferguson@tfcucc.org
Office Manager, *Tasha Drew*, tdrew@tfcucc.org
Sexton, *James Halstead*, jhalstead@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 The 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 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.

All use of the building must be scheduled by the Office Manager.

One Concord Street - Nashua, New Hampshire 03064 - 603-882-4861
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-noon and 1:00-4:00pm
Friday 9:00 am - noon
www.tfcucc.org

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