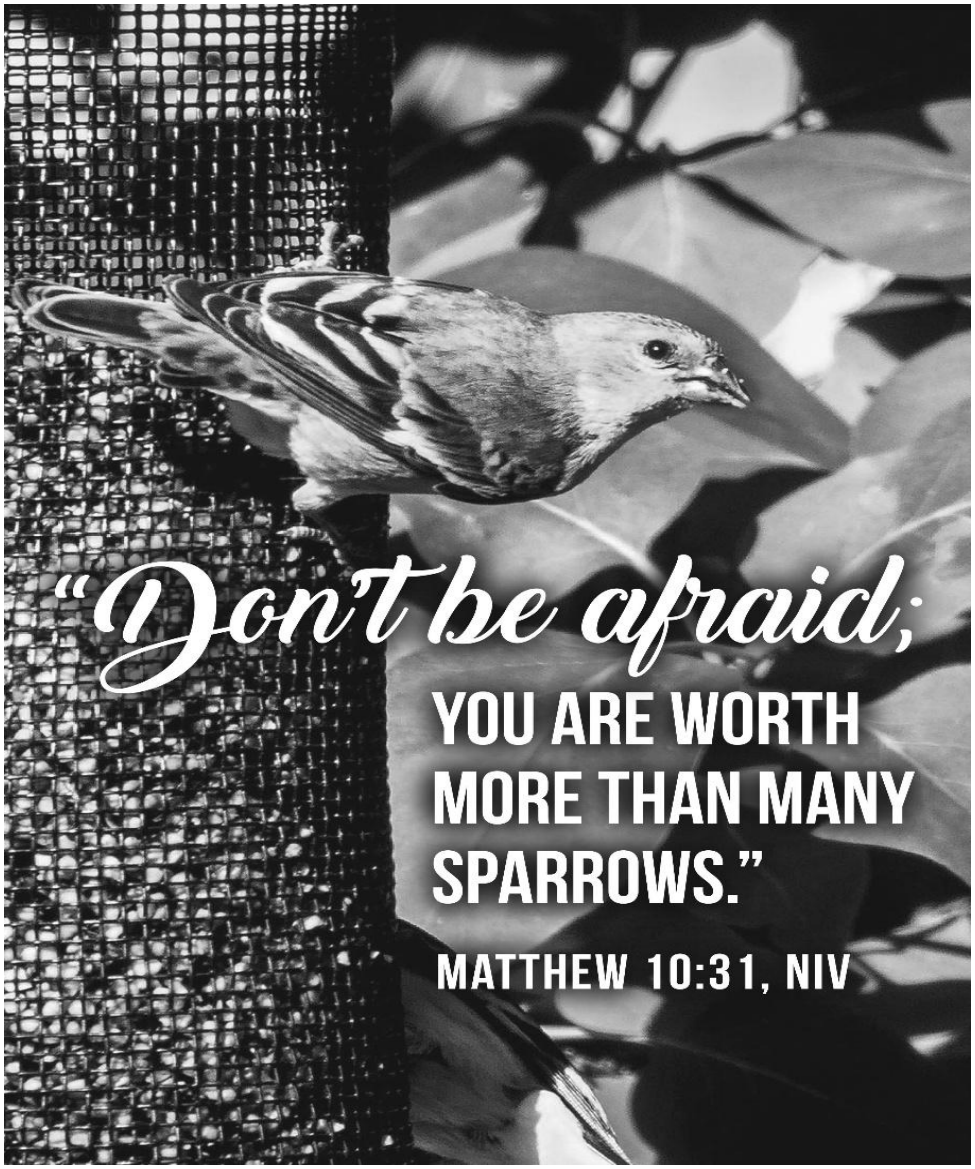

THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 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 Lisa Cleveland

MEDITATION "I love the Lord, for He heard my voice;
He heard my cry for mercy, because
He turned His ears to me, I will call on
Him as long as I live." – Psalm 116:1-2

PRELUDE *xv. Arabesque* *L. Vierne*
from Quatre-vingt Pièces en style libre *(1870 – 1937)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: O God, pour Your Holy Spirit upon us and fill our souls with grace and love.

People: In this time of worship, deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts. Together, with steady minds and burning zeal, we may worship You in spirit and truth.

***HYMN 246** *Come Thou, Almighty King* ITALIAN HYMN

***CONFESSION**

Leader: Let us open our hearts to God whose means is mercy; whose desire is our freedom.

People: God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to You as a people eager for good news. We have been so dead to miracles that we have missed the world's rebirth. We have preoccupied ourselves with happiness and have overlooked the joy You offer us. We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the life You set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive Your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PARDON

Leader: As the Apostle Paul wrote, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" The good news, therefore, is this: In Jesus Christ we are made new, we are loved, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Jeremiah 20:7-13**

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name', then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: 'Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. 'Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.' But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore, my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.'

Matthew 10:24-39

A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! 'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. 'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.'

Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

SOLO *Psalm 148* N. Rorem
Katherine Weiss, soprano (1923 – 2022)

SERMON "You are worth more than many sparrows"
Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

***CENTERING PRAYER (Unison)**
O Lord, keep the Church grounded in Your faith and love. In Your grace we may proclaim Your truth with boldness and share the Good News with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You in the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.

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 *I Waited for the Lord* F. Mendelssohn
from Hymn of Praise *(1809 – 1847)*

*** DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Thank you for the opportunity to give. We do so with joyful, grateful hearts. We look at the needs of the world and our offerings are small. May they be like yeast and grow in your kingdom, bringing a rich harvest of righteousness in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN 342** *I Need Thee Every Hour* NEED

POSTLUDE *Echo* S. Scheidt
(1587 - 1654)

Have you remembered The First Church in your will?

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Lee Hauenstein & Bill Thompson
PULPIT FLOWERS: Jim & Maribeth Stone *(06/14/26)*, ILMO Carolyn Ann Muirooney
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: Katherine Weiss, soprano
Joseph R. Olefirowicz, baritone

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, June 14th
9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
Radio Broadcast on WSMN FM 95.3 & AM 1590

NOTES FROM THE CHANCEL

The ministry **did not** release a **SUMMER MUSIC SCHEDULE** for this coming June through early September. This is a 'one off' year, where your *Minister of Music* will be *in-residence* as guest conductor with the **Munich Radio Orchestra** in July, preparing to take them on tour in Germany, as one of the featured orchestras at the massive **Rheingau Music Festival** in Wiesbaden. Over a five-month period, about 130 concerts in 29 (!) different venues are hosted on the festival: mostly classical, jazz and some crossover work. Even "*Kings Return*" who was featured here on FIRST MUSIC a few seasons back, is on the German roster in August, along with violinist Joshua Bell, *Voces8*, *Chanticleer*, the *King's Singers*, *Orchestra of Saint Martin in the Fields*, and many more.

Joseph's double **Open Air** concerts feature an evening of **British Film Music**, followed by a gala of **West End** stars (*London's Broadway*) the very next night. Following these rigorous weeks is vacation during August, with Joseph back on the console on **September 6**. His final Sunday on the console is today *Father's Day*, June 21.

For his period away, three different organist colleagues (**Richard Benefield**, **Brett Greene**, and **Scott Bergendahl**) will cover all the worship Sundays, and our Staff Singers will be featured soloists on a regular rotation for this special summer season.

Christian Formation Corner

JUNE 21, 2026 - Today is the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, and the liturgical color is green.

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

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!

NASHUA SOUP KITCHEN AND SHELTER (NSKS) BACKPACKS- It's Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter (NSKS) Backpack time again! Outreach invites you to donate any amount of money to assist with the purchase of the needed school supplies. Our goal is $2500.00, so all contributions will greatly help as we fill 84+ backpacks this year. **Please send a check or drop it in the offering plate by July 30th with "NSKS BACKPACK PROGRAM" in the memo line.** If you would like to help fill the backpacks with us on **Thursday July 30th at 6:00 in the dining room, please contact Kathie McIntyre.** Also, if you would like to fill an entire backpack on your own, you may bring it to the NSKS the first week of August. Any questions, please contact Kathie McIntyre or the church office.

MARY PARK NUTT MEMORIAL TOWER CHIME
THE FIRST CHURCH OF NASHUA
AMERICA 250
Sunday JULY 5 Concert at 10:15AM

Gerald MARTINDALE, carillonneur of Toronto's historic Metropolitan United Church from 1997 until 2016, has completed 20 carillon concert tours of the United States and 10 tours of Europe. He returns to Nashua for his second appearance at The First Church, in an exciting 30-minute concert program at **10:15am on Sunday July 5** to commemorate our Nation's birthday.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to 1 Concord Street in Nashua, NH and cross the street to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Park, for an enjoyable Sunday morning celebrating AMERICA 250 with popular songs and pieces for the 15-bell historic Vanduzen and Tift Chime from the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition.

Refreshments of lemonade and cookies on the church's West lawn will be served, through the co-team of the church's Ushers and Music Committee.

Free Admission and ALL ARE WELCOME, from both the church and wider community.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP NEXT WEEK
Sunday, June 28, 2026 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am *Janet Poisson, soprano*
Brett Greene, guest organist

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN JUN 21	9:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
TUE JUN 23	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
SAT JUN 27	11:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

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, *Migdalia Castro-Marin*, mcastro@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.

<u>All use of the building must be scheduled by the Office Manager.</u>

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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