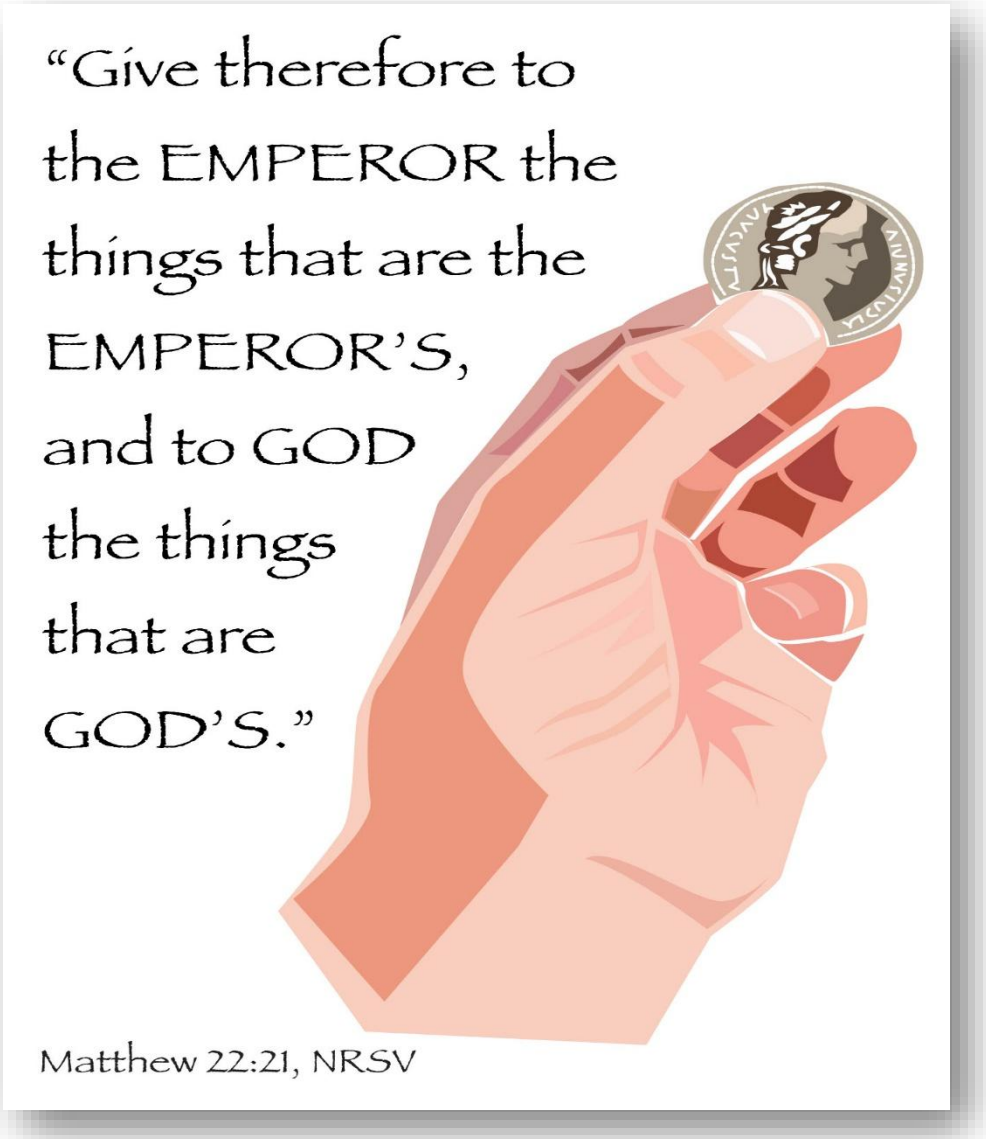

THE FIRST CHURCH

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

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026 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 Norma Smith

MEDITATION *"America! America! God mend thine every flaw,*
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!"

PRELUDE *Partita on Slane:* "Be Thou My Vision" *Daniel Pinkham*
(1923 - 2006)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come to the Lord, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.

People: We come to find rest for our souls.

Leader: The Lord is gentle and humble in heart, calling us to walk in a new way.

People: We take up the yoke of Christ, seeking to learn the rhythms of grace.

Leader: Let us worship the God who meets us in our exhaustion and offers us a peace the world cannot give.

People: We praise the One who abides with us every step of the way.

***HYMN 335** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* ERIE

Joseph Scriven, 1819-1886

ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.
Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

PRAYER

CCLI # 3034682

***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Gracious and loving God, we come before You with open hearts and eager spirits. We thank You for the light of Christ that reveals Your truth and grace in our lives. In this season of illumination, may we seek to recognize Your presence in our midst and be transformed by Your love. Guide us in our worship today, as we listen to Your word and seek to understand the depth of Your compassion. Amen.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Romans 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.'

And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

SERMON "Thy Liberty in Law"
Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: 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. Amen.

A time of silence for personal confession

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. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God!

OFFERTORY *Zion's Walls (from Old American Songs)* Aaron Copland

MARK A. CLEVELAND, bass-baritone *(1900 – 1990)*

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Generous God, we return these gifts not out of obligation, but out of a desire to be partners in Your redeeming work. We recognize that everything we have is Yours, and we offer these resources as a sign of our trust in Your provision. Use these offerings to bring comfort to the burdened and justice to the forgotten, extending Your grace into this moment in history and into Your world. We name all people as our brothers and sisters and dedicate ourselves to their care. Amen.

THE COMMUNION

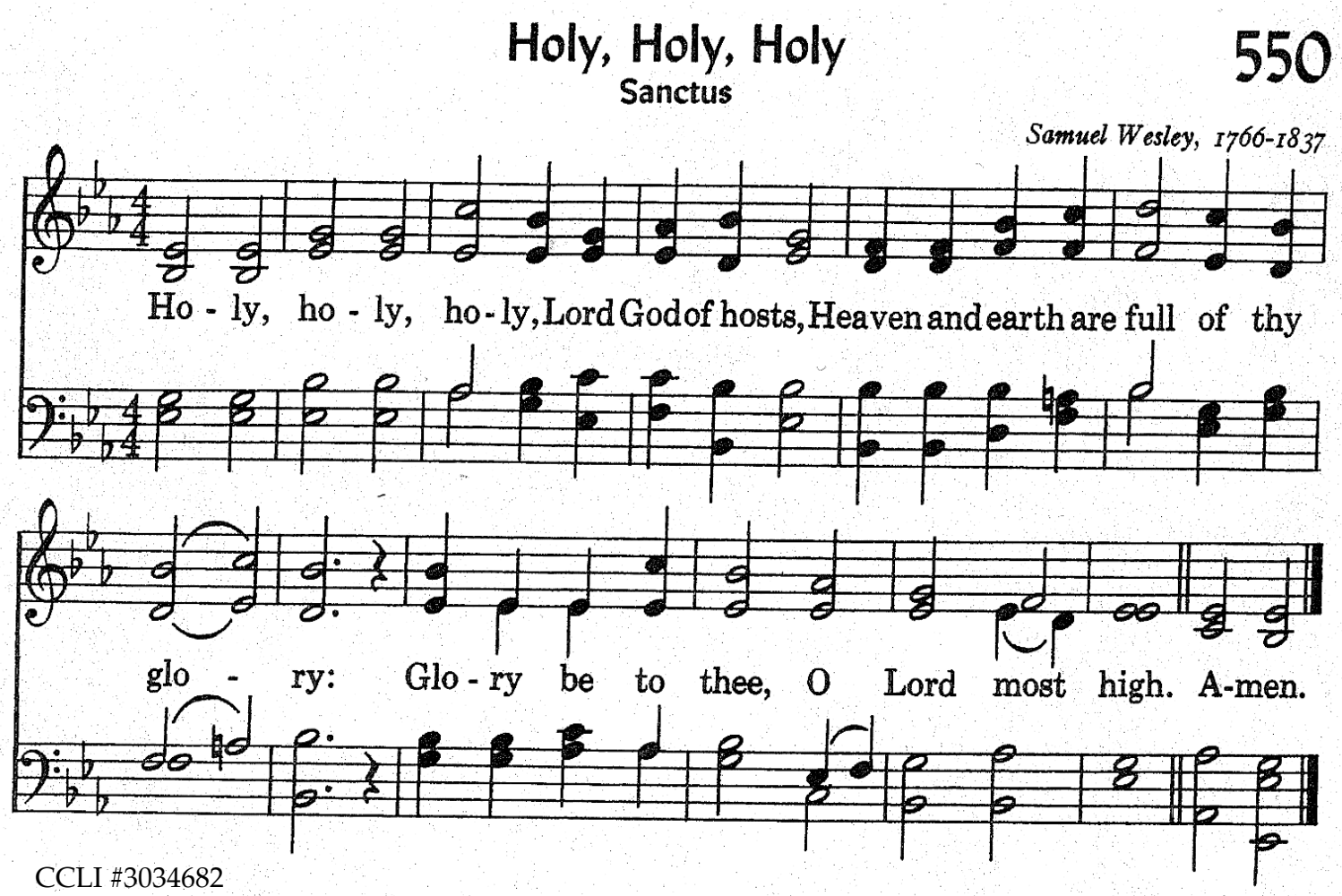
It is a tradition at The First Church that we eat the bread and drink the cup together as the people of God renewing our covenant. We serve grape juice and gluten free bread.

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.

CHORAL SANCTUS 550 Samuel Wesley

(1766 – 1837



CCLI #3034682

INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF THE BREAD

RICHARD BENEFIELD, guest organist

INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF THE CUP

RICHARD BENEFIELD, guest organist

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 440** *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* MATERNA

Katharine Lee Bates, 1859-1929

MATERNA C.M.D.
Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903

CCLI #3034682

POSTLUDE *Allegro maestoso e vivace* Feliz Mendelssohn
(from *Organ Sonata II*, OP. 65, No.2) *(1587 - 1654)*

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Craig Neth & Bill Thompson

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: Mark Cleveland, bass-baritone
Richard Benefield, guest organist

HEARING AIDS AND LARGE PRINT OF HYMNS AND PRAYERS
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.

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**.

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

JULY 5, 2026 - Today is the Sixth 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.

We welcome **RICHARD BENEFIELD as Guest Organist** this Sunday and our Staff Singer **MARK CLEVELAND, bass-baritone**, as our morning's Soloist.

Joseph, our Minister of Music is on tour with the Munich Radio Orchestra in July and on vacation for the month of August. He returns to the music office on August 31 and to the console on September 6.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF NASHUA have two new windows in the Courtyard main entrance, please check them out. The windows look ***FANTASTIC***!

MARY PARK NUTT MEMORIAL TOWER CHIME
THE FIRST CHURCH OF NASHUA
AMERICA 250
Today, 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.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF NASHUA- We are seeking a **Christian Formation Coordinator**: If you love working behind the scenes to make good things happen, this part-time role is all about teamwork. You will be a coordinating presence on Sunday mornings and will be a key helper and partner to our ministers, the Board of Christian Formation, and our dedicated volunteer Sunday School teachers. The main goal will be to support the people who teach our kids, keep our programs organized, and help our families feel connected and cared for. For more information and to apply visit the website: https://tfcucc.org/, Facebook page or speak with Rev. Nancy.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF NASHUA- effective **August 2nd**. we're moving the Sunday Worship to a two (2) service format: **8:00 am Courtyard** and **9:00 am Chapel.** These services will be only during the August Sundays, starting **August 2nd. until August 30th.** For more information, please contact our Church Office.

NEW LOCATION FOR DONATIONS- A collection bin has been placed in the courtyard foyer to the left of entrance doors. We are currently accepting donations for the **NSKS and End 68 hours of Hunger**. This location will replace the baskets located next to the elevator and near the welcome center. Many thanks to Joseph Towle who designed and constructed the collection bin for his Eagle Scout project. **Requested items for NSKS**: Food Items-peanut butter, Mac & Cheese, Rice & Pasta, Cereal (hot & cold), Canned Tuna or Chicken), Beans (dried or canned), Baby food & formula, Nutritional drinks i.e., Boost). **Personal Hygiene**: Travel Sizes accepted - Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, bar soap; toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss; deodorant, body lotion; razors, shaving cream; menstrual care products; bladder protection pads & disposable underwear; diapers (sizes 3-6, pull ups), wipes; baby care (lotion, shampoo, diaper cream); toilet paper, tissues, paper towels. **Requested items for End 68 Hours of Hunger**: Box/Bag of Nutritional Cereal, Canned Soup/Pasta, Peanut Butter 18 oz. plastic, Jelly 20 oz. Plastic, Canned Tuna/Chicken, Cans of Fruit, Crackers, Mac & Cheese (boxes), Ramen Noodles (No Cups), Nutrition Bars.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, July 12, 2026 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Josh L. Gore, tenor

Richard Benefield, guest organist

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN JUL 5	9:00 am	Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
	10:15 am	Chime Concert
TUE JUL 7	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
THU JUL 9	6:30 pm	Quilt Guild (dining room)
FRI JUL 10	3:00 pm	Hunt Service
SAT JUL 11	11:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (dining room)

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, *Migdalia Castro-Marin,* mcastro@tfcucc.org
Communication/Copyright/Marketing Coordinator, *Jim Ferguson III*, jferguson@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 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