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 Day
Twenty-Third after Pentecost

November 1, 2026 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 Norma Smith

MEDITATION **"**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."
- Matthew 5:8

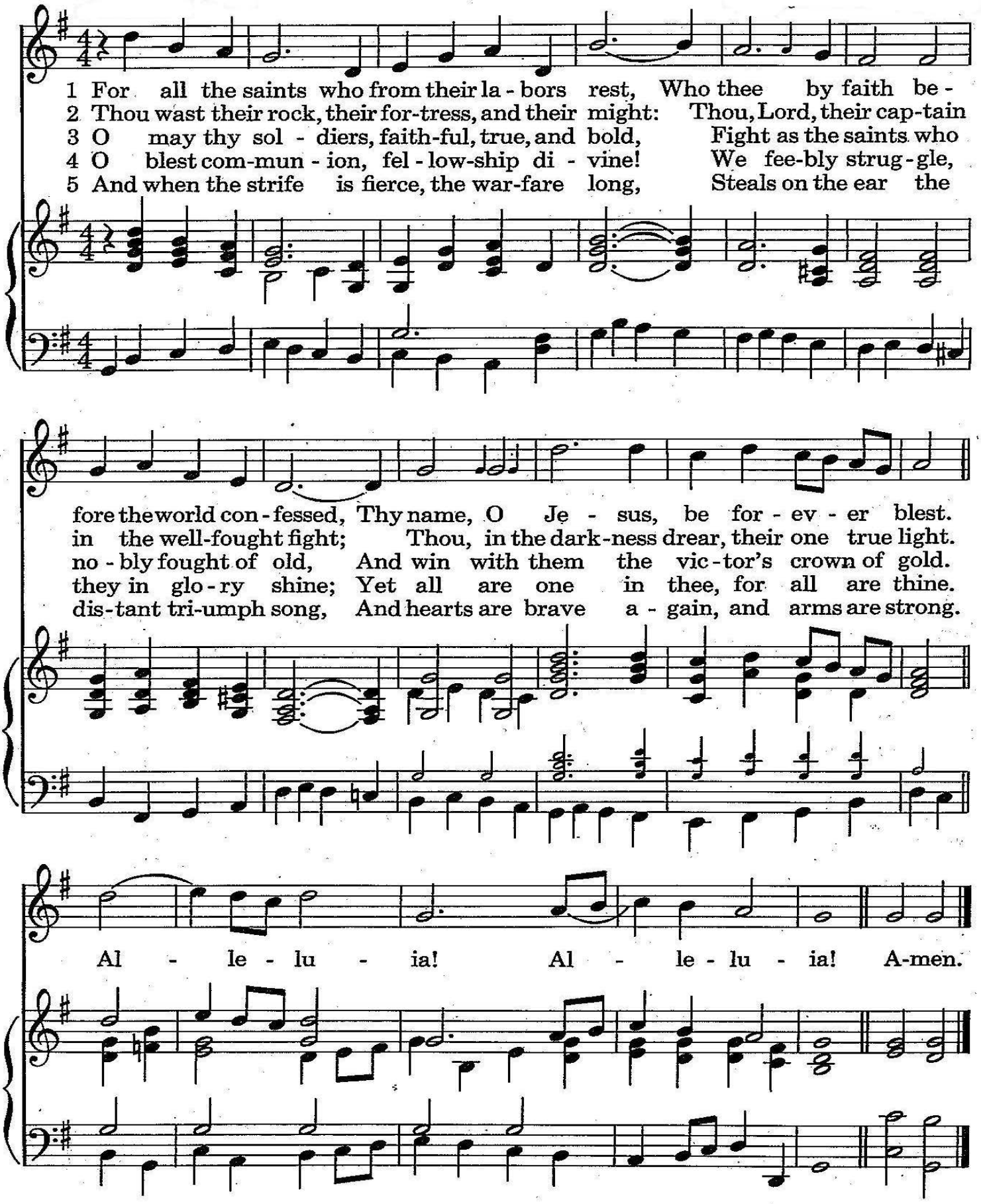
PRELUDE iv. *Épitaphe* L. Vierne
from *Quatre-vingt Pièces en style libre* *(1870 – 1937)*
"24 Pieces in Free Style"

INTROITUS *For the Brave of Every Race* J. Hinize
CHANCEL CHOIR *(1622 - 1702)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.
People: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
Leader: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together!
People: We join the great multitude from every nation, standing before the throne and the Lamb.
Leader: Let us worship the God of all saints, the Source of our blessing and our peace.

***HYMN 306** *For All the Saints* SINE NOMINE



CCLI #3034682

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God, we thank You for this new day and for the memory of the saints who have gone before us—those whose lives reflected Your grace and whose feet walked the path of the Beatitudes. As we worship, illuminate our hearts by the light of Christ, that we might see the vision of Your kingdom where there is no more hunger, thirst, or tears. Grace us with the passion to follow in their way. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. 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

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Revelations 7:9-17**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, ***'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'*** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ***'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'***

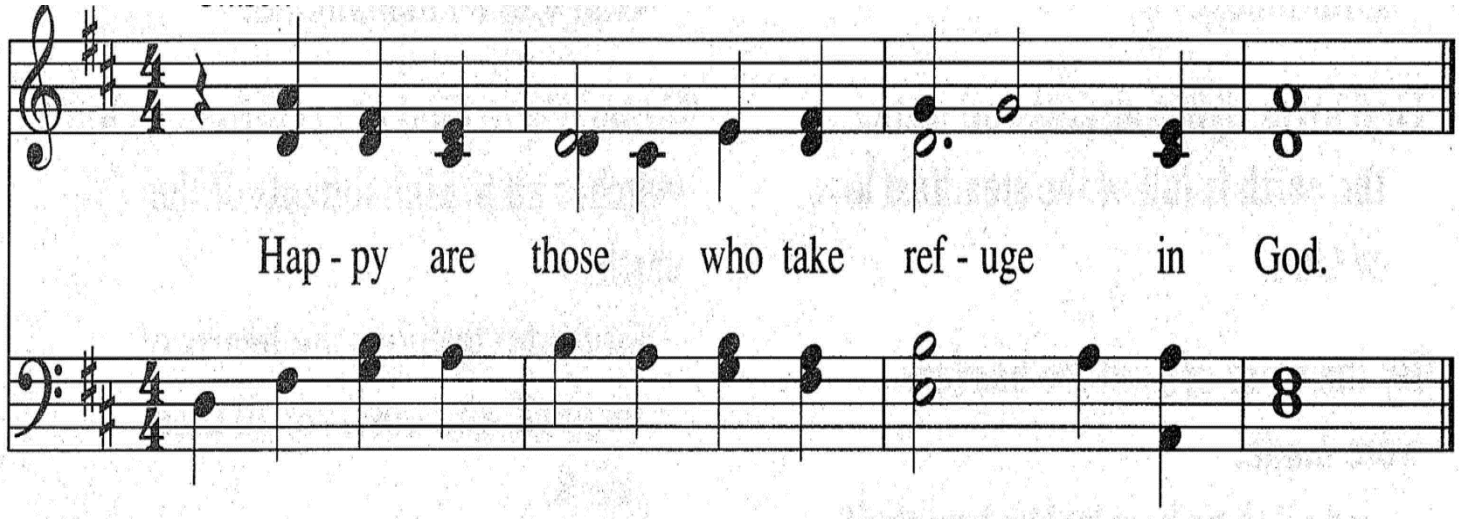
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

GRATIA TIBI *Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet* H. Porter
(1897 - 1960)

SERMON "The Saints We Remember"
Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Armstrong

RESPONSIVE PSALM 34:1-8 **JANET POISSON, psalmist**

The Psalm will be intoned once: The Congregation sings the same Response, and then again at the "℟" indication.



℟

[1]I will bless God át all times;
God's praise shall continually be ín my mouth.

[2]My soul makes its bóast in God;
let the humble hear ánd be glad.

[3]O magnify Gód with me,
and let us exalt God's náme together.

[4]I sought God, ánd God answered me,
and delivered me from áll my fears.

℟

[5]Look to God, ánd be radiant;
so your faces shall never bé ashamed.

[6]This poor soul cried, and was héard by God,
and was saved from évery trouble.

[7]The angel of God encamps around those whó fear God;
God's angél delivers them.

[8]O taste and see that Gód is good;
happy are those who take refúge in God. ℟

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed (Unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker 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, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS and PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Together: **Merciful God, we confess that we often fail to live as the "blessed" people You call us to be. We seek our own comfort instead of Your justice; we choose the loud voices of the world over the gentle whisper of Your Spirit. Forgive us, Gracious God, by the mercies of Christ. Restore our hearts and help us to follow in the footsteps of the saints who trusted You in all things.**

(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: Friends, hear the good news: God wipes away every tear from our eyes. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

People: **Thanks be to Christ who sets us free to love and to serve! Amen.**

OFFERTORY *Libera Me* G. Fauré

from *Requiem* *(1845 – 1924)*

MARK A. CLEVELAND, bass baritone

Baritone solo

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna	Deliver me, o Lord, from everlasting death
in die illa tremenda	on that dreadful day
Quando coeli movendi sunt et terra	when the heavens and the earth shall be moved
Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.	when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire

Choir

Tremens factus sum ego et timeo	I quake with fear and I tremble
dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira	awaiting the day of account and the wrath to come.
Dies illa dies irae	That day, the day of anger,
calamitatis et miseriae	of calamity, of misery,
dies illa, dies magna	that day, the great day,
et amara valde	and most bitter.

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine	Grant them eternal rest, o Lord,
et lux perpetua luceat eis	and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna	Deliver me, o Lord, from everlasting death
in die illa tremenda	on that dreadful day
Quando coeli movendi sunt et terra	when the heavens and the earth shall be moved
Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.	when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

***DOXOLOGY 515** OLD HUNDRETH LM

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Generous God, we offer these gifts as an act of solidarity with the Saints of every age. We recognize that we are but stewards of Your abundance. We return these resources to You, dedicated to extending Your grace through our church into Nashua and beyond. 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:

Mary Louise Chapman
Ray Bentley
Mildred Leuteritz
Steven Spencer
Chris Guild
Sandra Stone
Bill Ford
Zenaida Marin del Valle
Robert Hardison
Richard Keyes
Meryon Miner
James Downs
Martha Smith
Virginia Sipe
Richard (Dick) Gillespie

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

Pie Jesu — G. Fauré

from *Requiem*

JANET POISSON, soprano

Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem	Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them rest
dona eis requiem sempiternam requiem	grant them rest, eternal rest.

INSTITUTION AND SHARING OF THE CUP

Give Us the Wings of Faith — E. Bullock

from *Requiem* *(1980 – 1979)*

STAFF SINGER QUINTET

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 311** *Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand* ALFORD

CCLI #3034682

***BENEDICTUS** *Evermore Their Life Abides* SALZBURG

POSTLUDE *Fugue in D Minor,* BWV 565 (excerpt) J. S. Bach
(1685 - 1750)

Have you remembered The First Church in your will?

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED; OUR SERVICE BEGINS

AV TEAM: Don Smith-Weiss & Lee Hauenstein
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.
PULPIT FLOWERS: Special Thanks to: Dot & Jeannette Shippey in honor and memory of ***Meryon Miner***
STAFF SINGERS: *Janet Poisson, soprano - Abra Mueller, alto*
Joshua L. Gore, tenor - Mark A. Cleveland, bass

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.

NOTES FROM THE CHANCEL

This morning in worship, on **All Saint's Sunday,** we remember those of our departed family and friends. Coinciding with our congregational celebration of **Communion**, the service has many points of remembrance in our worship music.

The **PRELUDE** helps us focus our hearts and minds for the coming worship. Vierne's *"Epitaph"* is written in the memory of his German organist and composer colleague Alphonse Schmitt. It has been a customary tradition in the French school to dedicate new pieces of music to both the living and the departed. This contemplative piece evokes the memory of a walk through the cemetery, reading the inscriptions on the tombstones.

Our **OPENING HYMN** offers the All Saint's Day staple *"For All the Saints"* – first published in 1864. The original hymn contained eleven (!) stanzas, and the 20th century hymn tune SINE NOMINE (penned by Ralph Vaughan Williams) has become a beloved hymn of all English-speaking congregations throughout the world. His rousing musical setting of Bishop William H. How's text was first published in 1906. *"Strides of victorius faith"* with musical accents supporting those of the text are what make this stirring hymn an absolute favorite! *(Source: Guide to the Pilgrim Hymnal; Ronander & Porter, Pilgrim Press, 1966)*

Gabriel Fauré held various posts as organist in Rennes, France and in Paris, following Camille Saint-Saëns at the *Church of the Madeleine*. In 1905, he was appointed professor of composition at the *Paris Conservatoire.* Increasing deafness eventually forced his retirement, though he kept composing music of high quality despite this handicap until his death in 1924.

His **REQUIEM** is a multi-movement work, honored by worldwide performance in worship and in concert, since its inception. The two movements we hear today, show the use of the solo voice with and without choir.

The longer form **Libera Me** (*which in the work, is actually toward the end of the piece*) pleads to God to be released from the bonds of death, especially during the turmoil of the last judgement. The more peaceful **Pie Jesu** paints a gentler picture of asking Christ to watch over a soul in rest.

In the **POSTLUDE**, with its commanding fugue of the "mighty 565" – we hear the writing of a master composer of sacred music in the Protestant tradition: **Johann Sebastian Bach**. His Opus spans over 1,000 music works for the church. This is the latter section of the famous "*Toccata in D minor*" well-beloved since centuries. We look forward to offering his complete **Cantata 51** in morning worship on Sunday November 21.

Christian Formation Corner

November 1, 2026- Today is the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost, Communion and All Saints Day Sunday. The liturgical color is white.

NURSERY NEWS– The nursery is open and staffed! We encourage families of children 6 weeks to 3 years old to take advantage of our space downstairs. The Welcome Center staff can assist in providing information.

Church Happenings and Outreach - New/Current

THE FIRST CHURCH OF NASHUA- we offer these studies during the week:

-Mondays – Bible Study - ***BFC*** (*Bible, Friends and Coffee*) at **9:30 am** in **Room #15**. We invite you to a special morning bible study.
-Tuesdays - **Fall Study** Zoom meeting at **12:00 pm "BOUNDARIES AND BLESSINGS"** (running for 10 weeks) with Rev. Andy.
- Wednesdays - Men's Study "Catechism**"** at **8:30 am** on **Room #14**. Please use the registration form at the Welcome desk.
-Sundays, you can also join us for a ***Lively, Caffeinated discussion*** between services in Nauss Hall (no registration required).

SILENT AUCTION- We are collecting for the **2026 Silent Auction**. Please be ready to bring your items to the church so they can be stored in a designated locked room. ***COMMITTEE AND BOARD CHAIRS,*** please discuss with your board members what you will be donating this year and contact Carol. 603-557-3041.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS AND WHITE DOVE PROGRAMS 2026- Over the past several years our protocol for the Thanksgiving baskets and White 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.

So many of them do not have a traditional turkey dinner and the gift cards allow them to buy what their families are used to. With White Dove, we are now working with one agency and the families we help are divided into two categories. The first group of mothers and children only need gift cards again to groceries store. The Santa Fund sees to helping those families buy gifts.

The families in the other group need both food and gift certificates as they include older children (many are teens) who are not covered by the Santa Fund. The parents of the second group enjoy going out and shopping with gift cards you give at the various stores. That allows them to and pick out and wrap what they know their families want. With this second group we ask that you give both grocery store and department store cards. The participants are given a list of 5 stores and may only choose two for their gift purchases. I should be hearing from the agencies in the not-too-distant future.

Please contact me if you are interested in taking on one of these families for either Thanksgiving or Christmas....or both! Blessings to you all. Carol Butler.

Thanksgiving: Gift cards are needed by November 10
White Dove/Silver Dove: Cards are needed by Dec. 10.

THE FIRST CHURCH THRIFT SHOP- is open every **Thursday** between **10:00 am to 2:00 pm** and next **Saturday, November 7th** between **10:00 am to 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. Thank you for all of your support!!

HOLIDAY FAIR EVENT- is around the corner and is looking for **HANDS TO HELP!** during the Holiday Fair event. If you can donate your time between Friday and Saturday, only few hours, it will be appreciated by the Fair Committee. "***Many hands make light work***". Thanks for all of your support!!

MUSIC IN WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, November 8, 2026 / Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 am CHANCEL CHOIR / DECIBELLS

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

SUN NOV 1	8:15 am	Shaw Chapel Communion Sunday Worship
	10:00 am	Sanctuary Communion Sunday Worship
		Worship, Livestream, Radio Broadcast
	10:00 am	Christian Formation / Sunday School
	11:25 am	Joyful Noise (Shaw Chapel)
MON NOV 2	9:30 am	Bible-Friends & Coffee (Room #15)
	10:00 am	Holiday Fair (stating set-up)
	7:00 pm	All Boards Meeting
TUE NOV 3	10:00 am	Stewardship Letters (Room #15)
	11:00 am	Staff Meeting (Room #10)
	4:00 pm	Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter
WED NOV 4	8:30 am	Men's Bible Study (Room #14)
	10:00 am	Women Association (Room #15)
	6:45 pm	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
THU NOV 5	10:00 am	Thrift Shop (open)
	6:45 pm	Decibells (Sanctuary)
FRI NOV 6	4:00 pm	Holiday Fair/Silent Auction/Bake Sale
SAT NOV 7	9:00 am	Sisters in Sobriety (Nauss Hall)
	9:00 am	Holiday Fair/Silent Auction/Bake Sale/Santa Claus
	10:00 am	Thrift Shop (open)

2026

Holiday Fair & SILENT AUCTION

2026

THE FIRST CHURCH OF NASHUA

FRIDAY, NOV 6TH
4PM-7PM

SATURDAY, NOV 7TH
9AM-2PM

HOMEMADE GOODIES & SWEETS

FOOD TO GO
GIFT BASKETS
CRAFT ITEMS
PUZZLES AND MORE...

VISIT SANTA 11AM-1PM ON SATURDAY

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 4:30PM-6:30PM & SATURDAY LUNCH 11AM-1PM

THRIFTSHOP OPEN SATURDAY 9AM-2PM

THE FIRST CHURCH OF NASHUA
ONE CONCORD STREET, NASHUA, NH

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
Christian Formation Coordinator, Veronika Rosado, vrosado@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
Give online. Scan the QR code to view one of the giving options available.