



The Congregate Tidings

Volume 39 Issue 7

July 2025

The Pastor's Piece Gospel of Resistance By Pastor Walt Hampton, J.D., CFC

We are a nation of immigrants.

Unless your ancestors are Indigenous to this land, you are here because someone in your lineage crossed an ocean—or maybe many. They braved unknowns. They chased freedom. They came with nothing but courage and the fragile hope of something better.

We are, at our best, a story of resilience and welcome. But we are not living our best right now.

In the last month, our cities shook. Los Angeles. San Antonio. Chicago. Armored caravans rolled through immigrant neighborhoods.

Children cried. Workers disappeared. And in the stillness after sirens, fear took root.

ICE raids in Los Angeles led to protests, and those protests were met by National Guard troops.

Then came the Marines. Without the Governor's consent. Without the people's consent. Without the moral authority such a move demands.

What we are witnessing is not just political. It is theological.

Jesus lived under occupation. He knew the weight of Roman boots. He knew what it meant to be surveilled, taxed, controlled. He knew the fear of his people. And still—he walked among them. He fed them. He healed them. He preached good news to the poor.

The Gospel does not emerge from the center of empire. It rises from its margins. From Galilee, not Jerusalem. From a borrowed stable. From the cross. And every generation since has had to choose. Align with the empire. Or walk with Jesus.

The United Church of Christ has said it plainly: Resistance is ministry. To stand with the immigrant. To shelter the vulnerable. To speak truth in the face of power run amok—this is our call.

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Piece	1–3
Deacon's Corner	4
Vaughan VLC	5
Music	6–7
Mission	7
Calendar	8
Lectionaries Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayers	9
Staff	10

Continued on page 2...

Pastor's Piece continued from page 1...

We live in a time when law and order are used as weapons. When entire communities are cast as threats. When children are deported. When citizenship itself is questioned. When Marines are deployed not to protect, but to provoke. This is not theoretical. This is happening. Now. And it demands a faithful response.

Some say the church should stay quiet. That we should not speak of politics. But this isn't politics. This is discipleship.

Jesus didn't die to protect the status quo. He died because he challenged it. He flipped the tables. He disrupted the peace of the powerful. He broke Sabbath rules to heal. He told the truth, even when it cost him everything.

If our faith means anything today, it must mean this: To follow Jesus is to stand in the gap. To risk proximity to suffering. To resist the dehumanization of any child of God.

This is not the first time resistance has been required. The early church defied Caesar's claims. Refused to worship idols. Cared for widows and orphans. Tended to the sick when empire turned its back.

The Underground Railroad was a church movement. So was the Civil Rights Movement. The Sanctuary Movement. The Poor People's Campaign.

Our faith is not neutral. It never has been. It is either complicit with empire—or in holy defiance of it.

To resist is not to hate. It is to love fiercely. To love our neighbor. To love the immigrant. To love the future enough to fight for it.

Resistance, rightly understood, is compassion in motion. It is mercy made public. It is the Jesus movement made visible. It looks like protesting ICE raids. Like standing with those arrested. Like writing letters, making calls, telling the truth at family dinners. It looks like sanctuary. It looks like courage. It looks like love.

We do not resist alone.

The Spirit is with us—just as She was at Pentecost. When people of every nation, tribe, and tongue were filled with power and proclaimed good news in defiance of Empire.

The Spirit did not come to protect the status quo. She came to birth a new creation.

So too now, in this moment, She is moving. Not in palaces. Not in boardrooms. But in the streets. In the protests. In the prayers. In the people who refuse to look away.

She speaks through the courage of those who march and stand and sing and kneel. She reminds us that we are not abandoned. That love is not absent. That hope is not naïve.

Pastor's Piece continued from page 2...

Let us be among them. Let us be the ones who do not look away. Who do not stay silent. Who do not spiritualize what must be embodied.

Let us love in public. Let us choose solidarity over comfort. Justice over neutrality. Truth over convenience. Let us teach our children that faith is not a possession—but a practice.

That freedom is not inherited—but built, together. That courage is not the absence of fear—but the refusal to be ruled by it. From Bonhoeffer in Nazi Germany, to Rabbi Heschel marching with Dr. King, to today's advocates on the border and in courtrooms and sanctuaries—we are part of a lineage of holy resistance.

This moment is not a detour. It is the road itself.

We were made for this. This time. This place. This ministry.

The resistance and the fight for justice is ministry for this moment—to create a future where freedom can be realized and experienced by all.

This is the call in every age: to resist the powers of empire and emperors. To follow the one who rode a donkey, not a warhorse. Who washed feet, not hands of responsibility. Who built kinship, not kingdoms.

This ministry takes many forms. It looks like preaching with courage. Showing up at town meetings. Writing letters. Feeding people. Hosting vigils. Organizing rides to the polls. Offering sanctuary when the law fails love. Teaching our children that freedom is not free and faith is not a flag.

This ministry happens in pulpits and protests, in potluck halls and courtrooms. It is quiet and it is loud. It is steady and it is fierce. And it belongs to all of us.

So, let us follow Him now.

Not with swords. But with love.

Not with fear. But with faith.

May we be brave. May we be bold. May we be kind.

And may we never forget that the Gospel began as resistance.

Peace to you,

+Walt





Deacon's Corner and more...

By Helen Goss – Diaconate Chair

WOW! What an awesome June we planned! The calendar was in full swing starting with **Pentecost Sunday**, **Trinity Sunday**, **Father's Day**, **Children's Sunday**, **Bell Choir's seasonal farewell**, **Laity Sunday**, **Strawberry Festival**, **Pride Celebrations**, and sliding into home with the **Chancel Choir taking their summer leave**, and an **All Church Picnic!**

AND THEN...And Then...and then...

The news came that **Pastor Walt is leaving the end of August** and the winds of change shifted. Our sails fluttered and then stood still. It's never a good thing when your pastor steps down. One naturally asks - where did we go wrong? How can it be that after just nineteen months we will be searching again? What are we searching for? Who will ever feel they are a good fit for our church? Upon deep self-reflection, what do we need to change? Do we have a collective vision for the future of our church or are we operating on personal agendas?

These are just a few of the questions that we all need to contemplate, as your Diaconate works to appoint a Search Committee consisting of a diverse group of members from our congregation. The task that this committee will have before them will take time and dedication, as a new survey will be strongly recommended to solicit everyone's input. Additionally, our Church Profile, although fairly recent, is in need of some revision. This all must be done prior to any posting of our profile in search of our next pastor. Concentrated effort and a passion for the future of this church will be the order of the day.

We are grateful to Pastor Walt that he chose to honor his contract and give a 90-day notice. It is up to us to take advantage of this time to prepare for the next steps. The Diaconate is having more meetings to accomplish their extra assignments and carry on with their usual duties in conjunction with the Pastor. During this time, each of us has the opportunity to express our farewell messages to Pastor Walt in person, which is truly a gift. We will host a proper send off, and of course, there will be bagels!

We have been in contact with local retired pastors to see what time they might have available to help us come August 31st. Those calls have brought some encouragement regarding pulpit supply. At this time, we would like to work towards our next full-time pastor and not have a bridge or interim. This may be subject to change once the Search Committee is established, depending on the flow of profiles and pulpit requirements.

I have been in touch with the NH Conference of the UCC as we put the search pieces in place. Our Conference Minister, the Rev. Gordon Rankin, will be guiding the appointed Search Committee once he is advised that it is in place. He has been most supportive as I shared my personal struggle that we would be searching again so soon. In his words: "Pastor Walt's tenure was exactly what God needed it to be. And now God has something new in store for you all. Our task is simply to figure out what that is." God be with us!

Let us use this time for healing and to show loving support of one another as we move forward.

“The View from My Window”

By Jennifer Perkins, Vaughan Administrator

Summer is in full swing and the pantry is too!

Like so many nonprofit organizations, we have been riding the wave of change occurring in our country. I am pleased to inform, the Vaughan Food Pantry has been only minimally affected by government cuts. FEMA funds remain on pause and the NH Feeding NH program, although reduced, is still among the programs being offered through the New Hampshire Food Bank in Manchester, NH.

Chuck Henderson, Special Assistant for Projects and Policy for Jeanne Shaheen, paid the food pantry a visit and toured our facility. Not only is he pleased with the food we provide, he noted the important significance of our Senior Non-Food Pantry Program.

The Vaughan Food Pantry is seeking drivers to collect donations from our local grocery stores. If interested, please contact Jennifer Perkins @ 603-602-1801.

Vaughan Learning Center

By Heather Ouellette, Director



Summer is officially here. Pre-K graduated on June 13th with a well-attended crowd. We have a dine-to-donate at **Flatbread Pizza on July 10th from 4 to 9 p.m.**

With summer here, we are looking for outdoor play toys: sand toys, bubbles, trucks, and chalk etc. If you would like to donate an item or make a monetary donation, please see Heather at the Learning Center or call 603-356-5213.



FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

NEW CENTURY HYMNAL # 28

By Muriel Magg - Music Team Chair

Many of us have fond memories of being a kid in the summer. Family road trips, sunny pool days, swimming in lakes and rivers, ice-cream cones, and not having to worry about school for a while. These memories often have a “song of the summer” soundtrack that we picked up from our family or friends. Maybe you can hear the melody now: your dad’s favorite song he played in the car; the one your sibling wouldn’t stop shouting; or the tune your mom would find herself singing on a July afternoon. Perhaps you remember your parents’ or grandparents’ favorite hymns. Maybe these songs resonate deeper for you in church services or act as anchors for you in difficult moments. The songs we hear and sing as children have a way of sticking with us. These songs, reverberating in our ears for years and even decades, can remind us of times gone by, reinforce foundational truths, and even influence the way we see the world. Lyrics shape us. Music influences us. Songs help make us who we are.

Hymns often evoke themes of peace, rest, and gratitude, which resonate with the warmth and leisure of summer and additionally, celebrate nature, and the beauty of creation, which can also be fitting for the carefree atmosphere of the summer season.

“For the Beauty of the Earth” a beautiful summer hymn, full of the spirit of field and forest, was written by Folliot S. Pierpoint (1835-1917). Pierpoint was born in Bath, England, attended Queens College Cambridge, graduating with classical honors. He taught the classics for a time at Somersetshire College, later becoming a freelance writer. During his 82 years of life, Pierpoint published seven volumes of poems and hymn texts, many of them showing his love for nature, but it is only for this hymn that we remember him today.

Pierpoint was 29 years old when he wrote the text for the joyful hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth.” It was early summer while enjoying the surrounding area of his native city Bath, that Pierpoint was overwhelmed by the beautiful countryside with its winding, cool and peaceful river Avon in the distance. Overwhelmed with emotion, he expressed his feelings of gratitude in the writing of this sacred song. The hymn praises God for a host of beauties we encounter in everyday living, but often fail to appreciate.

“For the Beauty of the Earth” is an ode to creation, a song of celebration for the beauty that is around us, and in recognition of the one who brought that beauty into light. The song focuses on praise and admiration. It can be all too easy to dwell on negativity, constantly finding things about ourselves or our world to criticize God or even ourselves for.

Throughout the Bible we read of the Lord communicating to us in the skies, ocean waves, breeze rustling through trees, fields and flowers, and birds that sing cheerfully. Nature reveals to us God’s beauty, glory, power, wisdom, presence, creativity, and most of all His loving care. This is why we’re drawn to spend time in the beauty of nature.

“For the Beauty of the Earth” was set to the beautiful tune of “DIX.” Its composer, Conrad Kocher, was an important musician and reformer of German church music. The tune name “DIX” came from the association of this melody with William Dix’s hymn “As With Gladness Men of Old,” which was often sung in Protestant services on Christmas.

The hymn’s influence has grown far beyond what Pierpoint might have imagined. “For the Beauty of the Earth” is published in over 450 hymnals across various denominations. Modern arrangements have given the hymn new life and has helped introduce the hymn to new generations. Proving that its message remains as relevant today as it was in 1864, that from the smallest flower to the vastness of human love, everything comes from above and deserves our praise.

Continued on page 7...

Music Continued from page 7...

Living here in the beautiful Mount Washington Valley, I'm reminded all year long that it was God who molded these majestic mountains that surround us and filled our rivers, lakes, and streams with water and who created the sun, moon, and stars of light for us to enjoy.

It is both amazing and inspiring to think that for nearly 160 years people have been singing these same words and giving thanks to the Lord for His beautiful earth.



STEP AWAY INTO THE OUTDOORS AND ENJOY
THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH!

Mission Committee Update

By Laurel Ekberg, Chairperson Mission Committee

Committee members met on 5/18/25 led by Moderator, Karen Umberger. Karen opened the meeting with a list of recommendations for this committee: 1. Be more active. 2. Select a Chair, Co-Chair & Recorder. 3. She also encouraged us to set goals as we move forward.

Jennifer Perkins resigned as Chair & member of this committee. She made this decision due to her many other commitments resulting in her lack of time to participate in this committee.

After some discussion & votes taken our new Chair is Laurel Ekberg. Our Co Chair is Chris DeVries. Lee Coffield will continue as Recorder.

After feedback from members, it was agreed that the committee be more active and that we meet monthly.

Madi Putnam (Jennifer Terry's daughter) received a camp scholarship at the Horton Center for this summer. We were happy to award this scholarship to her.

Our mission outreach is currently active building a Charity Quilt, meeting on Monday nights in the RFL building. All are welcome! Best Regards to all, Laurel.



JULY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 All-Church Picnic 10:00am Worship Celebration & Choir leaves for Summer Break 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 	30 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	1 9:30am - 10:30am Faith Fellowship 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 	2	3 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 9:30am - 2:30pm WIC Program 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 	4 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting Fourth of July Office s closed 	5
6 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS	7 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	8 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	9 9:00am - 11:00am Senior Non-Food Pantry	10 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm - 9:00pm Vaughan Learning Center fundraiser at Flatbreads 	11 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	12
13 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	14 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bach Festival Rehearsal 	15 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm Trustees meeting 	16	17 7:00am - 9:00am Rotary meeting 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 	18 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	19
20 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 11:30am Church Council meeting 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS 	21 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bach Festival Rehearsal	22 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 12:30pm - 2:00pm Clergy of the Eastern Slope Luncheon 5:00pm Diaconate meeting 	23	24 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	25 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	26
27 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	28 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 7:00pm - 9:00pm Bach Festival Rehearsal	29 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	30	31 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	1 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	2



07-01 Charlotte Boucher
 07-02 Amelia Edwards
 07-10 Sonya Porter
 07-14 Stephanie Mullins
 07-19 Jay Donabedian
 07-20 Atticus Edwards
 07-20 Rebecca Mallar
 07-21 Daniel Edwards
 07-26 Carole Stewart
 07-30 Bilo Bell
 07-31 Paul Coffield



07-06 Vinnie and Cheryl Furtado
 07-14 Bill Aughton and Jeanne Twehous
 07-20 Charles and Rebecca Mallar
 07-24 Mike and Julie James



REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Please pray for those dealing with illness, surgery or recovery, especially:

Evelyn Porter; Linda Hyde and Deb Smith.

Remember those who mourn especially:

The family of Doris L. Kirk.

Remember those in our extended care facilities.

Merriman House: **Liz George-Hussey and Cynthia Briggs.**

Please call the church office with prayer concerns if you wish names to be listed in the next *Congregate Tidings*.

Lectionaries

JULY 6, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Hebrew Bible: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Hebrew Bible: Psalm 30

New Testament: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

JULY 13, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Bible: Amos 7:7-17

Hebrew Bible: Psalm 82

New Testament: Colossians 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

JULY 20, 2025

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Bible: Amos 8:1-12

Hebrew Bible: Psalm 52

New Testament: Colossians 1:15-28

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

JULY 27, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Bible: Hosea 1:2-10

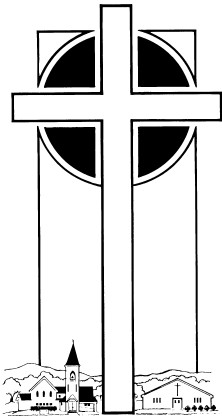
Hebrew Bible: Psalm 85

New Testament: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

The Congregate Tidings
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:

We ended this Church School year on June 15th.

The children did a fabulous job taking part in the worship service by ushering, acolyting, reading, and sharing the mic during prayer time.

We will resume again in September and offer child care over the summer should little ones attend. There will be changes to our program next term to allow for more intergenerational worship.

Enjoy the summer and see you in the fall!



CHURCH & VAUGHAN STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Walt Hampton, J.D., CFC

Church Administrator/Editor: Denise Leighton

Pianist/Organist: Patrick Speckamp

Associate Organist: Muriel Magg

Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir Director:

Anne W. Polak

Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins

Vaughan Learning Center Director:

Heather Ouellette

Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

Worship Service at 10am

Church Office (603)356-2324

Pastor Ext. #2, Denise Ext. #1

Fax Number (603)356-2106

Vaughan Food Pantry (603)602-1801

Vaughan Learning Center (603)356-5213

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