

The Congregate Tidings

Volume 38 Issue 6

June 2024

The Pastor's Piece Find The Extraordinary In The Ordinary By Pastor Walt Hampton, J.D., CFC

Pentecost has come and gone. And suddenly we're thrust into what the liturgical calendar calls Ordinary Time.

While Pentecost, with its rush of wind and tongues of fire, is a powerful reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence, Ordinary Time has its own gifts. It invites us to find the sacred in the mundane.

Think about the moments of your daily life: a conversation with a friend, a quiet walk in the park, the laughter of children, the warmth of a shared meal. These might seem like ordinary experiences, but they are ripe with potential for encountering the divine. When you open your heart and mind to the possibility that every moment holds the presence of God, your perspective shifts. You begin to see your world, and your life, through the lens of wonder and gratitude.

One of the beautiful aspects of our faith is the belief that God is always with us, not just in the high points but in the valleys and plateaus as well. This continuous presence is a source of strength and comfort. It's a reminder that you are never alone, even in the most ordinary of times.

In our fast-paced, achievement-oriented society, it's easy to overlook the beauty and significance of the ordinary. You might find yourself rushing from one significant event to the next, always looking for the next big thing. Ordinary Time invites you to slow down, to be present, and to appreciate the beauty of the moment. It's a time to cultivate mindfulness and to recognize the extraordinary in the everyday.

Consider the stories of Jesus' life, filled with ordinary moments that reveal extraordinary truths. Think of the countless times Jesus met people in the midst of their daily routines and transformed their lives through simple acts of kindness and compassion. A touch, a word, a shared meal—these ordinary actions became vessels of God's extraordinary love and grace.

As you journey through Ordinary Time, I encourage you to adopt this mindset. Look for the divine in your daily life. Pay attention to the small blessings that come your way. Embrace the simplicity of the moment and trust that God is at work, even when it's not immediately apparent.

Start or end your day by reflecting on the things you are grateful for. This practice can help you recognize the blessings that often go unnoticed.

Focus on being fully present in your daily interactions and activities. Whether it's listening to a friend or enjoying a cup of tea, savor the moment.

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Spend time outdoors and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. Nature has a way of grounding you and reminding you of the wonder of life.

Acts of kindness, no matter how small, can reveal the extraordinary love of God. Look for opportunities to serve and bless those around you.

Spend time with your Bible, focusing on the stories of Jesus' interactions with people in their ordinary lives. Let these stories inspire you to see God's work in your own life.

Additionally, consider incorporating spiritual practices that help you remain grounded in the present. Meditation and contemplative prayer can be powerful tools for cultivating a deeper awareness of God's presence in the everyday. By setting aside a few minutes each day for stillness and reflection, you create space for the divine to speak into your life in unexpected ways.

Engaging in creative activities can also open your eyes to the extraordinary in the ordinary. Whether it's painting, gardening, cooking, or playing music, these acts of creation mirror the Creator's work and remind you of the divine spark within you. These moments of creativity can become acts of worship, drawing you closer to God and helping you see the beauty in the simple and the everyday.

Connecting with others in meaningful ways is another avenue to uncovering the sacred in the ordinary. Deep conversations, shared laughter, and the act of simply being present with someone else can reveal God's love and grace. By fostering genuine connections, you not only enrich your own life but also become a conduit for God's love to others.

As we move into this season of Ordinary Time, remember that the extraordinary is often hidden within the ordinary. By being mindful, present, and grateful, you can uncover the sacred in your everyday life. Celebrate the beauty of the ordinary, trusting that God's extraordinary love and grace are always at work.

Peace to you.

+Walt



THE SERVANT SONG

Hymn # 539 in the New Century Hymnal

By Muriel Magg

Clearly Richard Gillard felt the need to influence Christians to be united in their service to the Lord and to support each other through life's ups and downs.

Richard Gillard, author and composer, was born in England, May 22, 1953. The eldest of six children, he emigrated to New Zealand with his family when he was three years old where he still lives to this day. Gillard had little formal musical training, but from the age of seven began playing the ukulele; often to accompany his own singing. He learned by experimenting, and later with the help of his father and Pentecostal church musicians. Also, a self-taught guitarist, Gillard played mostly in a "folk style." He prefers to play by ear and allows others to transcribe his songs into manuscript form.

Richard attended a teacher's training college, worked as a teacher until 1975 in primary schools, and then in a warehouse. A member with his wife for many years at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Auckland, they were inspired by an early folk-praise group called the Fisherfolk originally from Houston, Texas.

Gillard solidified his compositional style by participating in the St. Paul's Singers, a group of mostly young students. Taken with this style, the Gillards introduced many folk songs to New Zealand congregations. Richard began writing his own songs in the 1970s. His best-known composition is "The Servant Song," the tune is arranged and adapted by Betty Pulkingham.

The song began in 1977 when Gillard jotted down verse 3 on a piece of paper which, on returning from travels in Europe and Israel, he found in his guitar case. Several months later, the rest of the words flowed out and the song was completed. Since then, the text has been altered to be more inclusive, and has become one of the most popular songs of the last 30 years of hymnody. The simple melody is very hymn like and highlights the prayerful nature of the text. Matthew 20:26b-28 provides the primary scriptural background for the song.

"The Servant Song" speaks of "pilgrims" on a "journey" and encourages us to "walk the mile and bear the load." It speaks of "holding the Christ-light...in the night-time of your fear" and how we are called to reflect Christ's light in the world. We are reminded to weep, laugh and share our joys together. Finally, the great lyrics point us to being a servant of others as the culmination of the Christian life.

The church is a body. We are meant to depend on each other, to rely on each other. In God's design, every member has a role to play, whatever your gift is, whatever love compels you to do. We are pilgrims on a journey; we are brothers and sisters on the road. We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load.

We're delighted and excited to welcome Pastor Walt and his wife, Ann, to First Church of Christ, Congregational. Thank you for coming to serve our church and for being a great example of living a life of faith. You have already made a difference in our church and community. Your inspiring messages are filled with wisdom, love, and guidance that touch our hearts with compassion and bring us closer to God. You are truly a great example of living a life of faith. May God continue to bless you abundantly as we journey on this road together.



EVERYTHING FEELS NEW AGAIN!

DEACON'S CORNER...

By Helen Goss

“June is Bustin’ Out All Over”! (From Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *CAROUSEL*) Do you remember that catchy tune? You might want to Google it. It’s sure to lift your spirits. That title alone describes the month of activities planned for First Church of Christ!

But before I go there, here’s a little review of May that I hope you didn’t miss! We started the month watching **Pastor Walt’s Ordination** in Berkeley, CA. What a beautiful ceremony and this *Congregate Tidings* has some lovely pictures to share.

We had a fun-filled Sunday with our first **Hymn Sing** in my memory. The congregation actually sat in the front of the sanctuary and we sang our hearts out at **Anne’s** direction! Unfortunately, this service had some technical difficulties and could not be posted for historical viewing. However, for those of us that got to experience it, we learned so much and know that the future holds much promise for an encore!

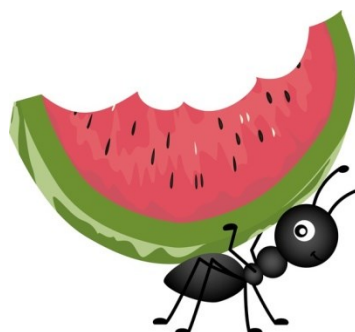
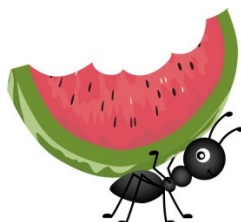
Then came Mother’s Day, with the return of Pastor Walt from his time away and beautiful carnations donated by **Steve and Denise Woodcock** for all the “Mothers” in our lives. The Message was perfect, the handbells rang out, and God graced us with beautiful weather. You couldn’t ask for more!

Pentecost was shared with the donning of the red paraments and another beauty of a stole worn by Pastor Walt for the occasion. We were reminded that this marks fifty days since Easter, thus the name comes from the Greek word “pentekoste,” meaning “fiftieth.” The Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and other disciples and marks the beginning of the Christian church’s mission into the world. I was reminded that as we enter Ordinary Time in June, we become the light in the world. It was a revelation for me.

As I write this, **Memorial Day** is upon us! We will recognize this holiday with due respect during worship and note that it is also **Trinity Sunday**. Further, Pastor Walt will become a member of our church, so there is much to celebrate as we end May and enter June!

JUNE will start with **Communion Sunday, June 2nd**, a **graduation ceremony on June 14th** for the **Vaughan Learning Center**, **Children’s Sunday and Father’s Day on June 16th**, **Pastor Sue in the pulpit on June 23rd** while Pastor Walt is away, the **Vaughan Strawberry Festival on June 29th**, and wrapping it all up with our **All Church Brunch on June 30th**! Yes, we’ll be bustin’ out all over!!!

We’ve saved you a seat and sure hope you can join us! This is the perfect time to return to church and join in all the activities. You will be refreshed, renewed, and ready to carry the light of Christ out into the world! We’ll keep an eye out for you!





**Pictures of Pastor Walt's Ordination
on May 4th at
The Chaplaincy Institute ("ChI")
in Berkeley, California.**



“The View from My Window”

By Jennifer Perkins, Vaughan Administrator

It's Strawberry Festival time!!! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 29th and pray for nice weather!

The Vaughan Learning Center is transitioning into their summer program which transform the playground into a mini water park and BMX bike course equipped with helmets and knee pads filled with the sound of summertime (happy) squeals!

The Vaughan Food Pantry remains robust serving well over 200 individuals and families each month. We are excited to continue receiving product from Sherman Farm through New Hampshire Food Bank's NH Feeds NH grant. Our allotment increased this year due to the demand on our pantry.

Hannaford representatives visited our pantry and after seeing the building, they offered us a grant to further improve our operations. This grant will be utilized to purchase equipment needed to run the pantry more efficiently and the Learning Center will be able to apply their portion of the funds to updating the playground area with new play structures! Please see picture below of our newly installed conveyor belt in the Food Pantry!

Reminder: The Food Pantry is always looking for drivers for donation pick-ups. If interested, please call 603-602-1801 and speak with Jennifer.

Welcome Summer!
Warmly,
Jennifer Perkins



Vaughan Community Service, Inc.

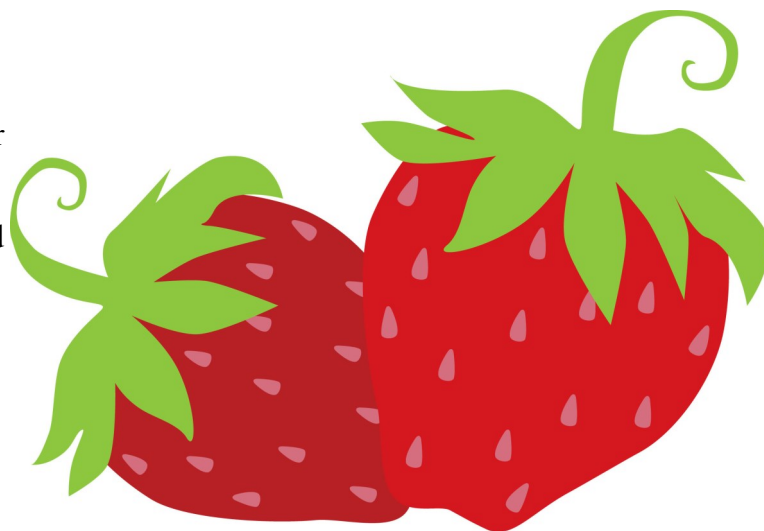
By Denise Leighton, Chairperson Strawberry Festival

We are in the process of getting ready for our Strawberry Festival on June 29th.

Please bring in any items you may have for our White Elephant table.

I will need volunteers as well, so if you are able and willing, please give me a call at 356-2324.

IT'S THE BERRIES!



Lectionaries

JUNE 2, 2024

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Hebrew Bible: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Gospel: Mark 2:23-3:6

JUNE 9, 2024

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Bible: 1 Samuel 8:4-20

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

JUNE 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day-Children's Sunday

Hebrew Bible: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

JUNE 23, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Sue Davidson will be in the Pulpit

Hebrew Bible: 1 Samuel 17:19-23, 32-49

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

JUNE 30, 2024

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Church Picnic

Hebrew Bible: Lamentations 3:22-33

New Testament: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

Vaughan Learning Center

By Heather Ouellette, Director

Spring is in the air at the Learning Center, the children are outside everyday rain or shine, and they are loving it. We are gearing up for summer and that means fundraisers. We have two coming up in June.

One is **Tuckerman's Brewery on June 13th from 2pm-7pm, 20% of all food and drink sales will go to the Center.** We will have raffle prizes and it is general Trivia Night from 5-7pm for those wanting to play.

The second is, of course, our **Annual Strawberry Festival.** Denise will be looking for volunteers and we are always looking for raffle prizes. We love homemade items, gift cards, experiences, and anything that someone would enjoy.



Crafty Hands Workshop



New parameters for Fall-Winter 2024-2025:

October - December: Christmas Crafts, etc. for Mission's Scholarship Fundraiser (Thanksgiving to Christmas Display in the Mary Lancaster Room).








January - March: Mission Outreach

Meetings will be on Mondays 6:30-8pm (No Monday Holidays), in the Reverence for Life Bldg. in the Howard Room. Open to All Crafters (& Newbies welcome too).

Mission Committee Co-Leaders: Mary Lou Waite & Deb Smith

JUNE 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:00am Worship Celebration 12:00am - 1:00pm AA meeting 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	27 12:00am - 1:00pm AA meeting Offices Closed 	28 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 12:30pm - 2:00pm Clergy of the Eastern Slope Luncheon	29 9:30am - 10:30am Faith Fellowship	30 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	31 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	1
2 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS	3 12:00am - 1:00pm AA meeting	4 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	5	6 7:00am - 9:30am Rotary meeting 9:30am - 2:30pm WIC Program 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Ball Choir Rehearsal	7 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	8
9 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	10 12:00am - 1:00pm AA meeting	11 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	12 9:00am - 11:00am Essential Non-Food Pantry	13 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Ball Choir Rehearsal	14 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 4:00pm Vaughan Learning Center Graduation 	15
16 10:00am Children's Sunday Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS  	17 12:00am - 1:00pm AA meeting	18 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm Trustees meeting 5:00pm Diaconate meeting 	19	20 7:00am - 9:30am Rotary meeting 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Ball Choir Rehearsal	21 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	22
23 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	24 12:00am - 1:00pm AA meeting	25 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 12:30pm - 2:00pm Clergy of the Eastern Slope Luncheon 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Ball Choir Rehearsal	26	27 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	28 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	29 11:00am - 4:00pm Strawberry Festival 
30 All Church Picnic 10:00am Worship Celebration 	1 12:00am - 1:00pm AA meeting	2 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	3	4 9:30am - 2:30pm WIC Program 12:30pm - 2:45pm Food Pantry Open	5 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	6



06-01 Peter Magg
 06-01 Trina Jones
 06-03 Madilynn Putnam
 06-04 Roger Babcock
 06-05 Dana Russian
 06-06 Ron Kratt
 06-06 Ann Hampton
 06-10 Brett Russell
 06-11 Jennifer Terry
 06-15 Peggy Light
 06-27 Frank Polak



06-06 Steve and Lisa Cote
 06-06 Ken and Maryann Schiller
 06-17 Robert and Sharon Seaman
 06-18 Steve and Karen Cameron
 06-24 Bob and Sara Bechtold



Congratulations to
 Nichole and Fred Smith
 on the birth of
 Henry Frederick Smith
 May 16, 2024.



Please pray for those dealing with illness, surgery or recovery, especially:
**Bob Borchers; Evelyn Porter; Linda Hyde;
 Jesse and Linda Red Horse; Laura Jean Beeler; and
 Angie Terry, Jennifer Terry's sister-in-law.**

Remember those who mourn, especially the family of
Audrey Vorperian.

Remember those in our extended care facilities:

At Merriman House: **Liz George-Hussey; Cynthia and Conrad (Connie) Briggs
 and Marilyn Elliott**

At Mountain View Nursing Home: **Nancy Lawson-Jacobs**

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

The Congregate Tidings
First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ
PO Box 401
N Conway, NH 03860-0401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:

YOU'RE INVITED!!!
SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH
FOLLOWING WORSHIP
ALL CHURCH BRUNCH

BAGELS, BURGERS & DOGS!
UNDER THE TENT -
FRONT LAWN OF THE
CHURCH
SEE YOU THERE!



CHURCH & VAUGHAN STAFF

Pastor: Walt Hampton
Church Administrator/Editor: Denise Leighton
Organist: Floyd W. Corson
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
Fax Number (603)356-2106
Vaughan Food Pantry (603)602-1801
Vaughan Learning Center (603)356-5213
E-mail addresses:
pastor@firstchurchnc.com
churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com