

The Congregate Tidings

Volume 40, Issue 11

November 2026

Search ...



PASTORAL
SEARCH
COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has seen some restructuring since it began. Most recently we welcomed Don Ekberg and Dan Jones to the committee. Although some of the members have changed, the goal has not. We need a settled pastor. Some of you have been kind and patient, others a bit more demanding, and some have left. And even with good intentions, time waits for no one.

The Rejuvenation Team has been working with Rev. Nickerson over the past several months, but feel transitional leadership needs to be in place to effectively accomplish more. Many of the suggestions he has made in structuring covenants, vision and mission statements we have already done. Therefore, the Team is recommending their work be paused while we search for a Transitional Pastor trained in conflict resolution. This separate application is underway, and we will be working with the NH Conference to entertain qualified candidates.

It goes without saying, if you have any concerns; please reach out to one of the Search Committee members.

With hope,
Don Ekberg, Helen Goss, Gwen Johnson,
Dan Jones, Peter Magg and Eryn Morency

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

Our Church Stewardship Campaign is underway. We will dedicate our pledges on November 8th. Your opportunity to make a difference has gone out in the mail.

We are searching for our next pastor, which not only takes time and effort, but also monetary support for mailings and lodging during the interview process.

We thank you for any and all support you give to this church through time, talents, and treasure. Every gift is received with a grateful heart.

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Deacon's Corner & more...

By Helen Goss – Diaconate Chair



How is your fall clean-up going? October was a fast month for me, but a gorgeous foliage month! If we just had better traffic flow in town, we all might enjoy it more. With the changes being made in Conway's roadways, I am on the fence between hope and concern. I guess time will tell!

It was *wonderful* to have children in church in October, and I hope we get to see more of them. When I am not in the pulpit, I will be having Sunday fun time with kiddos downstairs. It is important that there are at least two adults with the children when we leave the sanctuary for safety reasons. **Is there anyone that can help me with this program?** It means letting me know when you plan to be at church on any given Sunday so a plan can be put in place.

The Memorial Garden has been put to bed for the winter; just a few last-minute chores to complete the task. I am most grateful to my sister, Lucy, for her willingness to help me complete this mission and to Jennifer Perkins and Paulo for making sure the sprinkler system is properly turned off as cooler temps approach. We have some wonderful church folks in that garden, and lots of memories get shared as we go about our duties.

November dawns and we'll start by celebrating All Saint's Day on November 4th. It's always a special time as we honor those who have served their time and played a significant role in our faith community. We will toll the bell and speak the names of those who have passed since last November. We further bless the day by sharing in communion and welcoming back the Maggs' from their travels.

This month we will continue with faith led services, as the Search Committee continues their work to find a transitional pastor to prepare us for a future settled pastor. From conversations I have had, we still need healing within our ranks, and not just that of a superficial nature. We need to gather more, outside of worship, and focus on who we truly want to be in this community. That word is still not out there and this requires full-fledged effort.

Advent begins on November 29th with our series for this year entitled: **Carols for the Coming Christ**. Pastor Sue Davidson will be away for Christmas this year but is providing her guidance ahead of her family trip to put us in good stead for the duration. I am looking forward to creating an Advent Season we will want to remember, with services that bring true meaning as we approach and celebrate the birth of Christ.

The Diaconate may be small in number, but such a dedicated team! Our meetings are lively and meaningful with lots of open concerns expressed. It's a pleasure to serve with them. We have been praying for Eve Walker as she had some emergency hip surgery. Hopefully, she will be back with us later in November.

We look forward to seeing more of you as the holidays approach, and we extend a warm and blessed Thanksgiving to all!

MISSION COMMITTEE

By Karen Umberger, Chair

The Mission Committee is committed to helping both locally and internationally. Our Noisy Offering, this is money put in the Yellow Cans weekly, is going to the Vaughan Food Pantry. These are November and December collections.

Our Quarterly Mission Offering will be going to Church World Service, Heifer Project. The Heifer Project does not directly provide food, but rather opportunities to earn better incomes and create lasting changes in lives. The Mission Committee is committing \$100 to a share of a heifer, \$120 for a goat, \$120 for a pig, \$60 for Garden Seeds, \$60 for honeybees and \$40 for flocks of chicks. If you would like to contribute to this project the church will be able to purchase additional items.

We are planning a Giving ladder for December. A family in need will be provided and gifts needed will be identified.

Lectionaries

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Day/Communion Sunday

Hebrew Bible: Joshua 3:7-17

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Sunday

Hebrew Bible: Joshua 24:1-3a

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Bible: Judge 4:1-7

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Reign of Christ-Thanksgiving Sunday

Hebrew Bible: Ezekiel 34:11-16

New Testament: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 64:1-9

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37



Set your clocks back one hour
on Saturday,
October 31st, before
retiring for the night, so you
will not be late for Church!

We Come to Say "Thank You"

By Muriel Magg - Music Team Chair

As autumn leaves settle and we begin preparing our homes for Thanksgiving, our hearts naturally turn toward reflection. It is a season of warmth, gathering, and intentional gratitude. This year, the choir is preparing a special musical offering that perfectly captures this spirit: Pepper Choplin's vibrant, joyful anthem, **"We Come to Say Thank You."** The song opens with a rhythmic, energetic refrain that gets straight to the heart of our faith:

"Thank You, O Lord, we come to say, 'Thank You.' For all You've done, we say, 'Thank You' today for all the blessings You send our way."

What makes this anthem so powerful is its enthusiasm. It serves as a reminder that gratitude isn't meant to be kept quiet or hidden away. It is an active, celebratory response to God's goodness. When we sing it, it becomes a physical reminder of what it means to be a church community—coming together from different walks of life, bringing our unique stories, and uniting our voices into one collective shout of praise.

As the piece unfolds, it masterfully weaves in the timeless words of Folliott Pierpoint's classic hymn, "For the Beauty of the Earth." By blending a fresh, modern rhythm with these historic words, the anthem bridges the past and the present. It forces us to pause and look closely at the everyday wonders we so easily overlook in the rush of daily life: "For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light."

In the busyness of planning holiday meals, coordinating travel, and navigating a hectic season, it is incredibly easy to let the true meaning of Thanksgiving slip away. Let this anthem remind us to pause each morning, take inventory of the blessings surrounding us and simply say, "Thank you."

We warmly invite you to join us for morning worship on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22nd, to hear the choir share this joyful piece. Come ready to listen, and ready to reflect

🎵 Lift Your Voice This Holiday Season!

Looking ahead, the music ministry is already preparing for the beautiful seasons of Advent and Christmas. If you love to sing but cannot commit to the choir year-round, we would love to have you join us as a short-term seasonal singer! No long-term commitment is required—just a heart for worship and a desire to help us bring the music of Christ's birth to life. Speak to Laurie Turley our Music Director, or join us at our next rehearsal to get plugged in.

A Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving from your Music Ministry!



“The View from my Window”

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By Jennifer Perkins, Vaughan Administrator

November is typically a very busy month at the Food Pantry with several events happening as the holidays approach.



Conway Broadcasting Company will be holding its **25th Annual WMWV Radio Food/Fund Drive** at our Food Pantry building located at 2493 White Mountain Highway on **Wednesday, November 18th from 6:00AM – 6:00PM**. Stop by, share some laughs, some stories, and feel great about giving!

The Vaughan Food Pantry is busy taking requests for holiday baskets. We are on course to distribute them Friday Nov. 20 and Sat. Nov. 21 from 10:00AM--Noon. Once again, we are donating turkeys to the **American Legion Post 46** for their annual turkey dinner. Conway Rec. will be receiving turkeys for their annual Turkey Trot for children.

Once again, we would like to thank the **North Conway Rotary Club** for their Meals Distribution Initiative whereby the Vaughan Food Pantry will be receiving packaged meals to distribute to our Food Pantry members.

The Kennett High School Athletic Department along with the New Hampshire Food Bank and WMUR ran another successful **NH Tackles Hunger Food Drive**. Our Food Pantry received 502 pounds of donated shelf stable food and a check for \$500.00! End 68 Hours of Hunger also benefitted from this event, so a huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone who made this drive so successful!

Team Pantry wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Vaughan Learning Center

By Heather Ouellette, Director



SO much learning is happening at the Learning Center this fall! Children are enjoying the last bit of outdoor time before we start having to gear up to go outside.

We are looking for donations of hats, gloves, snowpants, and warm jackets, sizes 18 months--5T.

A few of the staff attended Revo Casino's "Rebels With A Cause" Gala. The gala was to recognize all non-profits and their work.

We cannot thank the Revo Casino enough for letting us be a part of this charitable event!



November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm Revolving Closet-Teens	2 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	3 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	4	5 9:30am - 2:30pm WIC Program 12:00pm - 2:15pm Food Pantry Open 3:30pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	6 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	7
8 10:00am Worship Celebration/Stewardship Sunday 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 11:30am Mission Committee 	9 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	10 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	11 9:00am - 11:00am Senior Non-Food Pantry	12 12:00pm - 2:15pm Food Pantry Open 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	13 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	14
15 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 11:30am Church Council 2:00pm - 5:00pm Revolving Closet-Teens 	16 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	17 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm Trustees meeting 	18 6:00am - 6:00pm WIAWV RADIO FOOD/FUND DRIVE Fall Fundraiser 	19 12:00pm - 2:15pm Food Pantry Open 2:00pm Music Committee 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	20 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	21
22 10:00am Worship Celebration/Thanksgiving Sunday 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 	23 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	24 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 5:00pm Diaconate meeting DIACONATE MEETING 	25	26 OFFICES CLOSED THANKSGIVING 	27 OFFICES CLOSED 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	28
29 10:00am Worship Celebration/Advent Begins 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 	30 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	1 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	2	3 9:30am - 2:30pm WIC Program 12:00pm - 2:15pm Food Pantry Open 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	4 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	5



11-08 Ken and Hope Nusbaum
11-15 Jay and Lisa Donabedian



11-02 Denise Woodcock
11-02 Charles Mallar
11-14 Garrick Porter
11-14 Taylor Nusbaum
11-15 Eliza Juliano
11-29 Amanda Nusbaum

ROSTER UPDATES

Tracy Leavitt
PO Box 421
Center Conway, NH 03813
Cell: 520-450-8242
E-mail: goody2shoes03818@yahoo.com

Kevin & Patricia Ryan
205 Saddle Hill Dr.
Guilford, CT 06437-1433
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PRAYER LIST

Please pray for those dealing with illness, surgery, or recovery, especially: **Evelyn Porter, Harry & Deb Smith, Jeff and Lois Ward, Dick Altenbern, Mike James, Frances Richardson, Lee Coffield, and Pastor Sue Davidson.**

Remember those who mourn, especially the family of **Elizabeth George-Hussey.**

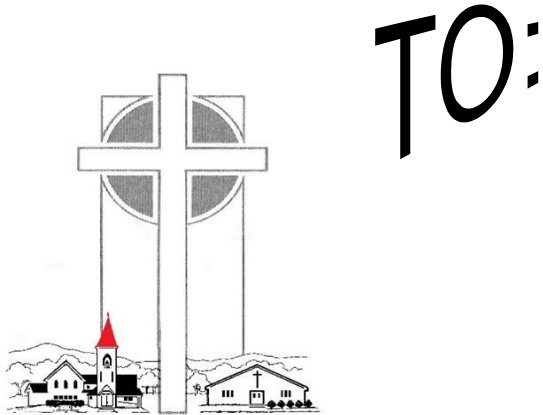
Remember those in our extended care facilities.
Mountain View: **Jean Smykla**

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

A friendly reminder to all Boards, Committees, and Teams. Your 2027 proposed budgets need to be sent to Denise at the Church Office no later than Monday, January 11, 2027.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



You are invited to jump into the
holiday season and join us for a
Christmas Family Party,
on **December 6th**
following Worship!

The fun begins at **11:30ish** with **kid**
friendly snacks and
ornament crafting!

After our bellies are full, we will join
in singing favorite holiday songs
while we trim the **Christmas tree!**

This gathering is for EVERYONE
and will be over while it's still
daylight.

Please come and share some
holiday spirit!

CHURCH & VAUGHAN STAFF

Church Administrator/Editor: Denise Leighton
Music Director: Laurie Turley
Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins
Vaughan Learning Center Director:
Heather Ouellette
Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

Worship Service at 10am

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