



The Congregate Tidings

Volume 39 Issue 10

October 2025

Search and Call Update

By Linda Hyde, Chair

In July, the members of the Search and Call Committee were announced, and the process of choosing our new Pastor and Teacher began. Those members are Linda Hyde, Chair; Jennifer Terry, Scribe, Gueneth Johnson; Peter Magg; and Ken Schiller.

On Sunday, September 14, we met with the Conference Minister, Rev. Gordon Rankin, and Rev. Linda Hirst, who is the Transitional Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call. Rev. Hirst and Kayla Pingree, the Search and Call Administrator, will be the staff from the conference supporting us through this process. Our orientation meeting revealed some major changes since our last search, only a short two years ago. The biggest change is that there are no longer separate committees for the Profile and the Search. They are now combined with the same folks working together on both pieces of calling our next pastor. I think that this, combined with some other minor changes, will provide a seamless and cohesive discernment process.

Our first task will be to review the current Profile and learn what changes will be needed to develop our own unique story and a clear, concise definition of what First Church of Christ needs as our next Pastor and Teacher.

THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP AND INPUT. We are asking each one of you to share your thoughts and concerns with us. Tell us what you are most comfortable with, what has been difficult about church. What do you want and need in our future pastor? What do you NOT want? Grab one of us after church, call us, email, whatever is comfortable for you. You can slip an anonymous note in the collection plate. We want to hear from you. WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU.

This is the journey of First Church of Christ, UCC in North Conway, NH.

We are all a part of this journey.

Faithfully,

Linda Hyde, Chair - rangeview@hotmail.com/603-455-8483

Jennifer Terry, Scribe- cluffjennifer@yahoo.com/603-340-3941

Gueneth Johnson - JohnsonGuenth@gmail.com/207-935-3909

Peter Magg - maggpsmail@gmail.com/603-986-2600

Ken Schiller, Chaplain - kens2049@hotmail.com/603-986-4624

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Deacon's Corner & more...

By Helen Goss – Diaconate Chair/Courtesy photo by Mark Schiller

October brings the first frost and yet some warmth lingers to remind us that we need to get busy with fall clean-up as cooler days are just ahead. The fair trailer will be back and put to bed, hoping that our goal was accomplished.

We had a variety of lay led Sundays in September and October looks to be the same. We are very fortunate to have people willing to try and provide a worship service during this period as we search for our next pastor. It's going to take some time and this is when our church community really needs to come together. I am reminded of a poem that was shared with us last October at the NHUCC Annual Meeting, by **Neil Gaiman**. The excerpt shared was as follows:

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes.
Because if you are making mistakes,
then you are making new things,
trying new things, learning, living,
pushing yourself, changing yourself,
changing your world. You're doing
things you've never done before, and
more importantly,
you're Doing Something.”

Here is what services look like for October as of this writing. There may be some last minute changes, but it will all come together as it should.

October 5 – **Linda Hyde**, Lay Leader

October 12 – Hymn Sing Sunday

October 19 – **Rev. Gordon Rankin**, NHUCC Conference Minister (Communion Sunday)

October 26 – **Chris DeVries**, Lay Leader

On October 19th, we will have another POTLUCK BRUNCH after worship. September's was a hit so we'll do it again! Rev. Rankin loves a potluck, so let's make it extra special.

Your Diaconate is considering other pastoral options that we will keep you apprised of as we venture forward. Additionally, the NHUCC Conference Annual Meeting is on October 25th, which your Delegates (Linda Hyde, Jennifer Terry, and Helen Goss) plan to attend. We always come back with good information about what is happening around us at other local churches and mission projects in the world, which we will share. The keynote speaker this year is Rev. Derek Terry, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC. I am looking forward to the message he will share.



From the Moderator

Karen Umberger, Bylaws Committee Chair

In September the Bylaws Committee asked everyone to review the new proposed Mission and Vision Statements and provide feedback to the Bylaws Committee. To date we have received no feedback. Here is what is proposed:

Mission Statement

We are a spiritual home where all are welcome, grounded in community, and love is the greatest commandment. We honor the sacred across traditions, nurture interfaith relationships, and care deeply for creation. Rooted in compassion and inspired by the Spirit; we gather to worship, grow, and serve--seeking justice, practicing mercy, walking humbly, and standing alongside one another and the world. We strive to be a beacon of hope in our community.

Vision Statement

We envision a world made whole by love and grace, where all people are welcome, nourished in spirit and empowered to live justly, humbly, and with compassion. Embracing the teachings of Jesus and guided by the Spirit, we seek to embody the transforming presence of God by practicing inclusion, pursuing justice, and nurturing healing in our community and beyond.

We are still looking for any feedback you would like to provide. We ask that you email any comments to karenumberger@gmail.com or send a written response before the meeting to:

First Church of Christ
PO Box 401
North Conway, NH 03860

A Special Meeting will be held on November 2nd following the church service to discuss and approve the new Mission and Vision Statements.

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

Our Church Stewardship Campaign will begin in October with the dedication of pledges on November 9th. Please be looking for your opportunity to make a difference in the mail.

We are searching for our next pastor, which not only takes time and effort, but also monetary support for mailings and especially during the interview process. We thank you for any and all support you can give to this church.

“I have the feeling that in a balanced life, one should die penniless.” ~ Art Garfunkel

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

A HYMN OF TRUST, JOY AND HOPE
By Muriel Magg - Music Team Chair

Hymn writers come from all walks of life. Some are highly educated, some without formal schooling, some held positions in the church, and others are businessmen. Henry Van Dyke was one who held a variety of positions in his lifetime. He was an ordained minister, a college professor, a successful author and poet, a diplomat, and chaplain in the United States Navy. Despite his achievements in a variety of fields, his magnificent hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” remains one of his most enduring legacies.

Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Princeton University in 1873 and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1877. After graduating from the seminary, he took a position as a Congregational pastor in Newport, Rhode Island, where he served for four years. In 1882 Van Dyke was called to the famous Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. In that same year, he married Ellen Reid and together they had nine children. During the next seventeen years, Van Dyke distinguished himself as one of America’s most outstanding preachers and was selected to serve as a member of the Board of Preachers at Harvard.

While Van Dyke was serving as a guest preacher at Williams College in Massachusetts, he wrote the poem “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.” He gave the President of the college his poem with this note: “Here is a hymn for you. Your mountains (the Berkshires) were my inspiration as I contemplated the mystery of God’s work. It MUST be sung to the tune of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy.”

The opening lines of the hymn invites all of creation to join in an eternal, joyful chorus praising God, the “Lord of love.”

A second stanza depicts every part of creation offering praise back to its creator, calling on the sun and moon, the stars, the creatures of the sea, the elements of weather, mountains, flowers, trees, birds and animals to teach us what our praise should be.

The unique third stanza in The New Century Hymnal page #4 (Copyright 1995) refers to “Loving Spirit, Father, Mother” and calls for the renewal of joy through love.

Stanza four concludes by calling for unity and love among people, offering gratitude and the ability to live in unity and joy in even the darkest of times.

It’s amazing to think how the artistic process works - God creates the astonishing beauty of the earth, a poet is inspired by it, and then that poem inspires another creative genius to set it to music years later. Then a second poet inspired again by creation’s loveliness, writes another poem to be set to that music. The final act in the creative process that led to Joyful, Joyful as we experience it today was when Edward Hodges, the organist at Trinity Episcopal Church in New York, adapted it to become a part of the Church’s hymnody. First Schiller, then Beethoven, then Van Dyke, and finally Hodges, using their gifts for our inspiration and for God’s glory.

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” is a gift to the world as an expression of God’s desire for all humankind to live as brothers and sisters. We sing it to remind us of who we are and that we are called to bring harmony to a broken world, never despairing and always hopeful. Let us count our blessings and then do our part in offering God joyful praise.



Vaughan Learning Center

By Heather Ouellette, Director



Pictured above is Lydia Ouellette, at last year's Trunk or Treat.

So far, the school year is going great, and everyone is settling in nicely.

Thanks to a grant from the Ham Foundation, we have new equipment and learning materials.

Vaughan Learning Center is holding its Annual Trunk or Treat on October 30th from 5 pm-6 pm. We are seeking people to decorate their trunk or donate candy. If interested in helping, please let Heather know at 603-356-5213 or stop by the center.

We are also still seeking donations of paper products, as our dishwasher is still broken.



Photo courtesy of Mark Schiller

Pictured above is the sunrise over Vaughan Learning Center Playground.



October
2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Fryeburg Fair Lady Sunday-Helen Goss 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:30am Coffee Hour After Worship	29 Fryeburg Fair Fryeburg Fair Baking 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	30 Fryeburg Fair Fryeburg Fair Baking 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	1 Fryeburg Fair Fryeburg Fair Baking	2 Fryeburg Fair Fryeburg Fair Baking 12:00pm - 2:15pm Food Pantry Open	3 Fryeburg Fair Baking 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	4 Fryeburg Fair
5 Fryeburg Fair Linda Hyde, Lay Leader 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm Revolving Closet-Teens	6 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	7 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	8 9:00am - 11:00am Senior Non-Food Pantry	9 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	10 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	11
12 Celebration of Mae Shea's 100th Birthday Hymn Sing Sunday 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	13 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	14 9:30am - 10:30am Faith Fellowship 9:30am - 2:30pm WIC Program 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open	15 3:00pm Music Team meeting	16 12:00pm - 2:15pm Food Pantry Open 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	17 Happy 100th Birthday Mae Shea 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	18
19 Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister preaching 10:00am Communion Worship Celebration 11:00am Poduck Brunch after Worship 2:00pm - 5:00pm Revolving Closet-Teens	20 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	21 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm Trustees meeting	22	23 12:00pm - 2:15pm Food Pantry Open 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	24 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	25 NHUCC Annual meeting at Geneva Point
26 Christopher DeVries, Lay Leader 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 11:30am Church Council meeting	27 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150	28 11:30am - 1:45pm Food Pantry Open 5:00pm Diaconate meeting	29	30 12:00pm - 2:15pm Food Pantry Open 3:00pm - 4:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm - 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm - 6:00pm VLC Trunk or Treat	31 12:00pm - 1:00pm AA meeting	1

LECTIONARIES

OCTOBER 5, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Neighbors In Need Offering

Hebrew Bible: Lamentations 1:1-6 and 3:19-26 and

Psalm 137

New Testament: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

OCTOBER 12, 2025

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Bible: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and

Psalm 66:1-12

New Testament: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

OCTOBER 19, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Hebrew Bible: Jeremiah 31:27-34 and

Psalm 119:97-104

New Testament: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

OCTOBER 26, 2025

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrew Bible: Joel 2:23-32 and

Psalm 65

New Testament: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14



10-12 Sally Kratt
 10-12 Patricia Bean
 10-13 Cindy Russell
 10-14 Cheryl Furtado
 10-15 Tim Psaledakis
 10-16 Mark Schiller
 10-17 Mary Ellen Shea
 10-17 Megan Croce
 10-19 Marcia Smith
 10-19 Julia Edwards
 10-20 Robert Bechtold
 10-21 Sue Davidson
 10-22 Eve Walker
 10-22 Elaine Paul
 10-23 Peter Hyde
 10-24 Matthew Schiller
 10-25 Muriel Magg
 10-25 Mike James
 10-26 Harry Smith
 10-28 Joseph Leighton



10-03 Chris and Tracy Strout
 10-15 Russell and Dorteia Seybold
 10-16 Peter and Muriel Magg



Please pray for those dealing with illness, surgery or recovery, especially: **Jay Donabedian, Evelyn Porter, Linda Hyde and Deb Smith**

Remember those who mourn, especially the families of **Alex Ware**, and the family of **Steve and Denise Woodcock** on the recent loss of her brother, **Hollis Randall Hillner, Jr.**

Remember those in our extended care facilities.

Merriman House:

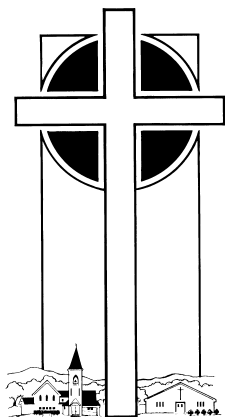
Liz George-Hussey and Cynthia Briggs

Mountain View: **June Waltz and Jean Smykla**

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:



(Courtesy photo by Barbara Sisson)

Pictured above is our very own Centenarian, Mary Ellen Shea, one of our Blueberry Crisps! Come help us celebrate Miss Mae on October 12th!

THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered to make our Blueberry Crisp fundraiser happen again this year. It takes our entire faith community and good people in the valley who give of their time for this to be a success. We are most grateful! 💜💕💜

CHURCH & VAUGHAN STAFF

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

Denise Ext. #1

Fax Number (603)356-2106

Vaughan Food Pantry (603)602-1801

Vaughan Learning Center (603)356-5213

E-mail addresses:

churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com

Church Website: www.firstchurchnc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh