



The Congregate Tidings

Volume 37 Issue 6

June 2023

Pastor's Piece

By Pastor Sue Davidson

The month of June is interesting in the life of the New England Church. The routine of the church begins to slow down so that the people can enjoy the good weather that has come or is yet to come our way. This was always interesting to my parents and me when we first came to Mt. Washington Valley. I grew up in Florida where church life was full throttle year-round. So, to experience this phenomenon was eye-opening. Even with the coming of the summer months there is much to celebrate and much to share.

The Christian Year has seasons and after Pentecost, which we will be celebrating on May 28th, begins Ordinary time. The meaning of ordinary is not to be thought of as 'routine' but rather as ordered for learning. There are two seasons of ordinary time in the Christian year. The first occurs between Epiphany and Lent. The second, and longest, begins on June 4 and ends on November 26th, the Sunday before Advent begins. The purpose of this two-part ordinary season is to support us in living out the gifts and callings that we hold on to from Easter and Pentecost.

The first Sunday in June is celebrated as Trinity Sunday. A Sunday that focuses on the belief in a Triune God. We recognize and focus on a God who created all that we are and where we live, a God made flesh through Jesus Christ, and a God who came down like fire and burned a mission into our hearts. Worship for the remaining weeks of June leads us to celebrate the children in our midst as well as fathers and father-figures in our lives.

The final Sunday of the month and leading into July, worship will focus on "The Path of the Disciple." The mission of First Church of Christ, Congregational is to make followers of Jesus Christ by being His Disciples. How do we accomplish this?? That is the task we have before us. Accepting the call to become a disciple, a follower of Christ, is multi-faceted. We embrace, believe, strive to learn, and share with others the understanding of the presence of God in our lives. The end of faith goes beyond saying - yes. I believe, it is only the beginning of the path to being a whole person in Christ and a disciple.

There is joy in serving, seeking justice, and loving all God's people. It may be hard, and I may mess up at times, or lose focus, but I am learning and growing all the time. This life in Christ is not an instantaneous event but a lifelong process. May we journey together to discover the gifts that we each carry for the transformation of the world in which we live all enabled by and supported by God.

Living for God



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JUNE 11TH – CHILDREN’S SUNDAY

By Helen Goss

It’s time to celebrate the children of First Church of Christ! **Our last day of Sunday School until September will be on June 11th with an All Church Picnic to follow.** There will be hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixins’, salads, chips and yummy desserts! **You just need to come with your lawn chair and appetite to enjoy.** We have not been able to have this celebration and picnic for three years, so let’s make it a day to remember!

Back by popular demand is our **Grill Master, Ken Schiller!** He always mans the grill with perfection and provides burgers and dogs beyond compare. We are very grateful to welcome Ken back to his post!

The church service will recognize our children with special presentations by Pastor Sue. We are going with a **Carnival Theme** this year, so we hope to see some creativity from our church family in their attire for the day. There will be games for everyone to participate in or enjoy from the viewing stands. All activities for this picnic will take place on the back lawn of the church outside of the Memorial Garden.

It’s going to be a Sunday filled with joy and laughter, so we hope you can come!

SEE YOU THERE!



PLEASE NOTE: Throughout the summer months until Sunday School resumes in September, we will offer childcare in the nursery for the younger pre-school children that cannot sit through a worship service.

“The View from My Window”

By Jennifer Perkins, Vaughan Administrator

Let me introduce you to our new friend, Flat Panda.

Flat Panda came to visit the Vaughan Food Pantry from the second-grade class at the Pine Tree School in Center Conway, NH.

Mrs. Jenkins is introducing her students to “Community Helpers” in the Mt. Washington Valley and reached out to the Vaughan Food Pantry inquiring if we would like to participate in their project, and of course, we were delighted!

Flat Panda can be seen throughout the pantry offering whatever assistance it could. It wanted to drive the van but for very short legs, could not reach the pedals.

After answering a questionnaire, writing a letter to the students and taking pictures of Flat Pandas visit, I sent all material back to the school along with our panda buddy. It is never too soon to introduce students to the various organizations in our area that are offering guidance and support to those in need.



DEACON'S CORNER...

By Helen Goss

It is so hard to believe that we are in the month of June, which means we are halfway through 2023! I'm not sure it's just an age thing or that the world is spinning that much faster.

It is heartwarming to see the attendance numbers increasing at church! More have come as friends of Pastor Sue, others because of the musical program we offer, our snow birds are returning from their winter hiatus in the south, and repeat visitors are encouraging. We are all too aware of how COVID and changes in pastoring have affected our church, but the tide may be turning. We hope more of you will come back and experience the fellowship of our faith community.

We lost a church family pillar on May 4th with the death of **Dr. Charles E. Taylor** at age 96. Many knew him as "Chuck," but for those of us that grew up here and went to school with his children, he will forever and always be Dr. Taylor. He served our church on many boards and committees over many years and at his passing was an active Trustee and Vaughan Board member. He was a true "elder" of our church and cared deeply for the future of our programs, with a special affection for the music. Although we miss his presence among us, we are grateful he is at peace and has joined his lovely wife, Mildred (Bebe), in God's holy house.

Pastor Sue started her faith-sharing gatherings in May on two Wednesday mornings in that month. These will continue in her office in June with dates she will share to work around her schedule. The first meetings have been very well received with seven in attendance. These are relaxed meetings with no agenda where faith stories are shared as individuals are comfortable. Anyone is most welcome to attend and if we run out of room, we have plenty of larger spaces to move to!

Steve Woodcock provided beautiful flowers for the taking on Mother's Day. Flowers always add so much to any service and sharing them for all to take home marked the day with joy. All were recognized, regardless of relationship, as many have played a mother's role in our upbringing.

On Sunday, May 21st, we all shared in the blessing of the elopement of **Alicia and Chris** on Friday, May 19th, of which our star Sunday School attendee, **Rory**, is such an important part! This new family has so much promise ahead in the love they share and that which surrounds them. I believe this was a first at our church and I am so happy they chose to share with us.

When you look at your calendar for June, I hope you will make time for the following services:

06/11 - **Children's Sunday** with **All Church Picnic** to follow -

06/18 - **Choir's last Sunday** until September as they take a well-deserved summer break -

This is **Father's Day** and **Steve Woodcock** will be the lay pastor as Pastor Sue will be away.

I know he is planning a very special service you won't want to miss!

06/25 - The **Handbell Ringers** will be performing as their summer break will follow -

06/26 - **Dr. Taylor's Celebration of Life** service at 11am -

We hope you will make plans now to come to church in June! It's a great place to avoid the black flies and mosquitoes, rest your soul, and recharge for the week ahead.

Faithfully,

Your Diaconate: Helen Goss, Chair; Julie James, Vice-Chair and Scribe; Lee Coffield; Laurel Ekberg; Muriel Magg; Fred Starkey; and Gerry Tilton, Deacon Emeritus

IN THE MIDST OF NEW DIMENSIONS

Hymn #391 - The New Century Hymnal

By Muriel Magg

Hymn singing is one of the pleasures of attending First Church of Christ, Congregational. The majority of hymns we sing are familiar and satisfying. I tend to notice the Bible verses that underlay many hymns, and I note how many were composed in the 19th century.

Occasionally we sing a hymn of recent composition, such as “In the Midst of New Dimensions.” When I first heard the hymn sung during worship earlier this year, I was immediately attracted to it. Both the text and the tune captured my attention. For me this is one of those hymns whose text speaks to all generations. It presents the challenge for us to recognize the many different types of people in the world and help us move to finally embrace and celebrate persons of all backgrounds, colors, and orientations.

The hymn, “In the Midst of New Dimensions,” has become well known in many denominations. It was written by Rev. Julian Rush, a United Methodist minister who served churches in Dallas, Denver, Boulder, and Colorado Springs for 17 years; until he acknowledged his own identity as a gay man. He wrote the hymn on the theme of ‘diversity’ for a church conference meeting. The text and the tune were written simultaneously. “In the Midst of New Dimensions” sought to incorporate Native American spiritual imagery with Hebrew imagery in the text and hints at Julian’s own struggle with rejection and trying to be honest and open as a gay man within the Methodist church.

Julian Rush was born on August 24, 1936, in Meridian, Mississippi and grew up there. He was educated at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University (Texas), and the University of Denver, where he earned a master’s degree in drama.

Julian experienced much rejection in the church, and when he came out, the United Methodist Church in Boulder, Colorado decided he was no longer fit to be their minister and stopped paying his salary. His rejection by the church only served to strengthen his faith.

In 1981, Bishop Melvin Wheatley appointed Julian to St. Paul United Methodist Church in Denver. This was a small church which already had a pastor and had very little money. But they decided to accept the appointment of Rev. Rush as a public gesture of support for the gay community, and as a statement about their commitment to social justice.

In 1984, St. Paul United Methodist Church became one of the first three churches in the nation to become an Open and Affirming Congregation, believing that ALL persons are children of God and are welcome in the church.

In 1985, following the church’s inhospitable reaction to Julian, he wrote the loving and affirming hymn, “In the Midst of New Dimensions.”

To quote the hymn—yes, we live in “a world divided by our own self seeking schemes,” and yet Jesus calls us to remember that our fellow human is “Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.”

What a powerful lesson for us all about what it means to love God - and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We too are looking for new ways to be God’s people in the world, and to embody the love of Christ and show that to others.



Vaughan Community Service, Inc.

By Denise Leighton, Chairperson Strawberry Festival

We are in the process of getting ready for our Strawberry Festival.

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!

SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023
11:00 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM



*Vaughan Community Services and
The First Church of Christ, Congregational in North Conway
present a day of delicious strawberry delights and free family fun!*

Summertime treats for the family.
Strawberry Smoothies, Strawberry Shortcake, Strawberries
Dipped in Chocolate, Hotdogs and Chips.

FREE from 11am to 4pm: music, games, strolling magician, a
display of antique cars/wagons, and more.
Raffle, local crafters and a White Elephant Sale.
FREE CONCERT from 11 am to 4pm

PLATINUM SPONSORS: JON & DIANE MARQUIS

GOLD SPONSORS: *Crest Chevrolet; Leone, McDonnell & Roberts, PA;
Snell Brothers Cleaning; Memorial Hospital; White Mountain Oil & Propane;
Porter Office Machines;*

SILVER SPONSORS: *Anchor Business Services; North Country Fair Jewelers;
QVP Settlers Green; Infinger Insurance; Gamwell, Caputo, Kelsch & Co., PLLC;
RWN Property Services; Conway Daily Sun; Northway Bank; Badger, Peabody &
Smith Realty; Pepsi; Chalmers Insurance; Eastern Propane & Gas; Minute Man Press/
L. A. Drew; Dan Jones Realty; Valley Vintage; Ekberg & Associates Law Firm;
WMWV Radio.*

For more information about the Strawberry Festival call Denise at 603-356-2324.



Join us at Flatbread on June 6th from 4-9PM and help support Vaughan Learning Center. Flatbread will donate a portion of all large and small pizza sales. We will raffle off a gift card tree.

JUNE 2023



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	Strengthen The Church Offering 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	29 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	30 12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open	31	1 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm-4:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm-5:45pm Handbell Choir	2 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	3
4	10:00am Worship Celebration and Communion-Trinity Sunday 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm-5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS	5 Denise on vacation 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	6 Denise on vacation 12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open	7	8 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm-4:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:45pm-5:45pm Handbell Choir	9 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	10
11	 Church Cookout Children's Sunday and Picnic 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	12 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	13  Food Pantry Needs 12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open	14 9:30am Faith Fellowship?	15  Choir Practice 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm-4:45pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	17
18	 Happy Fathers Day Choir ends for the summer 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship 2:00pm-5:00pm REVOLVING CLOSET-TEENS	19 Congregate Tidings Deadline 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	20 12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:00pm Trustees meeting 5:00pm Diaconate meeting	21	22  Bell Choir 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open 4:45pm-5:45pm Handbell Choir	23 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	24  JUNE 11:00am-4:00pm STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
25	Handbell Choir ends for the summer 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Coffee Hour After Worship	26 11:00am Dr. Charles Taylor Celebration of Life Service 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	27 12:00pm-1:45pm Food Pantry Open	28 9:31am Faith Fellowship	29 1:00pm-2:45pm Food Pantry Open	30 12:00pm-1:00pm AA meeting	1



- 06-01 Peter Magg
- 06-01 Sally Davis
- 06-01 Trina Jones
- 06-03 Madilynn Putnam
- 06-04 Roger Babcock
- 06-05 Dana Russian
- 06-10 Brett Russell
- 06-11 Jennifer Terry
- 06-15 Peggy Light
- 06-16 Audrey Vorperian
- 06-27 Frank Polak
- 06-29 Jill Burrows



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

Please pray for those dealing with illness, surgery



or recovery, especially: **Bob Borchers; Bob and Evelyn Porter; Sandy and Greg George; Linda Hyde and Audrey Vorperian.**

Prayer for those who grieve especially the families of **Dr. Charles Taylor and George Fernald.**

Remember those in our extended care facilities. They are -

At Merriman House:

Liz George-Hussey; Cynthia and Conrad (Connie) Briggs and Marilyn Elliott

At Mineral Springs:

David Tilton

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

Lectionaries

June 4, 2023

First Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Holy Communion

Trinity Sunday

Children's Story

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 1:1-24

Psalter Reading: Psalm 8

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:16-20

June 11, 2023

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Story

Children's Sunday and Church Picnic

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 11:13-19

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 19:13-15

June 18, 2023

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Father's Day

Children's Story

Steve Woodcock-Officiating

June 25, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

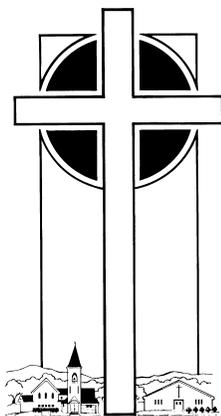
Children's Story

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 21:8-21

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:24-39

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:



**CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY, JUNE 11
WITH ALL CHURCH
PICNIC
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP**

CHURCH & VAUGHAN STAFF

Pastor: Sue Davidson
Church Administrator/Editor: Denise Leighton
Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins
Vaughan Learning Center Director:
Heather Ouellette
Organist: Floyd W. Corson
Associate Organist: Muriel Magg
Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir Director:
Anne W. Polak
Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

Worship Service at 10 A.M.
Church Office (603)356-2324
Fax Number (603)356-2106
E-mail address:
churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com
Website: www.northconwayucc.com
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
firstchurchncnh](http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh)