

**First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



September 8, 2024

CCLI #292978, and #20547245

CHURCH ORGANIZED ON AUGUST 18, 1778

Present building erected in North Conway Village 1884

**"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are
welcome here!"**

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." — Mother Teresa

***Please stand if you are able**

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in G Minor

J. S. Bach

Lighting the Community Candles
We invite you to use this time for silent prayer
and reflection as we prepare for worship.

Welcome and Greetings - Lee Coffield

Gathering

Call to Worship

One: Come, all who seek to encounter the living God, who breaks down every barrier and welcomes us with open arms.

All: We gather with hearts open, ready to receive the boundless love that knows no limits.

One: In the presence of the Holy One, there is neither outsider nor stranger, for all are embraced as beloved children of God.

All: We come as we are, united in the Spirit, ready to listen and be transformed.

One: Jesus calls us to cross the lines that divide, to reach out with compassion and grace to those we may not yet know.

All: May we step forward in faith, trusting in the power of God's inclusive love.

One: In this time of worship, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of God's presence.

All: We come ready to be changed, ready to be sent out to serve in the name of Christ.

One: Let us listen deeply, for God speaks through every voice and every encounter.

All: We are here, ready to hear, ready to follow where God leads us.

One: Come, let us worship with joy and expectation, for the Spirit of God is among us, breaking down every wall.

All: We come to worship, to be renewed, to be sent out in love.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, we gather before you, aware of the barriers that too often divide us. Open our eyes to see the dignity and worth in every person we meet. Open our ears to hear your voice in the cries of those who seek justice and compassion. Open our hearts to be transformed by your boundless love, that we might extend that love to all. Guide us in this time of worship, and send us out as instruments of your peace and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn NCH #394** In Christ There Is No East or West Tune: McKEE

Sharing The Peace of Christ

Proclamation

Scripture

Proverbs 22:8-9 Hebrew Bible page 604
James 2:1-17 NT Bible pages 229-230
Mark 7:24-37

Children's Message

Uncool

Pastor Walt

The Word In Music (see back page)

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen

Message

The Near Enemy

Pastor Walt

Response

Prayers with Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

One: Now as our Savior Jesus taught us, we pray together:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory

One: Let us give, as each is able, according to the blessings that God has given each of us.

Doxology NCH #780

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Out

*Hymn **RED** #87

Blest Be The Tie

Tune: DENNIS

Benediction

(Stay and enjoy OR head right on over for coffee and treats!)

The altar flowers are given by Gueneth Johnson in memory of loved ones.

Welcome: Lee Coffield

Greeter: Helen Goss

Ushers: Fred Starkey and Jay Donabedian

Liturgist: Stephen Woodcock

Welcome to First Church of Christ! If you are visiting with us in person today, please note that there are two fire exits at the rear of the sanctuary and one through the back of the church through the kitchen. Additionally, there are two unisex bathrooms; one downstairs off the entrance where you entered and one off the kitchen at the rear of the building.

We hope you will join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall so we can get to know you better.

Volunteers Needed!

Once again we are gearing up for the Fryeburg Fair and have many opportunities for you to help with the church's largest fundraising event of the year! Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall behind the food table for baking, working in the booth, and cleaning Blueberry Crisp pans.

Week of Activities:

Today: Chancel Choir Rehearsal 2pm;
Bell Choir Rehearsal 2:15pm;
Pastor Walt's Installation 3:00pm

Monday: AA Noon-1pm

Tuesday: Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45pm;

Wednesday: Essential Non-Food Pantry 9-11am;

Thursday: Food Pantry 12:30-2:45pm;
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 3pm;
Bell Choir Rehearsal 4pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm;

Saturday: Jen's Friends Climb – Lee Coffield is collecting donations.

Sunday: **Worship Celebration 10am;**
Sunday School Rally Day;
Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm

Mission Corner:

- **July-September Noisy Offering will go to Heifer Project.** The Heifer Project works to end hunger and poverty with the communities they serve around the world.
- The 3rd Quarter **Mission collection is for the Christmas Giving Fund.** These donations are used for gift cards for those in need to make the holidays a little brighter.
- **The Food Pantry is in need of non-perishable food or monetary gifts.** The pantry hours are shown in our *Week of Activities*. Checks can be made payable to: *Vaughan Community Service, Inc.* and placed in the collection plate.

Evelyn Porter is designated as The Coordinator of the Diaconates' Ministry of Greeting. If you would like her to send a card from the church to someone who is ill, grieving, celebrating, or who just needs a "pick-me-up" note, please call her at 603-356-2881 or send her an email at hambru35@yahoo.com.

Church Address and Information

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
2521 White Mountain Highway
PO Box 401
North Conway, NH 03860

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

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

Organist: Floyd Corson

Associate Organist: Muriel Magg

Chancel Choir/Handbell Director: Anne Polak

Church Administrator/Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton

Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins

Vaughan Learning Center Director: Heather Ouellette

Vaughan Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton

Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

Church Phone: 603-356-2324

Church Fax number: 603-356-2106

Vaughan Food Pantry: 603-602-1801

Vaughan Learning Center: 603-356-5213

Pastor Walt's Email: pastor@firstchurchnc.com

Church Office Email: churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com

Church Website: www.firstchurchnc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh

Gather Us In

Here in this place new light is streaming / Now is the darkness vanished
away

See in this space our fears and our dreamings / Brought here to you in
the light of this day

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken / Gather us in, the blind and the
lame

Call to us now and we shall awaken / We shall arise at the sound of our
name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery / We are the old who yearn
for your face

We have been sung throughout all of history / Called to be light to the
whole human race

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty / Gather us in, the proud and the
strong

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly / Give us the courage to enter the
song

Here we will take the wine and the water / Here we will take the bread
of new birth

Here you shall call your sons and your daughters / Call us anew to be
salt for the earth

Give us to drink the wine of compassion / Give us to eat the bread that
is you

Nourish us well and teach us to fashion / Lives that are holy and hearts
that are true

Not in the dark of buildings confining / Not in some heaven light years
away

But here in this place the new light is shining / Now is the kingdom,
now is the day

Gather us in and hold us forever / Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together / Fire of love in our flesh and our
bones

Fire of love in our flesh and our bones.