

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

First Sunday of Advent



December 1, 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!"**

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

– Desmond Tutu

***Please stand if you are able**

Prelude

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

Advent Candle Lighting

Introit - Christ, Be Our Light Words & Music by Bernadette Farrell

Gathering

Call to Worship

One: Lift your eyes to the heavens and see the signs of God's presence.

All: We come with hearts open to the wonder of God's cosmic story.

One: The earth trembles, and the seas roar, yet God's promises endure.

All: In the midst of chaos, we anchor ourselves in the hope of Christ.

One: The heavens declare the glory of God, and creation proclaims God's faithfulness.

All: We see signs of hope and renewal in the beauty of God's world.

One: Stand up and raise your heads, for your redemption is drawing near.

All: We lift our voices in gratitude and prepare our hearts in faith.

One: God's Kingdom is breaking through, even in times of uncertainty.

All: We watch and wait, attuned to the signs of hope all around us.

One: Let us worship the God of steadfast love and boundless hope.

All: With joy and expectation, we offer our praise.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: God of hope, in this season of waiting and wonder, we come before you with open hearts. Amid the uncertainties of our world, we turn to your steadfast promises. Kindle in us a hope that endures, a faith that trusts in your presence, and a love that inspires us to action. Prepare our spirits to receive the light of Christ and to share it with a world longing for renewal. Amen.

***Hymn – NCH #101 Comfort, Comfort O My People**

Sharing The Peace of Christ

Proclamation

Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (Hebrew Bible p. 738)

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NT p. 204)

Luke 21:25-36

Children's Message

I Can't Wait

Pastor Walt

The Word In Music

Bring Us Hope

By Ruth Elaine Schram

Bring us hope, bring us love: bring us peace from above.

Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above.

Bring us light, take our darkness away.

Bring us light, turn our night into day.

Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above.

Bring us hope. Hope to replace our hopelessness,

Love to refill our emptiness, peace in the midst of our distress;

Oh, how we need Your joy!

Bring us hope, bring us love: bring us peace from above.

Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above.

Response

Prayers with Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

Offertory

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

Communion

Communion Prayer

One: The Holy Living God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

One: Now as our Savior Jesus taught us, let us sing together:

All: Our Father, which 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.

Sharing The Gifts

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.

We invite you to come forward via the center aisle, as directed by the ushers, to receive communion. ALL are welcome at this table.

Prayer After Communion

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, we give thanks for this holy meal that nourishes our souls and fills us with hope. In this bread and cup, we taste your promise of renewal and your presence with us in every moment. Strengthened by this communion, may we go forth as people of hope, embodying your love and sharing your light with the world. Guide us in the days ahead, that we may live as reflections of your grace and agents of your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sending Out

***Hymn - NCH #112 Keep Awake, Be Always Ready**

Benediction

Postlude

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

The altar flowers are given by Dan and Trina Jones with grateful hearts for being blessed with six from their Georgia family this Thanksgiving. Peace and serenity to all this holiday season!

Greeter: Patsy Perry

Ushers: Mike James & Jay Donabedian

Liturgist: Steve 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.

Our December Newsletter is chock full of good stuff and important dates! You'll definitely want to check it out. You'll find it online by going to our website at:

<https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/December2024.pdf>

(And let us know if you don't have online access - we can still mail a physical copy to you!)

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 hambro35@yahoo.com.

Week of Activities:

Today: Crafty Hands Holiday Sale fundraiser in Mary Lancaster Room;
Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm;

Christmas Family Night 4pm

Monday: AA Noon-1pm;

Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 6:30-8pm;

Crafty Hands Workshop meets in RFL Bldg. 6:30-8pm;

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

Wednesday: **The Absurdity of Advent (Online) 7pm**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3566301237>

Thursday: WIC Program 9:30am-2:30pm;
Food Pantry Open 12:30-2:45pm;
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 3-4pm;
Bell Choir Rehearsal 4-5pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Saturday: Conway PD Food Drive-Market Basket 9am-2pm;

Sunday: **Worship Second Sunday of Advent 10am**

CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT!!!

The fun begins at 4:00PM Today, December 1st.

We will start in the Fellowship Hall making festive decorations for the tree, move on to a potluck supper and share a cookie or two, and then into the sanctuary to sing carols and holiday songs while decorating the tree! This gathering is for young and seasoned seniors, so if you need a ride, let us know.

Mission Corner:

- **November-December Noisy Offering will go to Vaughan Non-Essential Food program.** This program is designed to assist seniors with everyday items.
- The 4th Quarter **Mission collection is for the Jen's Friends.**
- **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

Church Address and Information

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

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

Pastor Walt's Phone: 603-356-2324 (Press 2)
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

Thank you for worshipping with us today!



To make giving even easier for those who don't carry cash or use checks, we've started using QR Code, in the bulletin. Just scan the code with your phone like you would in a restaurant!