

**First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Second Sunday of Advent**



December 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!"**

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

***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: In the wilderness, a voice cries out: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: We gather to listen, to see, and to prepare our hearts for God's presence.

One: Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

All: We come seeking the peace that brings renewal and hope.

One: The crooked paths shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth.

All: We open ourselves to the transforming power of God's love.

One: All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All: We are called to be heralds of this good news, proclaiming God's justice and grace.

One: The God of Love is always with us, always seeking to be born anew in the world.

All: We prepare ourselves to birth God's peace through our words and actions.

One: Come, let us worship the God who is present in every moment and place.

All: With open hearts, we lift our voices in praise and expectation.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: God of Love, in this season of preparation, we come before you with open hearts. Help us to hear your call, to see your presence, and to proclaim your peace in our world. Ground us in this moment and give us courage to use our voices to prepare the way for your love to be born anew. In hope and expectation, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn** NCH #102 O, How Shall I Receive You

Sharing The Peace of Christ

Proclamation

Scripture Malachi 3:1-4 (Hebrew Bible p. 889)
Philippians 1:3-11 (NT p. 196)
Luke 3:1-6

Children's Message Sharing the News Pastor Walt

The Word in Music On a Night of Wonder
Words and Music by Jay Althouse

On a night of wonder, on a night filled with love,
God will send forth a savior from the heav'ns above.
Ever meek and humble, born a child, yet a king.
We shall give Him our praises. Let the angels sing.

Gloria in excelsis, for He shall deliver a son.
Sing glory to God in the highest, the holy one.

On a night of wonder, on a night filled with love,
God will send forth a savior from the heav'ns above.
And His name shall be Emmanuel.
Silent night, holy night.

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 thank you for this sacred meal that nourishes our hearts and calls us to prepare the way for your love in the world. In this bread and cup, we taste the peace that comes from your presence and the courage to proclaim your justice and grace. Strengthened by this communion, may we go forth as heralds of your peace, ready to use our voices and lives to reflect your light. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sending Out

***Hymn** NCH #116 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Benediction

Postlude

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

In this season of Advent, may peace like a river flow in your soul.
(The altar is adorned with the Taylor's Peace Plant that was a gift to this church.)

Greeter: Lee Coffield

Ushers: Fred Starkey and Jay Donabedian

Liturgist: Claire Smith

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.

Please 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.

Just a reminder, your January *Congregate Tidings* articles are due in the church office by Monday, December 16th.

Week of Activities:

Today: Crafty Hands Holiday Sale fundraiser is in the Mary Lancaster Room

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;

Music Team Meeting 5pm

Wednesday: Essential Non Food Pantry 9-11am

Thursday: Food Pantry Open 12:30-2:45pm;

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 3-4pm;

Bell Choir Rehearsal 4-5pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm;

Revolving Closet-Teens Parent's Night 4-6pm

Sunday: Worship Third Sunday of Advent 10am;

Church Council Meeting 11:30am;

Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm

Mission Corner:

- **November-December Noisy Offering will go to Vaughan's Non-Essential Food program.** This program is designed to assist seniors with everyday items.
- The 4th Quarter **Mission collection is for Jen's Friends Cancer Foundation.**
- **The Food Pantry welcomes non-perishable food and monetary gifts are most appreciated as they can be stretched further.** 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!