

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

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**



**February 16, 2025**

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!"**

*"The measure of a society is found in how they treat their weakest and most helpless citizens." — Jimmy Carter*

**\*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.

## **Centering Music**

### **Gathering**

#### **Call to Worship**

One: Come, all who long for a world made new, where the lowly are lifted up and the proud are humbled.

**All: We come to see the world as Jesus sees it, to stand where Jesus stands.**

One: Blessed are the poor, the hungry, and those who weep, for God's Kin-dom is theirs.

**All: Woe to those who trust in their own wealth and power, for they have already received their reward.**

One: Christ stands on level ground, among the people, not above them.

**All: We come to walk with Jesus, to be shaped by his vision of justice and love.**

One: The way of Christ is the way of solidarity, compassion, and truth.

**All: We open our hearts to be changed, our hands to be ready, our feet to follow in his path.**

One: God calls us to step beyond comfort, to stand in the hard places, to embrace the way of love.

**All: We trust in God's presence, walking with us in every act of mercy and justice.**

One: Let us worship the God of justice, who calls us to see, to stand, and to act.

**All: We lift our voices in praise and open our lives in faith.**

## Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

**All: God of justice and mercy, you stand among us, not above us, calling us to open our eyes to the world as it truly is and to live as if your Kin-dom is already here. You bless those whom the world overlooks—the poor, the hungry, the grieving—and remind us that love is found not in power, but in compassion; not in wealth, but in generosity; not in status, but in humility. Give us the courage to step beyond comfort, to listen deeply, and to walk in solidarity with those who struggle. May our faith move us to act, our love draw us to serve, and our hope sustain us in the work of justice. We come before you ready to see, to stand, and to follow in the way of Christ. Amen.**

\*Hymn NCH #576 For the Healing of the Nations

## Sharing The Peace of Christ

### Proclamation

**Scripture** Jeremiah 17:5-10 (Hebrew Bible p. 719)  
James 2:1-7 (NT p. 229)  
Luke 6:17-26

**Children's Message** In The Upside Down Pastor Walt

**Word In Music** When Morning Gilds the Skies Handbells

**Message** On Level Ground Pastor Walt

### Response

## Prayers with Joys and Concerns

## Morning Prayer

## **The Lord's Prayer** (From the Aramaic by Dr. Jana Rentzel)

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

**All: Our ever-present Divine Light and Creator, who lives deep within and among our hearts, let Your holy Light and Love radiate through us into our lives. Help us realize who we truly are, in and with You. May our actions reflect Your will for us, as we live in peace and harmony with all. Grant what we need today in nourishment and insight. Release us from our mistakes that bind us, as we release our judgments and resentments against others. Help us avoid the things of this world that eclipse our spiritual focus, and free us from our worldly mistakes. For Yours is the glorious Heart of the universe that abundantly sustains us forever and ever. May You be the ground from which all our actions grow. Sealed in trust and faith and truth. Amen.**

## **Offertory**

## **Doxology**

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above ye Heavenly Host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **Prayer of Dedication**

## **Sending Out**

\*Hymn NCH #306 The Church of Christ in Every Age

## **Benediction**

## **Closing Song**

## **Postlude**

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

*"I say love, it is a flower. And you, its only seed." ~ Bette Midler*

**Greeter:** Lee Coffield

**Ushers:** Fred Starkey and Jay Donabedian

**Liturgist:** Muriel Magg

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

*Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for snacks and conversation!*

### **Mission Corner:**

- **The Noisy Offering for January/February will go to the Way Station.** This program is designed to provide safe, welcoming, non-judgmental space and supportive services for homeless & housing insecure residents of Mt Washington Valley.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter **Mission collection is for the End 68 Hours of Hunger Program.** This program confronts the approximately 68 hours of hunger that some school children experience between the free lunch they receive at school on Friday afternoon and the free breakfast they receive at school on Monday morning.

- **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.

**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](mailto:hambru35@yahoo.com).

### **Week of Activities:**

**Today:** **Church Annual Meeting after worship;**

Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm

**Monday:** **Offices Closed – President's Day;**

AA Noon-1pm;

Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 6:30-8:00pm

**Tuesday:** **March Congregate Tidings Deadline;**

Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45pm

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

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

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 3-4pm;

**Friday:** AA Noon-1pm;

**Saturday:** **Prepared to Serve – Pembroke Academy**

**Sunday:** **Worship Celebration 10am**

Our February 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/February2025.pdf>

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

## ***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

Pianist/Organist: Patrick Speckamp

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](mailto:pastor@firstchurchnc.com)

Church Office Email: [churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com](mailto:churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com)

Church Website: [www.firstchurchnc.com](http://www.firstchurchnc.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstchurchcnh](http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchcnh)

**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!**