

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

First Sunday of Lent



March 9, 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!"**

"In the middle of the journey of our life, I found myself within a dark woods where the straight way was lost." — Dante Alighieri, Inferno

***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 Song

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary.
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With Thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
(Repeat)

Gathering

Call to Worship

One: The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, not as punishment, but as preparation.

All: The wilderness is not a place of exile, but of encounter.

One: In the wilderness, illusions are stripped away, and what is real remains.

All: God meets us in the silence, in the stillness, in the space between what was and what will be.

One: The tempter offers easy answers, false power, and fleeting security.

All: But Jesus shows us another way—the way of trust, surrender, and love.

One: The wilderness is where transformation begins, where hearts are reshaped, and vision is renewed.

All: In our own wilderness journeys, may we embrace what is being revealed and release what no longer serves.

One: The wilderness is not the end; it is the threshold of something new.

All: We step forward in faith, trusting that God is leading us beyond fear, beyond scarcity, beyond doubt.

One: Come, let us worship the One who calls us—not away from struggle, but into the sacred work of becoming.

All: We enter this time of worship, open to transformation, open to grace, open to the path ahead.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: God of the wilderness, you call us into the quiet places, where our hearts are laid bare, where illusions crumble, where we are met not with certainty, but with truth. In this season of becoming, strip away what is false, release us from all that binds, and reshape us in love. When we are tempted by power, may we choose humility. When we are tempted by control, may we choose trust. When we are tempted by fear, may we choose the courage of Christ. Lead us through the wilderness, O God. May we emerge transformed, more awake, more whole, more ready to bear your light in the world. Amen.

*Hymn NCH #211 Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

Sharing The Peace of Christ

Proclamation

Scripture

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (Hebrew Bible p. 180)

Romans 10:8b-13 (NT p. 160)

Luke 4:1-13

At the end of the readings, the reader will say, "The word of God for the people of God." We invite your response to be "Thanks be to God."

Children's Message

Time Out

Pastor Walt

Word In Music

Blessed by The Bread

Message

Off The Grid

Pastor Walt

Response

Prayers with Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

Offertory

Doxology NCH #780

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer (*The St. Francis Eucharistic 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.

Eucharist 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.

When you receive, we will say: "The Bread of Life;" and then "The Cup of Salvation." We invite you to respond: "Amen."

Communion Song One Bread, One Body

Prayer After Communion

One: Let us pray.

All: Faithful and abiding God, we give thanks for this sacred meal, where in the bread and the cup, we have been strengthened for the journey ahead. As Jesus was sustained in the wilderness by Your presence, so too have we been nourished by Your grace. May this communion remind us that we do not walk alone—that even in the wilderness, You are with us, shaping us, renewing us, calling us forward. Send us out from this table, not in fear, but in trust; not clinging to what is safe, but embracing the transformation You desire in us. Let this meal be our sustenance as we seek to love boldly, serve humbly, and walk in the way of Christ. In His name, we pray. Amen.

Sending Out

*Hymn **RED** #57

Take Time To Be Holy

Benediction

Closing Song

Go Now In Peace

Besig/Price

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,
God will go with you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Postlude

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

The altar flowers are in celebration of the life of Tony Michelin, Jr. (May 14, 1962 - February 21, 2025). His strife is o'er, his battle done; now held in the loving arms of his Savior. May he have found eternal rest and peace.

Greeters: Lucy Howland and Helen Goss

Ushers: Fred Starkey and Jay Donabedian

Liturgist: Lee Coffield

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 March/April will go to Mission's Scholarship Fund** to benefit our local students going into the trades.
- The 1st 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 hambro35@yahoo.com.

Week of Activities:

Monday: AA Noon-1pm;

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

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

Lenten Potluck & Program 6pm

Wednesday: Essential Non-Food Pantry 9-11am

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

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 3-4pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: **Communion Worship Service 10am;**

Mission Committee meeting 11:30am;

Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm

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

<https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/March2025.pdf>

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

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!