

**First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Lent**



March 23, 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!"**

"We are midwives of the new creation, co-creators with God. We are here to nurture life, to help the universe evolve into love. — Ilia Delio

***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

Gathering

Call to Worship

One: Come, all who seek renewal. The Spirit of God is already moving among us.

All: Love is stirring, grace is growing, and new life is taking root.

One: God is patient with us, tending the soil of our souls with mercy and care.

All: We are not finished yet. The Spirit is still shaping and forming us.

One: We are not called to remain as we are, but to grow into the fullness of life.

All: We are co-creators with God, invited to nurture love and justice in the world.

One: When the world cries out in need, we do not turn away.

All: We cultivate compassion. We plant seeds of healing and peace.

One: God's love is not static; it moves, transforms, and awakens us to new possibilities.

All: We open our hearts to the Spirit's work, trusting in the power of grace.

One: Come, let us worship the One who calls us to grow, to serve, and to bear the fruits of love.

All: We come with open hands and willing hearts, ready to follow the way of Christ.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: God of infinite love, you are always at work in the world, coaxing life from barren places, calling us toward growth and transformation. Too often, we resist your tending, content to remain as we are, hesitant to embrace the change that love requires. Yet you do not give up on us. You nurture us with patience and grace, inviting us to be co-creators in your unfolding story of renewal. Open our hearts to your Spirit's work. Free us from fear, from complacency, from the illusion that we are separate from your great design. May we be cultivators of compassion, bearers of justice, and stewards of the love that brings all things into fullness. In Christ, we are called to live, to love, and to bear fruit that nourishes the world. May we trust your presence within us and around us, as we follow the way of Christ with open hands and willing hearts. Amen.

***Hymn NCH #436 God of Grace and God of Glory**

Sharing The Peace of Christ

Proclamation

Scripture Isaiah 55:1-9 (Hebrew Bible p. 685)
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (NT p. 172)
 Luke 13:1-9

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 Planting and Growing Pastor Walt

Word In Music

Come, Spirit, Come

Mary Kay Beall

Come, Spirit, come.
Come, like the wind on the water.
Come, Spirit, come.
Blow over my soul.
Come, Spirit, come.
Come like a flame in the darkness.
Come, Spirit, come.
Shine over my soul.
Come, Spirit, come.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Come, Spirit, come.
Come, like a dove of the new day.
Come, Spirit, come.
Soar over my soul.
Like the wind, like a flame, like a dove,
Spirit, come.

Message

On Fertilizers

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 (From the Aramaic by Dr. Jana Rentzel)

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

**All: O Great Spirit, our Father from above,
we honor your name as sacred and holy.**

Bring your good road to us,

**where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above
is reflected in the earth below.**

Provide for us day by day--

the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.

The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.

All the things we need for each day.

Release us from the things we have done wrong,

**in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to
us.**

**Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your
good road,**

and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.

Aho! May it be so!

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 Meditation In Remembrance of Me (guitar/piano)

Prayer After Communion

One: Let us pray.

All: God of abundant grace, in this meal, you have nourished us with love, fed us with mercy, and strengthened us for the journey ahead. As Christ shared this table with his disciples, so too have we been drawn into the great unfolding of your presence—a presence that sustains, transforms, and calls us into deeper life. May what we have received here take root in us, shaping our hearts, guiding our hands, and bearing fruit in a world that longs for healing. Send us forth as co-creators of your Kin-dom, tending to the places in need of justice, offering compassion where there is hurt, and embodying the peace that only Christ can bring. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Sending Out

***Hymn RED #72** Have Thine Own Way, Lord

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.
Know God will guide 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.
Amen, amen, amen.

Postlude

All of You

Michael Schütz

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

May the altar adornment remind us how we can plant seeds of healing to encourage new life rooted in Christ.

Greeter: Lee Coffield

Ushers: Steve Woodcock and Jay Donabedian

Liturgist: Helen Goss

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 hambru35@yahoo.com.

Week of Activities:

Monday: AA Noon-1pm;

Vaughan Board meeting 3pm;

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

Tuesday: Clergy of The Eastern Slope Luncheon 12:30-2:00pm;

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

Diaconate meeting 5pm

Wednesday: Music team meeting 1pm

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

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 3-4pm;

Bell Choir Rehearsal 4-5pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Saturday: Battle of the Badgers Fundraiser for Vaughan at Ham Arena 4pm

**Sunday: Communion Worship Service and
One Great Hour of Sharing offering 10am**

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!