

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

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



July 13, 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 opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference."

— Elie Wiesel

***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: On the road between what is safe and what is just, we gather as travelers and truth-seekers.

All: We come, not to pass by, but to stop, to see, and to serve.

One: In a world that rewards indifference, we remember the call to radical compassion.

All: We are not bystanders—we are neighbors, bound by love and responsibility.

One: Christ is not found in the halls of power, but in the ditch, broken and waiting.

All: In the suffering of strangers, we meet the sacred face of God.

One: Faith is not a belief we carry—it is a path we walk.

All: It moves us toward the wounded, toward the margins, toward one another.

One: Here we are reminded that justice is not an idea—it is what love looks like in public.

All: Let us worship the God who walks the Jericho Road, and calls us to walk it too.

One: We are here not to escape the world's pain, but to be transformed by love into healers of it.

All: Let us worship the God of justice and mercy, who meets us in the ditch and sends us out to serve.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: God of the wounded and the wandering, you meet us not in power but in vulnerability, not on thrones but in the roadside ditch. Stir our hearts with holy compassion. Disrupt our indifference. Loosen our grip on judgment and fear. Move us to mercy, to courage, to love that crosses every line. May our faith not remain theory, but take flesh in acts of justice and healing. Help us to see you in the stranger, to kneel in solidarity, and to rise in service. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn** NCH #582 O God of Earth and Altar

Sharing The Peace of Christ

Proclamation

Scripture Isaiah 58:6–10 (Hebrew Bible p. 688)
James 2:14–17 (NT p. 230)
Luke 10:25–37

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	Who Do You Help?	Pastor Walt
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Word In Music	Ave Maria Eve Walker, Soloist	Franz Schubert
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Message	God in A Ditch	Pastor Walt
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Response

Prayers with Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: Our Father, who 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.

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 #585 O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face

Benediction

Closing Song

Paul Burtis

May God's blessings twine around you,

Perfect love, and healing calm;

May God's radiance shine upon you; may it guide you,

Stay beside you; watch and keep you safe from harm.

Postlude

Six Ecossaies

L. v. Beethoven

(Stay and enjoy OR head to the Fellowship Hall for coffee and treats!)

The altar flowers are given by Gueneth Johnson in loving memory of her parents, Helen and Cecil Gibbs, all to the glory of God.

The organ bouquet is given by Peter and Muriel Magg, in memory of Gerry Tilton, on the first anniversary of her passing. Gerry left behind her legacy of kindness, service, and her profound love for the Lord and her church. ☩

Greeter: Gueneth Johnson

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. There are two unisex bathrooms; one downstairs off the front entrance and one off the kitchen at the rear of the building.

The doors to the church are locked at 10:10am on Sundays for everyone's safety. One of the doors in the back of the sanctuary is kept open for the Ushers to keep an eye out for any latecomers. Please knock on the glass if you need to get their attention.

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.

Mission Corner:

- **The Noisy Offering for July/August will go to End 68 Hours of Hunger Program.** This program confronts the approximately 68 hours of hunger some school children experience between free school lunch on Friday and free school breakfast received on Monday. Deliveries continue through the summer months through volunteer support.
- **The 3rd Quarter Mission collection will go to the Christmas Giving Ladder** to help families with Christmas expenses.
- **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.

Week of Activities:

Today: Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Monday: AA Noon-1pm;
Bach Festival Rehearsal 7-9pm

Tuesday: Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45pm;
Trustees meeting 4pm

Thursday: Rotary meeting 7-9am;
Food Pantry Open 12:30-2:45pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost;
Church Council meeting 11:30am;
Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm

Our **July** Newsletter is chock full of good stuff and important dates! You'll find it in your mail and by going online to our website at: <https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/July2025.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!