

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

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost



August 17, 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!"**

"Nothing can dim the light which shines from within."

— Maya Angelou

***Please stand if you are able**

Prelude

Partita on St. Anne - Pastorale

Paul Manz

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 into this space where the Spirit's fire burns—not to destroy, but to renew.

All: We come ready to be changed, open to what God will make of us.

One: The fire of Christ burns away fear, apathy, and all that no longer serves life.

All: We long to be set free from what holds us back from love.

One: This is no false peace, but the deep peace born of justice and compassion.

All: We choose the way of Christ, even when it disturbs our comfort.

One: God is doing a new thing, even now, in us and in the world.

All: We will not cling to what is passing away, but step boldly into what is being born.

One: The Spirit ignites courage in our hearts and calls us into God's re-creative work.

All: We answer that call with our lives, our prayers, and our praise.

One: Let us worship the One who kindles the fire of love and justice in us.

All: We worship with joy, with gratitude, and with holy resolve.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: Holy One, You come to us with a fire that will not be quenched—a fire of love and justice that refuses to leave us or the world as it is. You burn away our fear and complacency, stripping away what no longer serves life, and ignite within us a courage we did not know we had. You disturb our false peace so that we may live into Your true peace, the peace born of compassion, truth, and mercy. Kindle in us a passion for Your re-creative work in our hearts, our communities, and the world You love. May we be willing to be changed, ready to follow where You lead, and faithful in tending the flame of justice wherever it is needed. In the name of Jesus, whose love transforms and renews all things, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn** NCH #263 O Spirit of the Living God

Sharing The Peace of Christ

Proclamation

Scripture Isaiah 5:1-7 (Hebrew Bible p. 634)
 Hebrews 11:29—12:2 (NT p. 226)
 Luke 12:49-56

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 Toasting Marshmallows Pastor Walt

Word In Music J. S. Bach Prelude and Fugue in C Major

Message God's Refining Fire Chris DeVries

Reception

Prayers with Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (From the Aramaic by Neil Douglas-Klotz)

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

All: O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us – make it useful. Create your reign of unity now – through our fiery hearts and willing hands help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose. Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.

Offertory Let There Be Peace on Earth Sy Miller Jill Jackson

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 #436 God of Grace and God of Glory

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

With Trumpets and Horns

G F Handel

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

The altar flowers are given by Lucy & Elizabeth Howland and Helen Goss in loving memory of one of the best Moms and Grams you could ever ask for. We recognize and celebrate Marion (Lucy) Warren's heavenly birthday on August 21st, all to the greatest glory of God.

Greeter: Patsy Perry

Ushers: Steve Woodcock and Fred Starkey

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. 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 hambru35@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: Tenth Sunday After Pentecost;

Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm

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;

Bach Festival Rehearsal 7-9pm

Saturday: Bach Festival Concert 7:30pm

Sunday: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost;

Farewell Fellowship for Pastor Walt;

Bach Festival Concert 4:30pm

Our **August** 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/August2025.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!