

**First Church of Christ, Congregational,
United Church of Christ
Seventh Sunday of Easter**



May 17, 2026

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!"**

"There is no them. There is only us." ~ Greg Boyle

***Please stand if you are able.**

Prelude

Lighting of the Community and Christ Candles
We invite you to use this time for silent prayer
and reflection as we prepare for worship.

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

Centering Music

Call to Worship

One: God meets us in every place of life—

All: In joy and sorrow, in wholeness and in healing.

One: When the world tells us who belongs and who does not,

All: God widens the circle of grace.

One: When we feel alone in our burdens,

All: God draws near with compassion.

One: When human bonds are strained or broken,

All: God remains faithful.

One: Come, let us worship the One whose love reaches beyond every wall.

All: Let us worship God together.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray.

All: Faithful and compassionate God, You meet us in places of pain and places of hope. You remain present when relationships are strained, when healing feels slow, and when we struggle to know how to move forward. Open our hearts this day to your steady and restoring love. Teach us to accompany one another with compassion. Help us to recognize the dignity of every person. And guide us beyond fear and assumption into deeper understanding and connection. In your many names we pray, Amen.

***Hymn NCH #423** Great Is Your Faithfulness

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of Christ is with you!

All: And also with you!

Proclamation

Scripture Isaiah 61:1-3 (NT pew Bible p. 691-692)
Matthew 25:34-40 (NT pew Bible p. 29)

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem Rejoice

Message Hope That Crosses Boundaries Eryn Morency

***Hymn NCH #506** What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Response

Prayers with Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

One: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Mission's Moment

Offering Invitation and Collection

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

One: God of generosity and grace,

All: Receive these gifts and receive our lives alongside them. May what we offer today be used to bring healing where there is hurt, companionship where there is isolation, and hope where dignity has been diminished. Guide us to be people who reflect your faithful love in the world. Amen.

Sending Out

***Hymn** God! When Human Bonds Are Broken *(see back page)*

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 Nun Danket Alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)

Michael Schütz

The altar are given by Scott & Natalie Taylor in loving memory of Charles E. and Mildred S. (Bebe) Taylor. All to the glory of God.

Greeter: Mary Lou Waite

Ushers: Karen Umberger and Jay Donabedian

Liturgists: Chris DeVries and Helen Goss

Faith Leader: Eryn Morency

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 May/June** will go to the **Conway Peer Support Center**. This is a non-profit offering various activities and workshops to promote mental wellness and person growth in a safe, non-judgmental environment.
- **The 2nd Quarter Mission Collection** is to support the **MWV Adult Day Center**. Providing care services and programs for our older adults and caregivers in a home-like setting.
- **The Food Pantry welcomes non-perishable food and monetary gifts are most appreciated as they can be stretched further.** 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: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Faith Led Service – Eryn Morency

Church Council 11:30am;

Revolving Closet – Teens 2:00-5:00pm

Monday: AA Noon-1pm;

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

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

Trustees meeting 4pm

Thursday: Food Pantry Open 12:00-2:15pm;

Choir Rehearsal 3-4pm;

Bell Choir 4-5pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: Pentecost Sunday

Pastor Sue Davidson, preaching

Our May 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/May2026.pdf>

Upcoming Special Faith Led Service:

We will be blessed on **May 31st** with representatives from **Kairos Inside/Outside Prison Ministry and from Christian Aftercare Ministry** as part of the service led by **Chris DeVries**. Our guests will introduce these wonderful opportunities for ministry to our Congregation, with personal testimony from a past participant from Kairos; and the Executive Director of C.A.M will give a brief presentation about their mission, and what we can do to support it. There will be a table set-up in the Fellowship Hall after worship full of information.

Church Address and Information

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
2521 White Mountain Highway
PO Box 401
North Conway, NH 03860

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

Church Phone: 603-356-2324

Church Fax number: 603-356-2106

Vaughan Food Pantry: 603-602-1801

Vaughan Learning Center: 603-356-5213

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!

God! When Human Bonds Are Broken 416



1 God! When hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
 2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
 3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
 4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life;
 5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
 for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
 from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
 use us as a means of bless-ing; make us strong-er, give us faith.
 give us love to go on learn-ing: God! En-cour-age and re-new!

