

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

The Freedom to be Filled

Pentecost



May 24, 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!"**

Responsibility is the price of freedom." — Elbert Hubbard

***Please stand if you are able**

Prelude

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

WE GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

We Take the Cup

Leader: Today is a special day known as Pentecost, the birthday of the church! Throughout this Easter season, we have been remembering stories of the early church and exploring ways that we can carry on that legacy of new life and liberation here and now. We give thanks to God who was, is, and always will be at the center of our freedom.

All: I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.

Leader: We celebrate the birth of the Body of Christ filled with the Holy Spirit alive in the world in and through us, the disciples of Jesus. The presence of Christ through the Advocate," as promised, is always real. We turn to see each other, to know each other, as Beloved of God. This is the source of our peace and our freedom. I invite you to rise in body and/or spirit and let us sing together!

All: I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.

Opening Prayer Let us pray together:

God of Freedom, we gather today to celebrate because we know you are still speaking. Set our tongues ablaze with your praise so that all may know freedom in you. We come to you in this moment, cups running over with thanksgiving. Amen!

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of the risen Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Hymn** NCH #164

Arise, Your Light is Come

WE PROCLAIM

First Scripture Reading Acts 2: 1-21 (NT pew Bible p. 119)

Gospel Reading John 14: 8-17, 25-27 (NT pew Bible p. 108-109)

Message for the Young at Heart

The Word in Music

Alleluia

by A. Miller

Alleluia.

Lift your voice to the Lord, give your thanks,

Give, O give your praise,

All glory and honor are yours forevermore!

Alleluia.

Message:

Testimony to Freedom

Pastor Sue

WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

Sharing of Joys and concerns

Prayer of Jesus – 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 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.

Offering invitation

Offering and Strengthen the Church Offering

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!**

An Offering of New Life Resolutions

The power and beauty of the Spirit has been poured out on everyone. The prophet Joel proclaimed it, Jesus promised it, and Peter recalled it when the day of Pentecost transpired in the early church. It is up to us to take this to heart. The Spirit has filled our Cup of Freedom, and we can dip in and pour out this cup of help, cup of power, cup of presence... anytime we need it. No matter whether you fulfilled your journey toward freedom in these weeks with whatever goal you set for yourself, or if you are still on your way, freedom is yours in Christ through the power of the Spirit. You are not alone. This morning, I invite all of you to take time this week to ponder what freedoms you are thankful for.

***Closing Hymn** NCH #267 Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us

Benediction

**All: The Divine One has blessed us with the cup of Life.
The Divine One has blessed us with the cup of Goodness.
The Divine One has blessed us with the cup of Freedom.
Drink deeply!**

Leader: And may our Holy God who gave us life, Jesus who showed us goodness, and the Spirit that is our source of freedom be with you now and evermore! **Amen!**

Benediction Response NCH #282 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Postlude

Altar flowers are given by Karen and Jim Umberger, All Americans are so thankful for the sacrifices our military members have made to keep our country free. We remember each of them on this Memorial Day. All to the glory of God.

Greeter: Jackie Howe

Liturgist: Helen Goss

Ushers: Helen Goss and Jay Donabedian

Pastor: Sue Davidson

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: Pentecost Sunday – Pastor Sue
Strengthen The Church Offering

Monday: OFFICES CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

AA Noon-1pm;

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

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

Diaconate meeting 5pm

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

Choir Rehearsal 3-4pm;

Bell Choir 4-5pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: Trinity Sunday

Faith Led Service – Chris DeVries

Our June Newsletter is full of good stuff and important dates! You'll find it by going online to our website at:

<https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/June2026.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!