

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

**Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**



**August 9, 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!"**

*"The well-being and the hopes of the peoples of the world can never be served until peace—as well as freedom, honor and self-respect—is secure."* ~ Ralph Bunche

**\*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.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **WE GATHER**

#### **Call To Worship**

One: In a world too often ruled by fear and force, we come seeking another way.

**All: We come to listen for the voice that calls us to life.**

One: Where others sow division, we gather to plant seeds of compassion.

**All: We come to be rooted in love and grown by grace.**

One: Though the shadows may press in, the light still shines.

**All: And the darkness has not overcome it.**

One: The way of peace is not passive—it is active, patient, and strong.

**All: We come to be shaped into instruments of peace.**

One: Each step we take in mercy is a step away from harm.

**All: We come to choose life, again and again.**

One: Come, beloved of God. Let us walk the path of peace together.

**All: With open hearts, we worship the God who makes all things new.**

#### **Unison Prayer**

One: Let us pray together.

**All: God of peace and promise, we come before you with hearts both weary and hopeful. In a world too often torn by violence,**

**we long for your healing presence. Teach us again what it means to choose life—not only for ourselves, but for our neighbors, for strangers, for those we will never meet. Open our eyes to the places where your light still shines. Open our hands to the work of justice and mercy. Shape our spirits to reflect your gentleness and strength. Make us instruments of your peace—steady, faithful, and bold. In this time of worship, may we be renewed in your love and sent out in your name. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** NCH #591

This Is My Song

### **\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

## **WE PROCLAIM**

**Scripture** Deuteronomy 30:19 (Hebrew Bible p.186)

Psalm 34:14 (Hebrew Bible p. 508)

Luke 19:41-42 (Gospel NT p. 83)

*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** How Do We Make Peace? Rev. Robert Moore

**The Word In Music** The Impossible Dream *Mitch Leigh/Joe Darion*  
Soloist – Eve Walker

**Message** Choose Life, Make Peace Rev. Robert Moore

## **WE RESPOND**

**Prayers with Joys and Concerns**

## Morning Prayer

### Offering

### Offertory

Ave Maria

*F. Schubert*

Soloist – Eve Walker

### \*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

## COMMUNION

**Hymn** NCH #342 Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread (*remain seated*)

### Invitation

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.**

One: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer

ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere.

**All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Merciful God, as a community in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: This is my body." Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." We remember Christ's promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we say boldly what we believe.

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

**All: Amen.**

**Prayer of Jesus - The Lord's Prayer** *(Sung)*

One: Let us sing together.

**All: Our Father which 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.**

**Distribution of the Elements**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

# WE GO FORTH

**\*Hymn** NCH #581      Lead Us from Death to Life      *(1<sup>st</sup> page only)*

## **Closing Prayer (unison)**

### **ST. FRANCIS PEACE PRAYER**

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;**

**where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be  
consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be  
loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are  
pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

**Amen.**

## **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**

Song Without Words in E Major

*F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy*

**Greeter:** Muriel Magg

**Ushers:** Trina Jones and Jay Donabedian

**Guest Minister:** The Rev. Robert Moore

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](mailto:hambru35@yahoo.com).

## GENTLE REMINDERS

*Please mute your cell phones upon entering the sanctuary prior to worship.*

*Please remember to wear your name tags, so that our hospitality is most welcoming.*

*Thank You!*

### Mission Corner:

- **The Noisy Offering for July/August** will go to the **Bear Camp Center for Food Sustainability** in South Tamworth.
- **The 3rd Quarter Mission Collection** is to support **Jen's Friends Cancer Foundation**. All money raised stays in this valley providing supplemental financial assistance to cancer patients and their families.
- **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:** Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister – The Rev. Robert Moore

**Monday:** AA Noon-1pm;

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

**Wednesday:** Senior Non-Food Pantry 9-11am

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

**Friday:** AA Noon-1pm

**Sunday:** Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Faith Leader – Dan Jones

Revolving Closet-Teens 2:00-5:00pm

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

<https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/August2026.pdf>



## ***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

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](mailto:churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com)

Church Website: [www.firstchurchnc.com](http://www.firstchurchnc.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh](https://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!**

## THE REV. ROBERT MOORE

The Rev. Robert Moore has served since 1981 as full-time Executive Director of the Princeton, NJ-based Coalition for Peace Action (CFPA), a regional organization dedicated to global abolition of nuclear weapons, a peace economy, and a halt to weapons trafficking. From 1988-2014, he also served as part-time Pastor of East Brunswick Congregational Church, and from 2014-2016 as part-time Co-Pastor of Christ Congregation in Princeton.

Prior to his current positions, Rev. Moore was for 3 and ½ years the National Secretary of Mobilization for Survival, a nationwide coalition of some 250 organizations working for disarmament and the conversion of resources from military purposes to urgent human needs. Previously, he served as Assistant Pastor to Luther Place Church in Washington DC.

Rev. Moore is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Wittenberg University in 1976, and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Purdue University in 1972.

Since his fulltime peacemaking ministry began in 1978, Rev. Moore has played a leadership role in major activities in the US peace movement. He organized a nationally covered press conference at Three Mile Island the day after the March 1979 nuclear accident, with experts including a Nobel Laureate in Biology, a radiologist, and a physician. The next day, the Governor of Pennsylvania heeded the experts' call to evacuate pregnant women and children.

He chaired the first meetings of the Organizing Committee for one of the largest demonstrations in US history, when one million came to New York demanding a Freeze and Reduction of Nuclear Weapons on June 12, 1982. He was Steering Committee chair of the NJ Nuclear Weapons Freeze Referendum which in November 1982 received the support of 2/3 of New Jersey's voters.

In 1993, Rev. Moore and CFPA's Ceasefire NJ (CFNJ) Project played a major role in defeating the NRA's attempt to rescind New Jersey's Assault Weapons Ban. In 2017, CFNJ spearheaded bipartisan passage of a law to keep guns away from domestic abusers, and in early 2018 of a Ban on Bump Stocks. Both bills were signed into law by NJ Republican Governor Chris Christie. In 2018 and 2019, CFNJ worked closely with NJ Governor Phil Murphy and NJ Legislative leaders to pass 14 more gun safety laws.

In 1995, under Rev. Moore's leadership, CFPA pioneered the first Peace Voter Campaign in the US, with distribution of tens of thousands of Peace Voter Guides. In 1996, CFPA did the first Peace Voter Signature Ads in newspapers in targeted races, which have since run in over 4 million newspapers in 40 targeted races. In 2000, CFPA did the first Candidate Briefings in the nation. These activities have become a model for peace groups across the country.

In 2005-2006, Rev. Moore co-organized the founding conference of the National Religious Campaign against Torture under CFPA's umbrella. It subsequently spun off to become a major national interfaith group. In 2014-2015, he played a similar role in the founding conference of the Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare, national effort that remains a Project of CFPA's Peace Action Education Fund.

In addition to his other roles, Rev. Moore currently serves as Co-Moderator of Christ Congregation in Princeton, on the Board of the National Religious Campaign against Torture Action Fund, and as Treasurer of the Princeton Clergy Association. He Co-chairs the Education and Action Committee of the Just Peace Priority of the United Church of Christ (national). He serves on the Advisory Boards of The Gandhian Forum for Peace and Justice at William Paterson University; The Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice; and the Network of Spiritual Progressives.

Rev. Moore contributed the preface and first chapter of the book *Breaking Silence: Pastoral Approaches to Creating an Ethos of Peace* (August 2004 from Pilgrim Process). He is also the author of numerous articles, op-eds, letters to the editor, etc. published in newspapers throughout the New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania region.

Previously he served as Coordinator of Peacemaking Ministries at the Center of Continuing Education at Princeton Theological Seminary; President and Vice-President of the Princeton Clergy Association; Chairperson of the N.J. Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign and of the N.J. Disarmament Network; State Coordinator of NJ Peace Action; Coordinator of the N.J. Coalition Against War in Iraq; and on the Princeton Boro Affordable Housing Board.

Rev. Moore has received many honors in his personal and organizational capacities: Outstanding Ecumenical Ministry in New Jersey (1982 from N.J. Council of Churches); Visibility Award (1993 and 2002 from National Peace Action); Citizen Hero (1995 from the ACLU); Community Service Award (1998 from Community House, Princeton

University); Peace Builder Award (1999 from Princeton Rotary Club); Gandhi, King, Ikeda Award (2003 from Martin Luther King International Chapel at Morehouse College); Distinguished Leadership Award (2003 from NJ Council of Churches); Outstanding Grassroots Organizer of the Year (2003 from National Peace Action); co-recipient of Humanitarian of the Year (2005 from National Conference for Community and Justice); Excellence in Membership Development, and in Student Organizing (2006 from National Peace Action); Quarter Century Award and Membership Growth Award (2008 from National Peace Action); the Evanoff-Schuster Award for Lifelong Commitment to Organizing (2008 from NJ Citizen Action); Peacemaker Award (2012 from Peace, Love, and Prosperity, International); Peace and Understanding Award (2014 from Peace Islands Institute); Interfaith Leadership Award (2016 from Institute for Islamic Studies; and in 2017 from Muslims for Peace); and Lifetime Service Award in 2024 from Christ Congregation in Princeton.

On September 8, 2021, the Princeton Municipal Council adopted a resolution in honor of Rev. Moore's 40th Anniversary as CFPA Executive Director, and declared that day "Rev. Robert Moore Day." The NJ General Assembly passed a resolution honoring Rev. Moore later that month; and US Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman put a salutation in the Congressional Record.

Rev. Moore has traveled widely in his various peacemaking ministry roles, including trips to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the former Soviet Union, Germany, Scandinavia, Greece, Holland, Canada, and Mexico. He and his wife, Mary Timberlake, have three children and four grandchildren, and reside in Princeton, NJ.

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For those of you that would like to get more involved in taking action on peacemaking efforts, we encourage you to go to the UCC link below, **"A Call for Nuclear Disarmament"** from Rev. Mike Neuroth who heads our UCC office in Washington, DC.

<https://www.ucc.org/action-center/>

Reverend Moore,

Thank you for taking the time during your vacation to share such an important message with us on this 81st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. May we learn from our history that battles won come at a great cost of human life.

We look forward to welcoming you back again whenever you are in the area.

Peace to you.