

First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Hope Through Forgiveness

August 16, 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!"**

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

-Leviticus 9:18

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Worship 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: God knows us and our hungers. God loves us like a father and nurtures us like a mother. God draws us close to each other and claims us as the people of God. Knowing this, let us worship the God of our understanding.

All: Thanks be to God.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray together.

All: Great spirit, we gather as your people, seeking hope, seeking understanding, seeking forgiveness. We live in a world where many suffer the consequences of war and of starvation, of broken relationships and the pains of loss. We also see the beauty of your creations and the harmony of nature. Be with us in our worship. Touch our hearts. Help us to reach out to others in love and in forgiveness. Give us abiding faith in the message of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn (Red Hymnal) #122** My Faith Looks Up To Thee

***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.

PROCLAMATION

Scriptures Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13 (OT pew Bible p. 17-18)
 Luke 15:11-14, 18-24 (NT pew Bible p. 78-79)

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."

Message for the Young at Heart

Helen Goss

The Word in Music I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

K. Thomerson

Soloist – Jane Hively, Harpist

Message

Love, Forgiveness, and Faith

Dan Jones

WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People – Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

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 and Collection

Offertory Music

A Simple Song from Mass

L. Bernstein

Soloist – Jane Hively

***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 (unison)**

Generous God,

We offer these gifts with grateful hearts, trusting that you can do more with what we place in your hands than we could ever accomplish alone.

Bless these offerings, and bless the lives that offer them. May they become signs of your compassion, bringing hope where there is discouragement, welcome where there is loneliness, and abundance where there is need.

Use us, and these gifts, for the work of your kingdom. Amen.

WE GO FORTH

***Hymn (Red Hymnal) #64** Blessed Assurance

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 Italian Concerto in F Major, BWV 971, 1st Movement

J. S. Bach

Altar Flowers are given by Dan & Trina Jones, for Love, Forgiveness, and Faith, all to the Glory of God.

Greeter: Trina Jones

Liturgist: Don Ekberg

Ushers: Helen & Dick Goss

Faith Leader: Dan Jones

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.

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: **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

Faith Led – Dan Jones;

Revolving Closet – Teens 2:00-5:00pm

Monday: **September Congregate Tidings Articles Due**

AA Noon-1:00pm

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

Trustees 4-pm

Thursday: Food Pantry Open Noon-2:15pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Faith Led – Karen Umberger;

Church Council meeting 11:15am

Our **August** Newsletter is 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/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

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!