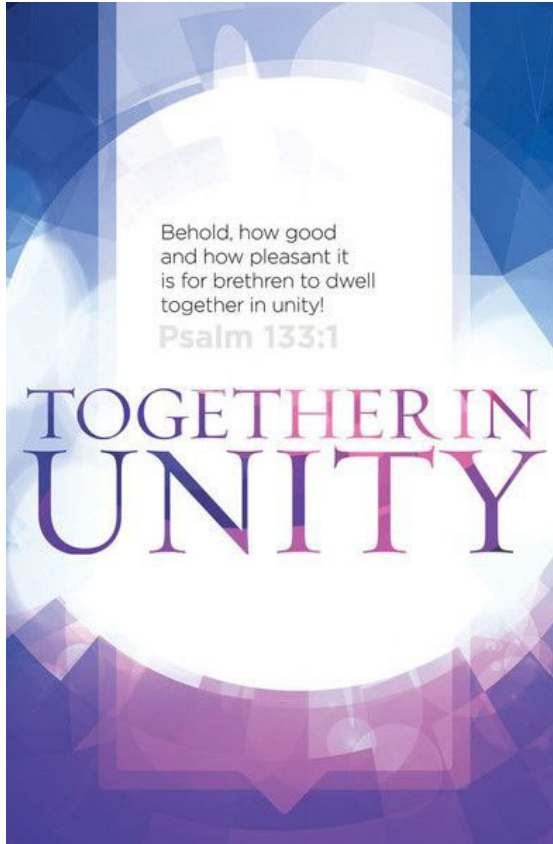


# First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**August 23, 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!"

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

**Prelude** Three movements from The Royal Fireworks Music  
by G.F. Handel  
Bourree, Minuet, and LaRejouissance

*Trio - Chris Russian, Flute; Liz Horwitz, Flute; Marty MacMillin, Cello*

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: Lord as we look forward to a new life in Christ lets us commit ourselves to the sacred promise of communicating with each other through healthy and faithful conversations.

**All: We promise to listen to understand, we promise to use emails only for information purposes, we promise to identify merit in a person's idea, we promise to communicate directly, we promise to acknowledge that others, who may have differing opinions, have good intentions, We will speak in Love, asking God's grace in our conversations.**

#### **Unison Prayer**

One: Let us pray together.

**All: Dear Lord, we envision a world made whole by love and grace, where all people are welcome. nourished in the spirit and empowered to live justly, humbly, and with compassion.**

**Embracing the teachings of Jesus and guided by the spirit, we seek to embody the transforming presence of God by practicing inclusion, pursuing justice, and nurturing healing in our community and beyond. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #407**

How Firm a Foundation

## **\*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**

**Scriptures** Isaiah 51:1-6 (OT pew Bible p. 681)

Romans 12:1-8 (NT pew Bible p. 161-162)

*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**

**The Word in Music** Vivace from Sonata in F by G.P. Telemann  
*Trio - Chris Russian, Flute;; Liz Horwitz, Flute; Marty MacMillin - Oboe*

**Message** New Life in Christ Karen Umberger

**\*Hymn #451** Be Now My Vision

## **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

Ave Verum Corpus

by W.A. Mozart

*Trio - Chris Russian, Flute; Liz Horwitz, Flute; Marty MacMillin - Oboe*

## \*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

### WE GO FORTH

## \*Hymn #573

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

## 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

Dry Bones

Spiritual/arr. Gene Roberson

*The altar flowers are given by Lucy Howland, Elizabeth Howland,  
and Helen Goss in loving memory of Marion L. Warren, Mother  
and Gram extraordinaire! Thank you God for the times we had.*

**Greeters:** Don & Laurel Ekberg

**Ushers:** Jim Umberger and Jay Donabedian

**Faith Leader:** Karen Umberger

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:** **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Faith Led – Karen Umberger

**Church Council meeting 11:15am**

**Monday:** AA Noon-1:00pm

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

Diaconate meeting 5pm

**Wednesday:** Choir Rehearsal 3pm

**Thursday:** Food Pantry Open Noon-2:15pm

**Friday:** AA Noon-1pm

**Saturday:** **Fred Starkey Celebration of Life Service 1pm**

**Sunday:** **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Guest Pastor Rev. Paul Nickerson**

Our **September** 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/September2026.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](mailto:churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com)

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

YouTube: <https://firstchurchnc.com/service-videos/>

**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!**