

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

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion**



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September 6, 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!"**

*"All your life, you will be faced with a choice. You can choose love or hate...
I choose love." ~ Johnny Cash*

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

Prelude Variations on hymn—He Leadeth Me *arr. by Helen Schwindt*

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

***Hymn** NCH #73

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

Call to Worship

One: Family of God, we live in a world full of conflict and division.

All: God calls us to be a people of reconciliation.

One: We live in a world full of misinformation and confusion.

All: God calls us to be a people of truth and clarity.

One: We live in a world that wants to settle disputes with harmful words and actions.

All: God calls us to be a people who make peace through compassion and honesty.

One: We live in a world that does not understand the ways of Jesus.

All: yet Jesus teaches us to be a people of reconciliation and peace for the good of the whole world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Unison Prayer

One: Let us pray together.

All: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. Forgive us for those moments when we had the opportunity to choose love and did not. Forgive us for the days we kept silent when love required our voice. Forgive us for the instances when we could have

extended grace and mercy and, instead, chose bitterness and resentment. Forgive us for the times when we have been hard to love and failed to appreciate the love given to us. Transform our lives and our hearts into vessels that reflect your love in the world. Amen.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of Christ is with you!

All: And also with you!

WE PROCLAIM

Scripture Exodus 12:1-14 (Hebrew Bible p. 58)
Matthew 18:15-20 (NT pew Bible p. 20)

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

Special Music

Message	Conflicted	Helen Goss
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WE RESPOND

Prayers with Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

Offering Invitation and Collection

Offertory Music Meditation on the Thin Space at
St. Paul's Cathedral by Peter Oshtushko
arr. by Ellen Schwindt

***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**

Hymn NCH #332 As We Gather at Your Table

COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

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: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when...

With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you.

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: We remember that on that night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body..."

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again."

All: Come, Christ Jesus!

One: Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal..., make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. 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

Closing Song NCH #312 We Love Your Realm, O God *(vv. 1-4)*

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Credits: Worship Ways, Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the UCC and Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries

Greeter: Mary Lou Waite

Ushers: Dick Goss and Jay Donabedian

Faith Leader: Helen Goss

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.

Mission Corner:

- **The Noisy Offering for September/October** will go to our own **Vaughan Learning Center**.
- **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.

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!

Week of Activities:

Today: **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost /Communion**

Faith Leader – Helen Goss;

Revolving Closet – Teens 2:00-5:00pm

Monday: **Labor Day – Church Offices Closed**

AA Noon-1:00pm

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

Wednesday: Senior Non-Food Pantry 9:00-11:00am

Thursday: Food Pantry Open Noon-2:15pm

Friday: **9/11 Remembrance Ceremony – Schouler Park 8:30am**

AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Faith Leader – Steve Woodcock

Our **September** Newsletter is full of good stuff and important dates! You'll find it in your mail, if requested, or 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: Ellen Schwindt

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

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!