

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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 27, 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!"**

"Trust in the slow work of God."

~ *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

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

Prelude

Improvisational Quiet Meditation

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

Introit

Call to Worship

One: Come, let us gather in the presence of God.

All: We come as we are.

One: With all that this week has held—what has been certain, what has been difficult, what remains unfinished.

All: We bring it all into God's presence.

One: There is room here for our questions, our hopes, our doubts, and our longing.

All: There is room here for each of us.

One: Let us quiet our hearts and listen for the Spirit, who meets us where we are and gently calls us toward what is next.

All: We are here. We are listening. We are open to God's leading.

One: Let us worship together.

Morning Prayer (unison)

One: Let us worship together.

All: Gracious God, we come before you as we are. Some of us arrive with clarity, and some with questions. Some with gratitude,

and some carrying things we do not yet know how to name. Meet us here. Quiet what needs quieting within us. Open what has become closed. Give us courage where we are afraid, patience where we are uncertain, and tenderness toward ourselves and one another. Help us listen—not only for words, but for the movement of your Spirit. Remind us that we do not have to know everything that lies ahead. Give us grace for this moment, and enough light for the next step. May our worship make room for whatever you are still doing in us. Amen.

***Hymn** NCH #304 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM

Invitation to Scripture:

One: We turn now to Scripture, trusting that God's Word meets us not only in what we already know, but also in what we may be ready to hear anew.

Scripture Philippians 2:1-13 (NT pew Bible p. 197)
 Matthew 21:23-32 (NT pew Bible pp. 23-24)

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."

Anthem

Come, Spirit, Come

Words and Music by Mary Kay Beall

Come, Spirit, come. Come, like the wind on the water. Come, Spirit, come.
Blow over my soul. Come, Spirit, come. Come like a flame in the darkness.
Come, Spirit, come. Shine over my soul. Come, Spirit, come. Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me. Come, Spirit, come. Come, like a dove of the new day.
Come, Spirit, come. Soar over my soul. Like the wind, like a flame, like a dove,
Spirit, come.

***Hymn #454**

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

Pastoral 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

***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 love, bringing hope where there is discouragement, welcome where there is loneliness, and abundance where there is need. Keep shaping us into people who are willing to listen, willing to grow,

and willing to follow where love leads. Use us, and these gifts, for the work of your kin-dom.

Amen.

WE GO FORTH

*Hymn NCH #386

The Church's One Foundation

Benediction

Postlude

Improvisational Loving Joy

The altar flowers are given by Jim & Karen Umberger wishing everyone born in September a Happy Birthday!

Greeter: Helen Goss

Ushers: Steve Woodcock and Jay Donabedian

Liturgist: Chris DeVries

Faith Leaders: Eryn Morency

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.

A friendly reminder to silence your cell phone upon entering the sanctuary, and please wear your name tag so that we may extend a warm welcome to one another.

Thank you!

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.

Week of Activities:

Today: **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Faith Leader – Eryn Morency

Monday: AA Noon-1:00pm

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

Thursday: WIC Program 9:30am – 2:30pm;

Food Pantry Open Noon-2:15pm;

Choir Rehearsal 3:00pm-4:00pm;

Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 6:00-7:30pm

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

World Communion Sunday

Neighbors in Need Offering

Faith Leader – Helen Goss

Our **October 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/October2026.pdf>

Church Address and Information

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC
2521 White Mountain Highway
PO Box 401
North Conway, NH 03860

Music Director: Laurie Turley

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!