

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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WORLD COMMUNION



October 4, 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!"**

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"

~ Psalm 133:1

WE GATHER

*Rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

Adagio

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Lighting of the Worship Candles - We invite you to use this time for silent prayer and reflection as we prepare for worship.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING SONG

Sanctuary

(Choir and Congregation)

Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

It is you, Lord, who came to save, the heart and soul of everyone.
It is you, Lord who knows my weakness, who gives me strength, with
Thine own hand.

Lead me on, Lord, from temptation, purify me from within.
Fill my heart with Your Holy Spirit, take away all my sin.

Lord, prepare me, to be a sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this day, in this room, we are a small congregation.

All: And we are part of something we cannot see the edges of.

One: Bread is broken this morning in languages we do not speak,

All: in rooms we will never enter, by people we will never meet.

One: The prophet promised a feast on the mountain—rich food for all peoples, a table set for everyone.

All: The vision showed a crowd no one could count, from every nation, tribe, and language.

One: Today the church sets one table across the whole earth.

All: Let us come to it together. Let us come to it with gladness.

OPENING PRAYER

One: Let us pray together.

All: God of many names and no borders, you have never been the property of one people, one language, or one nation. You were worshipped before our churches were built and you will be worshipped after they are gone. This morning we take our place at a table we did not set. Widen us. Loosen whatever we are holding too tightly. Give us the honesty to admit what divides us and the nerve to come to the table anyway. We pray in the name of the one who ate with everyone, and was criticized for it. Amen.

***HYMN** NCH #62

Come, Share the Spirit

PRAYER OF ADMISSION

One: Holy One, we say the church is one body; yet we do not always live like it.

All: We have made our table smaller than yours. We have drawn lines you did not draw, and defended them longer than we should have.

One: We have called our own preferences your commandments.

All: We have looked at Christians who worship differently, vote differently, and read differently, and quietly decided they were less.

One: We have also stayed silent while borders hardened, while neighbors were turned away, while churches elsewhere paid a price we never had to pay.

All: Forgive us. Unclench us. Bring us back to the table not as its owners but as its guests. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: the table was never ours to guard. It has always been set, it has always been open, and there has always been room for more.

All: In Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: The peace of Christ, which crosses every border, be with you.

All: And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM

SHARING THE SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NT pew Bible p. 174)

John 17:21-23 (NT pew Bible p. 111)

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 MOMENT

MESSAGE

Worthy of Serving

Helen Goss

THE WORD IN MUSIC You Shall Love Your Neighbor Chancel Choir
by *Michael Helman*

WE RESPOND

PRAYER WITH JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO GIVING

***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 #347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the God.

One: Let us give thanks to God our Maker.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, to give you thanks—God of every people, in every place, in every century of the church.

You made a world of difference and called it good. You made no two of us alike and loved every one. You called a people, fed them in a wilderness, and told them again and again to leave the edges of the field unharvested for the stranger.

When we drew borders, you kept crossing them. When we built walls, you kept setting tables. And so we join our voices with the church in every land and every age, and with all the company of heaven, singing:

All: Holy, holy, holy God, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.

One: On the night he was handed over, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying: Take, eat.

This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup after supper, saying: This is the new covenant in my blood. Drink from it, all of you, in remembrance of me.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the love of Christ until Christ comes again.

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

One: Pour out your Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ. Make us, who share them here, one body with the church in every place—including the parts of it we do not understand and would not have chosen.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ all honor and glory are yours, God of all peoples, now and forever. Amen.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

One: The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

All: The cup we bless is a sharing in the life of Christ.

One: These are the gifts of God, for all the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Come, for all things are ready.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

BLESSING AND SENDING

One: Go from this table into a world that draws lines.

All: We go carrying a meal that does not.

One: May God who made every people bless you. May Christ who ate with everyone keep you. May the Spirit who speaks every language send you out with courage.

All: Amen.

WE GO FORTH

CLOSING SONG

NCH #775

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.

LAST SUNDAY

"Lessons from Geese: Line of One"

Video

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Chorus from Judas Maccabaeus

By George Frederick Handel

The altar flowers are given in gratitude for the members and friends of this church that only give quality "honking." It is noticed and so warmly appreciated. God bless each of you!

Greeters: Mary Ellen (Mae) Shea and Karen Umberger

Ushers: Harry Smith and Jay Donabedian

Liturgist: Richard P. Goss, III

Faith Leader: Helen Goss

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!

A Word About...

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

World Communion Sunday falls on the first Sunday in October: October 4th in 2026, October 3rd in 2027, October 1st in 2028. It began in 1936 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh and was adopted ecumenically in 1964—created in the shadow of the Depression and the rise of fascism, by people who wanted to say that the church was one body across borders that were about to be fought over. The day keeps that edge if you let it.

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 4th Quarter Mission Collection** is to support **Heifer International** which works to end world hunger and poverty in sustainable ways.
- **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: **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost /World Communion**

Faith Leader – Helen Goss;

Neighbors in Need Offering;

Mission Meeting 11:30am

Revolving Closet – Teens 2:00-5:00pm

Monday: AA Noon-1:00pm

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

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

Choir Rehearsal 3:00-4:00pm;

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

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

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!

