

First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



Courtesy photo by Mark Schiller

October 11, 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

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

GATHERING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Who can express the mighty work of the Holy One?

All: We who gather praise the Holy One for God is good. God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Who can proclaim the redemptive acts of the Holy One?

All: We who gather praise the Holy One for justice and righteousness. God shows favor and mercy toward the people.

One: Who can declare the wondrous and awesome deeds of the Holy One?

All: We who gather praise the Holy One!

MORNING PRAYER

One: Let us pray together.

All: God, we acknowledge that you have modeled a way of being in the world that we struggle to adopt. You invite us to love the neighbor we do not know and the enemy that we do. You encourage us to prioritize the marginalized and center on the oppressed, even when our own needs overwhelm us. You invite us into your kingdom, and the cost of discipleship sometimes seems to be more than we can afford. Holy One, we need strength and hope for the journey. Let your surpassing peace enable us to pursue a worthy and pleasing life. Amen.

***HYMN** NCH #303

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM

SHARING THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 23 (OT pew Bible p. 501)

Matthew 22:1-14 (NT pew Bible p. 24)

Philippians 4:1-9 (NT pew Bible pp. 198-199)

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

Harmony

Helen Goss

THE WORD IN MUSIC

For the Autumn Sky

Chancel Choir

by Ruth Elaine Schram

WE RESPOND

PRAYER WITH JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

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

WE GO FORTH

HYMN #506

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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

*Worship credits: Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, UCC
and Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries.*

Greeter & Faith Leader: Helen Goss

Ushers: Harry Smith and Jay Donabedian - **Liturgist**

**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!

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: **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

Faith Leader – Helen Goss;

Neighbors in Need Offering all month

Monday: **Church Office & VLC Daycare Closed-Indigenous Peoples' Day**

AA Noon-1:00pm

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

Wednesday: Senior Non-Food Pantry Open 9:00-1:00am

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

Choir Rehearsal 3:00-4:00pm;

Bell Choir Rehearsal 4:00-5:00pm;

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

Friday: AA Noon-1pm

Sunday: **Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost /Hymn Sing!!!
Potluck Lunch/Brunch & "God is Good" discussion**

Faith Leader – Helen Goss

Revolving Closet – Free Teen Clothing 2:00-5:00pm

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!