First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ

Reign of Christ
Whom Do We Choose



November 22, 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!"

***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 and Announcements

Centering Song Gratitude

By Ken Turley of a Mohawk prayer

WE GATHER

Call To Worship
Leader: Long ago, God called our ancestors and led them from bondage into a land of promise.
People: We gather today, remembering all that God has done.
Leader: We did not build these blessings with our own hands, nor plant what now feeds us.
People: Every good gift we have is grace, freely given.
Leader: So, the ancient question comes to us again: whom will you serve?
People: We choose this day to serve the Lord our God.
Leader: Not our comfort, not our fear, not the lesser gods that promise safety but deliver nothing.
People: As for us and our households, we will serve the Lord.
Leader: Let us worship the God who has carried us this far, and who calls us onward still.
People: Come, let us worship the Lord together.

Morning Prayer - Unison
God of Abraham, God of Joshua, God of every generation that has crossed a river by your mercy. We come into your presence this morning carrying the whole of our lives. We bring our gratitude and our doubts, our faithfulness

and the small idols we have not yet let go of. You have brought us further than we could have brought ourselves. You have fed us in places we did not plant and given us more than we have ever earned. So, we come not to bargain with you, but to remember. In our remembering, to choose again this day whom we will serve. Meet us here, Lord. Search us. Steady us. And by your Holy Spirit, make us one people, gathered before you in sincerity and truth. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn** NCH #18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**
One: The peace of Christ is with you!
All: And also with you!

WE PROCLAIM

Scripture Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 (Hebrew Bible pp. 214-215)

Time for the Child in us all What did you choose today??

The Word in Music We Come to Say Thank You
By Pepper Choplin

Message As for Me!!!

Reception of New Member

Invitation
Helen: We invite those who wish to affirm their baptism to come forward and unite with us in this household of faith.

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. Tracy Leavitt has found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer, she has been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm her baptism and to claim in our presence her covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. She is here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches, anyone who abides in me, and I in them, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Questions
Pastor: Tracy, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith family of Jesus Christ:
Tracy: I do.
Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ:
Tracy: I do.
Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
Tracy: I do.
Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?
Tracy: I promise, with God's help.
Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given to you, to grow in the Christian faith, and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and further Christ's mission in all the world?
Tracy: I promise, with God's help.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

Affirmation of Faith
Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith to the triune God. So now I ask you: Do you believe in God?
All: I believe in God
Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
All: I believe in Jesus Christ.
Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

Pastor: Tracy, by your baptism, you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today, we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.
Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God, and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?
Tracy: I promise with the help of God.

Welcome
Pastor: Let all of us, the members of this community of faith, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.
All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses to our risen Savior.
Pastor and Helen: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of this community of faith, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church.

***Hymn** NCH #25 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

WE RESPOND

Prayer with Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

One: Let us say together the prayer Jesus taught us.

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 Gratitude**

WE GO FORTH

***Hymn** I Have Decided To Follow Jesus (inside back cover)

Benediction

Closing Song *by Paul Burtis*

May Gods' 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

The altar flowers are given by Mary Ellen (Mae) Shea, in memory of loved ones, all to the glory of God.

Pastor: Sue Davidson
Greeters: Mary Ellen (Mae) Shea and Karen Umberger
Ushers: Harry Smith and Jay Donabedian
Liturgist: Dan Jones

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 November/December will go to the Vaughan Food Pantry.**

- **The 4th Quarter Mission Collection** will go 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: **Reign Of Christ**
Pastor Sue Davidison, Leading Worship
Monday AA Noon-1pm
Tuesday: Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45pm
Thursday and Friday: **Offices Closed for Thanksgiving**
Friday: AA Noon-1pm
Sunday: **First Sunday of Advent**
Pastor Sue Davidison, Leading Worship

Church Pledges for 2027

Just a reminder from Stewardship that you can still make your pledge for 2027 at any time. They are most useful in November as the 2027 Church Budget is being prepared. However, they will be accepted at any time. Thank you!

Our December 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/December 2026.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!

2129 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus



2. The world behind me, the cross before me ...
3. Though none go with me, still I will follow ...