

The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

July 6, 2025 10:00 a.m. — Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

*Patriotism means supporting your country all the time,
and your government when it deserves it.*

– Mark Twain

*I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason,
I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.*

– James A. Baldwin

*Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean
to stand by the president or any other public official.*

– Theodore Roosevelt

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire

www.walpolenhucc.org

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 30)

Leader: O God my God, I cried to you for help, and you healed me.
You brought my soul up from Sheol, restored me to life,
from among those gone down to the Pit.

**People: Sing praises to the Holy One, O faithful,
give thanks to God's holy name.**

Leader: Hear, O God, and be gracious to me! Be my helper!

**People: You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me in joy.**

**All: So that my soul may praise you I will not be silent.
O God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

Hymn NCH #25 vs. 1-4 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

God, we know your Spirit as a fire in the belly, a light on our path, and the warmth in our hearts. We await your movement in our midst. Make us, we pray, a spirited community. We are eager to declare your praise and proclaim the Good News. Wake us to your presence in our worship and every moment. Draw us closer to you, to one another, and our best selves. Open our hearts to your love in this silence we offer...

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Children's Message

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Joys and Concerns

A Prayer for Our Country (unison)

O Guardian of life and liberty, may our nation always merit your protection. Teach us to give thanks for what we have by sharing with those who are in need. Keep our eyes open to the wonders of creation, and alert to the care of the earth. May we never be lazy in the work of peace; may we honor those who have died in defense of our ideals. Grant our leaders wisdom and forbearance. May they govern with justice and compassion. Help us all to appreciate one another, and to respect the many ways that we may serve You. May our homes be safe from affliction and strife, and our country be sound in body and spirit. Amen

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Amen

Scripture Lessons: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Luke 10:1-11

Scripture Response

Leader: For the Word in Scripture, for the Word among us,
or the Word within us:

All: Thanks be to God!

Sung Response 2 Times)

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Sermon

Hymn TWC #418 *America the Beautiful*

Call to Offering

Doxology (Old Hundredth)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, the Word in flesh born low;

Praise God above, you heavenly host;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God, Bless these gifts we received from you, and the portion we return with gratitude and hope. Bless our work, and our meditations so we may be joyfully employed in service to all your people, and so glorify your holy name. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not lived the lives of which we are capable. We have gifts that we have not used, and gifts we have misused. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have turned our backs on our sisters and brothers in need, and in doing so, shut the doors of our hearts to the love you offer them through us. Forgive us we pray. Cleanse and renew our hearts, that we might resume the path of discipleship with courage, strength and endurance, even as we offer you the silent confessions of our hearts...

Words of Assurance

Invitation

Communion Prayer (unison)

Gracious God, we now dedicate these elements to become sacraments of ministry, signs of your work and witness among us. Do bless this bread and this fruit, and in the common sharing of them bless us all by the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. In this meal we remember Christ's sacrifice and his call that we also might serve, we embrace each other along his pathways, and we look with hope for the transformation of the world in his love. May we, your servant community, become ourselves bread for the journey and fruit for the spirit among all peoples and powers of the earth. Amen.

Communion Hymn NCH #591 *This Is My Song*

The Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We give thanks, O Lord of Life, that you have refreshed us at your table and refashioned us in your hope for community. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world as Christ's witnesses with courage and in peace. All this we pray in the name of your son, our friend and teacher, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn NCH #610 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

Benediction

Benediction Response

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

Pastor: The Reverend Richard Malmberg

Usher and Greeter: Minna Good

Lay reader: Kathy Yardley

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

Music Director: Anna Dunn

Deacon of the Month: Linda Wright

Please pray for: Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Chuck Shaw, Dave Adams,
Linda Smith, Ann Rogers, Stephen Hill.

Members living in retirement homes: Becky Hubbard, Carol Lamp, Carole Hill.

