

**The First Congregational Church**  
**Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ**  
**August 2025, 10:00 a.m. – Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**

*It takes courage to be kind.*

— Maya Angelou

*The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention.*

— Kahlil Gibran

*In a world where you can be anything, be kind.*

— Clare Pooley

**15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire**  
**[www.walpolenhucc.org](http://www.walpolenhucc.org)**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Introit**

**Call to Worship** (Based on Psalms 71,143,15, and 34)

**Leader:** You are our hope, O Lord Our God.

**People:** **We have been sustained by you ever since we were born.**

**Leader:** Let us hear of your loving-kindness this morning, for we put  
our trust in you.

**People:** **Show us the road we must walk, for we lift up our souls to you.**

**Leader:** You will show us the path of life. In your presence there is  
fulness of joy.

**People:** **The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are  
open to their cry.**

**Hymn** Your Choice

### **Prayer of Invocation and Confession (unison)**

Gracious God, be with us in this hour and grant us the blessings of rest and rejuvenation. Help us to set aside the anxious thoughts that hamper our ability to come into your presence. Help us to put aside our cares, if only for this hour, and to focus on the stirrings of your Spirit as you move among us and strengthen us for whatever lies ahead. We confess that harmony and forgiveness do not always come easily to us and that sometimes we fail to let go of old hurts and remembered slights. Grace eludes us, yet we yearn to be Children of Grace. Renew that gentle spirit of trust and wonder within us and help us to lay down all vestiges of unwarranted anger and harsh critique. We thirst for the truth that springs from your Word and for the people we could become were we to walk always in your ways. Open us to your presence and hear the prayers we now offer in silence...

### **Words of Assurance**

#### **Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**Leader:** May the peace of God be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

### **The Children's Message (if children are present)**

### **The Lord's Prayer (trespasses)**

### **Joys and Concerns**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Sung Amen**

**Scripture Lessons:** Micah 6:1-8, Hebrews 10:19-25

**Scripture Response:**

Leader: For the Word in Scripture, for the Word among us,  
for 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** 'Doubling Down on Kindness'

**Hymn** Your Choice

**Call To Offering**

**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, we thank you for laughter, for joy, for love, and for life. We are grateful for the material blessings that free us to look beyond mere survival. Bless all we offer and make us good stewards of all we have. May we be known for our warmth, our generosity, and our loving-kindness. In Christ we pray. Amen.

**Hymn** Your Choice

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response** *Go Now in Peace*

*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.*

**Postlude**

**Pastor:** The Reverend Judith Copeland  
**Lay reader:** Betty Prentiss  
**Usher and Greeter:** Minna Good  
**Zoom Director:** Paul Looney  
**Church Office Hours:** M – F, 9 a.m.-12 noon  
**Telephone:** 603-756-4075  
**Music Director:** Anna Dunn  
**Clerk:** Linda Wright  
**Deacon of the month:** Ann Looney  
**Email:** [walpolechurch@yahoo.com](mailto:walpolechurch@yahoo.com). **Website:** [www.walpolenhucc.org](http://www.walpolenhucc.org)

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

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

Convenient Online Giving to the First Congregational Church of Walpole is available through our website. Thank you for your support!  
<https://apps.digigiv.org/o/walpolenhucc>

*Our guest preacher this morning is The Rev. Judith Copeland. Judy is a retired UCC minister who celebrates the 42nd anniversary of her ordination this year. A graduate of Dartmouth College and the Harvard Divinity School, she served churches in NH and CT and currently lives in Hancock, NH. In retirement she is enjoying spending time with her three grandchildren, Needlework, gardening and travel.*