

The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

August 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

*Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread.*

--1 Corinthians 10:17

Whose bread I eat, his song I sing.

--German proverb

*Love does not just sit there, like a stone; it has to be made,
like bread, remade all the time, made new.*

--Ursula K. Le Guin

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire

www.walpolenhucc.org

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 34)

O magnify the LORD with me,

And let us exalt God's name together.

I will bless the LORD at all times;

God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

O taste and see that the LORD is good;

Happy are those who take refuge in God.

The young lions suffer want and hunger,

But those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Hymn Your Choice

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Amazing God, we honor and celebrate your presence among us. We rejoice in your goodness and delight in your wonderful works. We lament the suffering of the world and take courage that you are with us. We ask that you make your presence known to us. Speak, O God, for we attune our attention for your guidance. Receive our praise as we glorify your name! Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Children's Message (if children are present)

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Amen

Scripture Lessons: John 6:35-51

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 Your Choice

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 Your Choice

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 Your Choice

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 Judith Copeland

Usher and Greeter: Minna Good

Lay reader: Bob Rhodes

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

Music Director: Anna Dunn

Deacon of the Month: Ann Looney

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.

On the cover: Jesus and the Disciples at the Last Supper, wood engraving, 1884, American