

# The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

August 31, 2025, 10:00 a.m. - Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



*Simple, genuine goodness is the best capital to found the business of this life upon.  
It lasts when fame and money fail, and is the only riches we can take out of this world with us.*

— Louisa May Alcott

*Courage. Kindness. Friendship. Character. These are the qualities  
that define us as human beings, and propel us, on occasion, to greatness.*

— R.J. Palacio

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

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Introit**

### **Call to Worship** (Based on Psalm 81)

Leader: Sing aloud to God; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

**People: God says, "I am your Sovereign God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt.  
Open your mouth wide and I will fill it."**

Leader: But God's people did not listen; they would not submit to God.  
So they were left to their stubborn hearts,  
to follow their own counsels.

**People: O that we would listen to God,  
and walk in the ways of the Holy One!**

**All: God feeds us with the finest of wheat,  
with honey from the rock. Our God satisfies us.**

**HYMN\***      NCH # 12      *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

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

Creator, redeemer, and spirit of holiness, we feel your presence in our midst by the power of your love. We wait for your movement knowing you turn strength to weakness and weakness to strength. In moments of victory and passion, you lift us up on wings of joy. In the days of routine, you inspire us to stay the course with confidence and endurance. We know how often we have failed you and one another in a multitude of ways. Forgive us, we pray. We open our hearts to your healing presence with our silent confessions...

## **Words of Assurance**

### **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**

**Pastoral Payer**

**Sung Amen**

**Scripture Lessons:** Jeremiah 2:4-13; Luke 14:1,7-14

## **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**

**Hymn\*** NCH #423 *Great Is Your Faithfulness*

## **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)

Gracious God, we give thanks to you for the opportunity and ability to give.  
We ask you to bless this offering and all our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.  
Prosper the work of our hands, hearts and minds to minister faithfully in your  
name in this place, so others might know your steadfast love. Grant that  
everything we do is an expression of kindness and justice, as we seek to walk  
humbly with you. In Christ we pray, amen.

**Hymn\***    TWC #670    *Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

**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 Richard Malmberg

**Lay reader:**

**Ushers and Greeters:**

**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 for September:** Michael Brodeur

**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>

On the cover: *The Evangelist Saint Luke*, Crispijn de Passe (1580-1620), engraving; Dutch