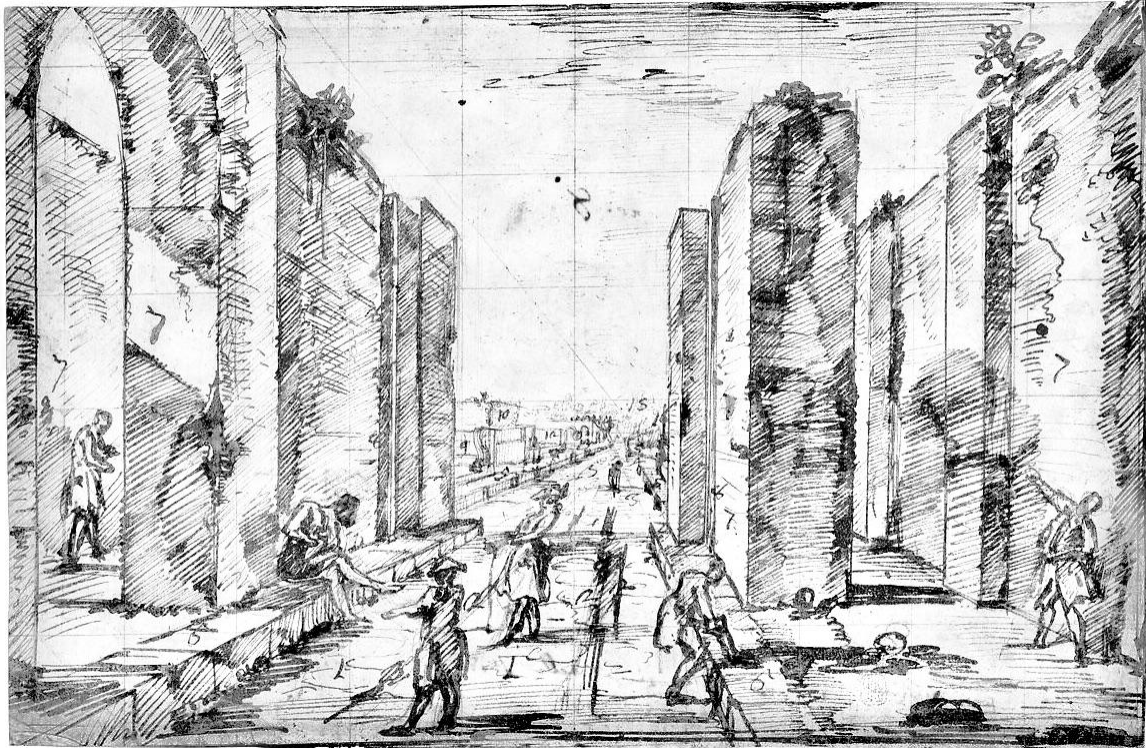


# The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

April 26, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Fourth Sunday of Easter



*The politics of surprise leads  
through the Gate of Astonishment  
into the Kingdom of Hope.*

— Max Lerner

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

## **Gathering Music / Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Introit**

#### **Call to Worship** (Based on Psalm 23)

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

**People: He leadeth me besides the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul.**

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness**

**For his name's sake.**

**All: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Leader: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

**People: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**Hymn** TWC #99 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

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

God, you are our shepherd and we are the sheep of your hand. The earth is yours, for you made it. We hope to know your presence in our worship, through your Word, and in this company. We seek to give our lives meaning by serving you. Our best intentions are confounded by our sin. We follow you when it is convenient. We ignore your image in people around us, and we neglect to nurture the sacred light you kindle within us. Forgive us, we pray. Grant us sensitivity to discern your Spirit in every waking moment. Open our hearts to your presence in the silence we offer...

## **Words of Assurance**

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

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you**

### **Children's Message**

**Lord's Prayer** (trespasses)

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Sung Amen**

**Scripture Lesson:** Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-10

### **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 #485 *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

### **Call to Offering**

**Doxology** Old Hundredth

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Praise God above, you heavenly host:***

***Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

**Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

God, bless this portion of the gifts we have received, and now return with gratitude and hope. We offer our work, our money, and our time, to glorify your holy name by serving your people. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.

**Hymn** NCH #473 *Blessed Assurance*

**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:** Reverend Richard Malmberg

**Ushers and Greeters:** Peg Winnen and Betty Prentiss

**Lay reader:** Nancy Sloan

**Music Director:** Anna Dunn

**Zoom Director:** Paul Looney

**Office Administrator:** Linda Wright

**Deacon of the Month:** Deb McCollister

**Telephone:** 603-756-4075

**Email:** walpolechurch@yahoo.com. **Website:** www.walpolenhucc.org

**Please pray for:**

Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Chuck Shaw, Dave Adams,  
Linda Graff, Bob Rhodes, Charley Grasse and Beki Bowen.

Prayers for our sister church in Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes:

Becky Hubbard and Carol Lamp

**On the cover:** *View through the Herculaneum Gate, Pompeii*; Giovanni Battista Piranesi, Italian, drawing, 1778