The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

July 19, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

It's when you stop believing your imagination
that your fear can become your reality.

— Daniel Kemp

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire
www.walpolenhucc.org

Gathering Music / Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 139)
Leader: O God, you have searched me and known me!
People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
Leader: You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before
a word is on my tongue, O God, you know it altogether.
People: You beset me behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
Leader: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high,
I cannot attain it. Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Where shall I flee from your presence?
People: If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
Leader: If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost
parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
All: Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know
my thoughts! See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

Hymn TWC #295 *Breathe on Me Breath of God*

Prayer of Invocation and Confession (unison)
Creator God, pour your spirit upon us, within us, and among us. We sense your presence in the laughter of a child, the caring touch of a friend, and in prophetic cries calling for justice. We praise the many wonders you perform. Yet our praise is empty, and our perception is clouded as long as we hold on to our sin. We lack courage to speak out when our voices are needed. We place our desires above the needs of others. We pray your forgiveness, O God. We seek your guidance to begin anew, as we open our hearts to you in silence…

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: Genesis 28:10-19; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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 #500 *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*

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)
Gracious, generous God, thank you for the ability to give a portion of what you gave us. We dedicate our offering to ministry in your name, and pray you will guide us with wisdom, compassion, and joy as we travel the paths of service and discipleship. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.

Hymn NCH #459 *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

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
Usher and Greeter: John McCollister
Lay reader: Deb McCollister
Music Director: Anna Dunn
Zoom Director: Paul Looney
Deacon of the Month: Ann Looney

Telephone: 603-756-4075
Email: walpolechurch@yahoo.com **Website:** www.walpolenhucc.org

Please pray for:
Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Dave Adams, Linda Graff, and Bob Rhodes

Prayers for our sister church in Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes: Becky Hubbard and Carol Lamp

Altar flowers today are given by The McCollisters.

On the Cover: Jacob at Bethel dreaming of the stairway to heaven.