

The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

July 26, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Nineth Sunday After Pentecost



Never did nature say one thing and wisdom another.

– Edmund Burke

We seem to gain wisdom more readily through our failures than through our successes. We always think of failure as the antithesis of success, but it isn't. Success often lies just the other side of failure.

– Leo Buscaglia

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire

www.walpolenhucc.org

Gathering Music / Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 119)

Leader: How can young people keep their way pure?

People: By guarding it according to your word.

Leader: With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me
stray from your commandments.

People: I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Leader: Blessed are you, O God; teach me your statutes.

People: With my lips I shall declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

Leader: I delight in the way of your decrees as much as any riches.

**All: I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

Hymn NCH #21 *God Reigns o'er All the Earth*

Prayer of Invocation and Confession (unison)

God, we yearn to know the movements of your Spirit in our midst and in our hearts. We seek you through harmonious relationships with your creation, our neighbors, and our inward selves. Still, we become lost. We have done wrong and neglected to do good. We have used words harmfully. We embrace privilege and reject service. Forgive us, we pray. Renew us with passion for the possible so we may find wholeness in your service. Open us to your presence in this 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: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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, we thank you for laughter, for love, and for life. We thank you for material blessings that free us to look beyond survival. Bless what we offer and make us good stewards of what we have. Grant us wisdom to employ our gifts ministering faithfully in your name, so we may be known for loving nurture, warm welcome, and passion for justice. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn TWC #694

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

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: Peg Winnen

Lay reader: Betty Prentiss

Music Director: Anna Dunn

Zoom Director: Linda Wright

Deacon of the Month: Ann Looney

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Please pray for:

Dean Prentiss, Bill Sudsbury, Linda Graff, and Bob Rhodes

Prayers for our sister church in Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes: Becky Hubbard and Carol Lamp