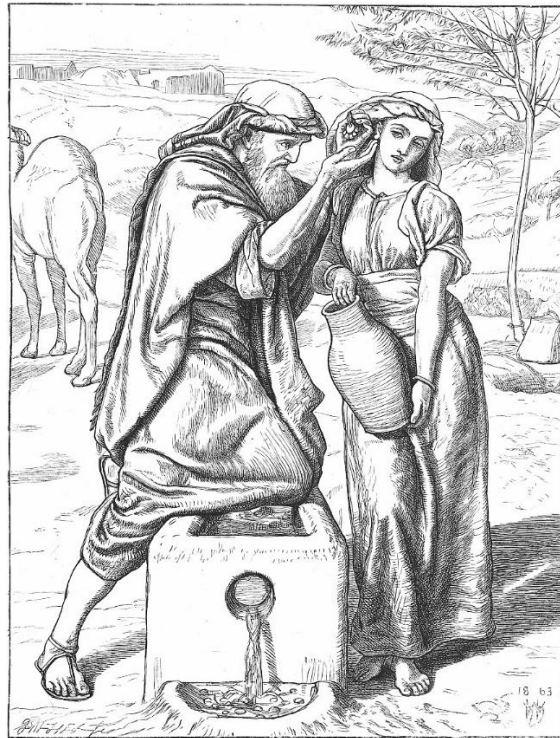


The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

July 5, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.

— Loren Eiseley

Water is the driving force of all nature.

— Leonardo da Vinci

We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one.

— Jacques Yves Cousteau

15 Washington Street Walpole, New Hampshire

www.walpolenhucc.org

Gathering Music / Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 145)

Leader: God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All: Our God is good to all,
God's compassion is over all creation.**

Leader: All your works give thanks to you, O God.
The faithful shall bless you.

**People: We shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,**

Leader: We will make known your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**All: Your kingdom is everlasting,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
God is faithful in every word and gracious in every deed.
God upholds all who are falling.**

Hymn TWC #418 *America, the Beautiful*

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

God of all creation, we come today seeking to be guided by your Word in the fellowship of Christ's Body. We seek the inspiration of your Holy Spirit among friends gathered here. Help us discover our passion for your service and joy in the Communion of the Saints. Meet us, touch us, here and now, as we open our hearts to you in silence...

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

A Prayer for Our Country (see insert)

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Amen

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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 #570 vs 1-4 *We Shall Overcome*

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 the opportunity and ability to give some of what you have provided. Bless our offering and all who give their time, talent, and treasure. Inspire us to employ these gifts faithfully in your service. In Christ's name we pray. 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

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 NCH #591 *This is My Song*

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 TWC #416 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

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: Erin Bowen

Lay reader: Linda Wright

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, Chuck Shaw, Dave Adams,
Linda Graff, Charley Grasse and Bob Rhodes

Prayers for our sister church in Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes: Becky Hubbard and Carol Lamp

On the cover: After William Holman Hunt – *Eliezer and Rabekah at the Well*, from *Dalziel's Bible Gallery* –
The Metropolitan Museum of Art