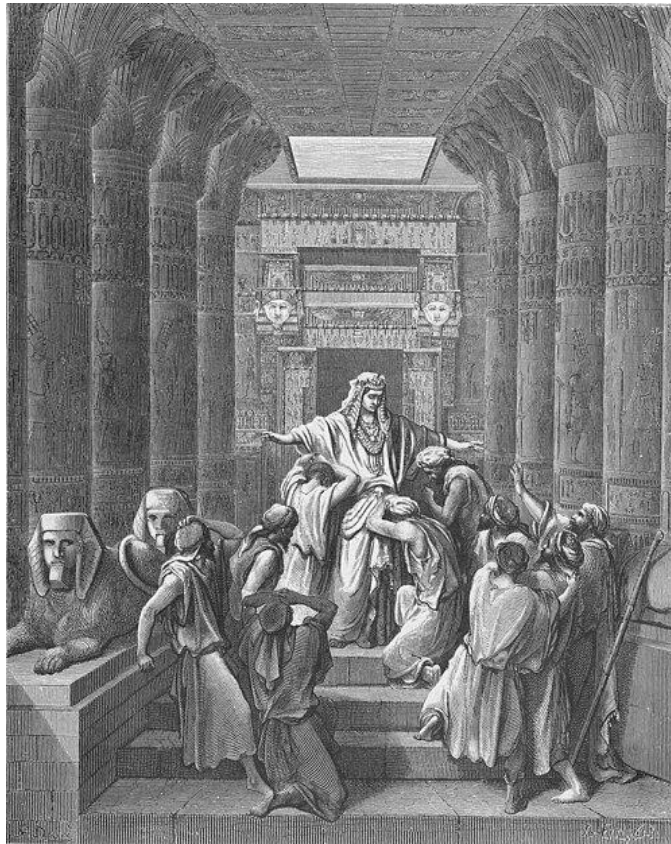


The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

August 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



*“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them
except in the form of bread.”*

— Mahatma Gandhi

“You might be poor, your shoes might be broken, but your mind is a palace.”

— Frank McCourt, *Angela’s Ashes*

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

Gathering Music / Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 133)

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is
when God's people dwell together in unity!

**People: It is like precious oil on the head, running over the face,
down over the collar and clothing.**

Leader: It is like the dew of Mount Hermon, which falls on the
mountains of Zion.

All: For God has ordained a blessing there: life forevermore.

Hymn NCH# 478 *I've Got Peace Like a River*

Prayer of Invocation and Confession (unison)

Mike Brodeur

God, most loving and surprising creator, you are always with us and we yearn to feel your presence. We seek to know your love, your justice, and your will. Yet our sin conceals this knowledge from us. We confess we have fallen short of the glory you intend for us. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Give us the courage to live renewed lives 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

Ann Looney

Sung Amen

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

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

Linda Wright

Hymn TWC #622 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

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)

Linda Wright

Gracious and generous God, we give thanks for the opportunity and ability to give a portion of what you have entrusted to us. Inspire us, each and all, as we dedicate it to ministering in your name. Grant us wisdom, compassion, and joy as we journey together on the paths of service and discipleship. All this we pray in Christ. Amen.

Hymn TWC #484 *The Old Rugged Cross*

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

Usher and Greeter: Kathy Yardley

Lay reader: Deb McCollister

Music Director: Anna Dunn

Zoom Director: Paul Looney

Deacon of the Month: Mike Brodeur

Telephone: 603-756-4075

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

Please pray for:

Bill Sudsbury, Linda Graff, Bob Rhodes and Jim Smolnik

Prayers for our sister church in Zimbabwe

Members living in retirement homes: Becky Hubbard and Carol Lamp

On the cover: *Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers*, Gustave Dore, 1866, engraving.