

The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

August 2, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Tenth Sunday After Pentecost



*Strength does not come from physical capacity.
It comes from an indomitable will.*

– Mahatma Gandhi

If you're not ready to fail, you're not ready to succeed.

– John Cena

Once you've wrestled, everything else in life is easy.

– Dan Gable

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

Gathering Music / Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 17)

Leader: Hear my cause, O God; attend to my cry!

Give ear to my prayer, for my lips are free of deceit!

People: From your presence let my vindication come!

Let your eyes behold what is right!

Leader: You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night.

When you test me, you will find nothing.

My mouth will not transgress.

**People: With regard to the work of humans, by the word of your lips,
I have avoided the ways of the violent.**

Leader: My steps have held fast to your path; my feet have not slipped.

People: I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God.

Incline your ear to me and hear my words.

**All: Wondrously show your steadfast love to those
who seek refuge at your right hand.**

Hymn NCH #8 *Praise to The Living God*

Prayer of Invocation (unison)

Creator God, we are eager to learn your marvelous works. Breathe into us the refreshment of your Word, as we recall our sacred story. Wake us, so we may be fully present in this moment. Keep our hearts pounding and our veins surging with new life. Help us remember that we are the children of your love, as we open ourselves 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

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Amen

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 32:22-31; Matthew 14:13-21

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 #476 *My Life Flows on in Endless Song*

Call to Offering**Doxology**

Old Hundredth

OPraise 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 worship you with words, song, silence, and concrete acts of love. We now offer a portion of what you have given and pray you would bless these gifts and bind them to your purpose. Grant us joy in your ministry and passion for justice. Open our eyes and hearts to your image in everyone we meet. In Christ 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 (seated, in 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 #330 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Communion of the People *(please wait until all are served before partaking)*

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 #708 *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

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: Linda Wright
Lay reader: Bob Rhodes
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:

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: *Jacob Wrestling with the Angel*, Gustave Dore', 1866.