

The First Congregational Church

Walpole, NH, United Church of Christ

August 23, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost



*"Whether you think you can or think you can't,
You're right."*

— Henry Ford

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

Gathering Music / Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 124)

Leader: If the Lord had not been on our side—let Israel say—

**People: If the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us,
they would have swallowed us alive when their anger
flared against us;**

Leader: The flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us,
the raging waters would have swept us away.

People: Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

Leader: We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Hymns TWC #263 *Alleluia, Sing to Jesus*

Prayer of Invocation

Rev. David Stinson

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty and most merciful God,
We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep;
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts;
We have offended against thy holy laws;
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, Spare those who confess their faults,
Restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises
declared unto us in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter
Live a godly, righteous and sober life,
To the glory of thy Holy Name. AMEN.

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

Kathy Yardley

Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Sung Amen

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 16:13-26

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 *Jesus: Who We Say He Is*

Rev. David Stinson

Hymn TWC #103 *Ye Servants of God*

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

Rev. David Stinson

Hymn TWC #95 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

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: Jane Vesper

Lay reader: Ellie Shaw

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

Altar flowers today are given by Ann Looney