

First Congregational Church of Wakefield NH
United Church of Christ

Sunday, August 23rd, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We are an Inclusive Faith Community.
All Are Welcomed and All Really Means ALL!



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5: 16 NRSVUE

Guest Pastor—Linda Walter
Sunday Deacons—Ken Ballinger & Harriet Wilson
Greeters—Jeff Hebert, Linda Messer, Nancy & Jeff Perkins
Tech Team—Donna Ackerman, Gloria Ballinger, Kaylee Fogg, Nathan Fogg,
Carol Jeffery & Barry Truhn
Organists—Cindy Eggleston & Beverly Woods
Voice Choir Director—Cindy Eggleston
Bell Choir Director—Kevin Connell
Guitarist—Buddy Dee
Exterior/Interior Floral Décor – Rachel White

Welcome to Sunday Worship!
(* Please stand if able. Bold content is read in unison.)

Greeting & Reply

Introit & Candle Lighting

***Opening Hymn** (*see screen*) “He’s Got the Whole World”

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, people of God, and take your place as witnesses.

People: We have seen the Lord’s goodness and will not keep silent.

Leader: The Spirit has opened our eyes to the truth of the gospel.

People: We will speak of what we have heard and seen.

Leader: In a world of shadows, Christ has made us light.

People: Let our lives shine so others may see and believe.

Leader: The risen Lord still walks among us and calls our names.

People: We answer with open mouths and willing hearts.

Leader: Every story of grace is a seed for someone else’s hope.

People: We will tell of His mercy until the whole earth hears.

All: We are witnesses for our risen Lord!

Passing the Peace of Christ (*if you feel comfortable doing so*)

The Scripture Readings (*see screen*)

Linda Messer

Hebrew Reading: Micah 6: 6-8 (*NRSV*)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28: 16-20 (*NRSV*)

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Invocation

Prayers of the People

***Speaking of The Lord's Prayer** (*see screen*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our Debts as we forgive our Debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Announcements

Offering

Voice Choir Offertory Anthem "Give Me Jesus" by Fernando Ortega

***Doxology** (*see screen*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

***Sermonic Hymn** (*see screen*) "Lord I Want to be a Christian" Blue #421

Message "Changing Our World"

Matthew 5: 14-16 NKJV (*see screen*)

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Closing Hymn (*see screen*) "Pass it On" Blue #641

Benediction

Postlude



*Please join us for a wonderful
COFFEE HOUR
downstairs after Sunday Service.
ALL ARE WELCOME!*



****HAPPENINGS & REMINDERS****

THE PARISH HELPERS TREASURE SHOP is now open

Wednesdays & Saturdays from 9am – 12pm!

HYMN REQUESTS are needed and can be placed in the offering plates!

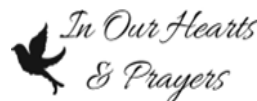
8/29 FCCW Yard Sale! See SV!

*****See Steeple Views & Happenings Emails for Updates & Details*****

- CareGivers Support Group: 1st & 3rd Mon @ 9:30 am
- Finance Ministry Meeting: 3rd Mon @ 1 pm
- Adult Faith Formation: Tues @ noon (*summer pause*)
- Ukulele Club: 2nd & 4th Tues @ 6 pm
- Chair Yoga w/ Pam: Wed @ 10 am
- Diaconate Meeting: 1st Wed @ 5 pm
- End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting: Thurs @ 10 am (*summer pause*)
- Evening Bible Study: 1st & 3rd Thurs @ 5:30 pm (*summer pause*)
- Outreach Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 11 am
- Parish Helper's Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 1 pm
- BLPOA Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 6 pm
- Leadership Council Meeting: tba

Prayers

Rev Mills, Jan S, Gerard B, Lois B, Nancy B, Brian T, Cindy E, Our UCC Sister Church in Zimbabwe, Richwood LA Detainees:
Arezoo Mostafavi- Iran
Brkti Zerabouk Kahsay- Ethiopia
Selam Gebre Haile- Eritrea
Haben Haile- Eritrea - and the many who's names we do not yet know.



Credits

1. Our songs are covered under our music license, One License #742268-A
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