

First Congregational Church of Wakefield NH
United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 13th, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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



"Do not be misled into passivity either by false security or by despair"
Audre Lorde

Senior Pastor — Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.
Sunday Deacons—Ken Ballinger & Jeff Perkins
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 & Evan McDougal
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)* “Since Jesus Came into My Heart” HFG #639

***Call to Worship**

One: We are gathered to worship together, full of the joy we feel about God’s love for us.

All: He who loved us first, has called us to love and care for one another.

One: With God’s help, we can overcome hatred and anger.

All: We seek God and ask for guidance, knowing that we can love because of this grace.

One: God’s love is the beginning and the end; it is the Alpha and Omega.

All: Praise God for peace and hope.

One: Come, oh beloved children, let us rejoice and sing a new song.

All: when our greatest joy comes from beyond ourselves.

One: We come together to worship.

All: In a spirit of love, and with the hope of transformation.

The Scripture Readings *(NRSVUE – see screen)* *Harriet Wilson*

Hebrew Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Invocation

Congregational Hymn Led by the Voice Choir *(see screen)*

“I Love to Tell the Story” HFG #619

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

***Singing 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 "For the Beauty of the Earth"
by Susan Biggs, arr by Jay Althouse

***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*) "Pass Me Not" NCH #551

Message "Meeting the Moment: Sharpened for Service"

Proverbs 27:17

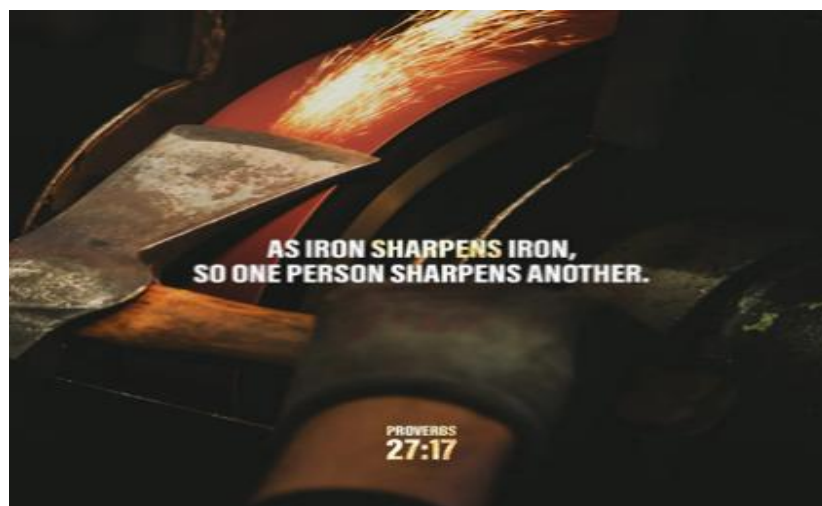
¹⁷ Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another.

Responding to God's Word Video (*see screen*) "All of Me" by Selah

Prayers of the People

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 still open
Wednesdays & Saturdays from 9am – 12pm!*
- *HYMN REQUESTS are needed and can be placed in the offering plates!*
 - *9/27 Sunday School Returns!!*
 - *10/1 Evening Bible Study w/ Rev Resumes!*

*****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
 - Ukulele Club: 2nd & 4th Tues @ 6 pm
- End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting: Wed @ 8 am
 - Chair Yoga w/ Pam: Wed @ 10 am
- Evening Bible Study: 1st & 3rd Thurs @ 5:30 pm (*resumes 10/1!*)
 - Outreach Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 11 am
 - Parish Helper's Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 1 pm
 - BLPOA Meeting: 2nd Thurs @ 6 pm
 - Sunday School: 2nd & 4th Sun
- Leadership Council Meeting: 3rd Sun following fellowship
 - Diaconate Meeting: 4th Sun @ 11:30

Please
Pray
for...



Pat A, Jan S, Gerard B, Lois B, Nancy B, Brian T, Cindy E, Our UCC Sister Church in Zimbabwe, Richwood LA Detainees: Arezoo Mostafavi, Seyedamin Tabatabaei, Mahsa Dehzad Hamedani, Pouria Nazari, Mina Pourgholi, Brkti Zerabouk Kahsay, Selam Gebre Haile - 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
2. Graphics: churchart.com
3. Responding to God's Word Video: "All of Me" by Selah, <https://youtu.be/WZR8Y19qffM?is=rlCBJB1UgbLftSgu>



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CLA/Church Office Hours: Mon (remote) T/W/TH 8-11

Email: churchoffice@fccwakefieldnh.org

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