

# **Welcome to First Congregational Church**

## **"A Service of Remembrance, Celebration, and Transition"**



JUNE 26, 2022

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the LAST DAY for members, specifically, to Adopt Items! After today, the remaining items will be opened up for adoption by other people and organizations.

MOVING DAY! This week, Wednesday, June 29 - Starving Artists Movers will move all materials we are taking with us to our new home at Wesley United Methodist Church, 79 Clinton Street in Concord.

First worship service in our new home at Wesley Church, with communion: Sunday, July 3rd at **10:30am** in Phillips Chapel. NOTE TIME CHANGE!

TAG SALE: Saturday, July 9 - at 177 N Main St. for items we aren't taking with us, putting into storage, or which haven't already been adopted by church members. We need many hands to help with the tag sale!!!

For the month of June, the Page Turners are reading "Love Letter to the Earth," by Thich Nhat Hanh. The discussion will be on June 27th at 2pm on Zoom. All are welcome!



STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE 2021-2022 MERRIMACK ASSOCIATION CONFIRMATION CLASS  
(This statement of faith was written by the Merrimack Association confirmands '22)

**We believe that God is revealed in wisdom and change. We find truth in transformation, endurance, and perseverance. God the Creator invites us to change and newness; change is both inside and outside. Change is within and among us; we can be change.**

**God calls us to be a family and a community, caring for one another and the world. God calls us to respect each other's differences and never expects us to be perfect. We ask questions about scripture and this leads us to the change shown in our faith ancestry.**

**God is revealed to us in many ways: through the Holy Spirit, as a Mother, as a Father, and as an Eagle. Jesus, the Son of God, brought us an outstanding example of how to live; Jesus is both historical and divine and showed us we should love one another, day by day. God calls us to accept everybody, living in Love. We pray that peace will be ours and we will be peace for the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(Response to each prayer:)*

God of new beginnings,  
**Receive our prayers.**

PASTORAL PRAYER (written by Rev. Christine Longhurst)

Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, which 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sung Amen: #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions (Refrain)

In the Midst of New Dimensions, Julian Rush

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God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
Leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey,  
Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Offertory

Invitation (written by Rev. Tim Graves)

GRATITUDE MUSIC

Prelude no 4 in f major by Robert D Vandall

Adele

LITANY OF DEDICATION: (written by Rev. Mak Kneebone)

It is a gift to be able to give something away.

**We are called to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.**

Spirit of Love, look upon us now.

**Bless these gifts; make them like a river in the desert, those we can see and those we cannot.**

May our hopes come true for the better world we dream of

**As we work together in love. Amen.**

## A TIME FOR MOVING FORWARD

Song of Transition: #433 In the Bulb There Is a Flower

In the Bulb There Is a Flower, Natalie Sleeth

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Honoring:

Our Church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings.

**Today we celebrate the ministry of First Congregational Church of Concord, United Church of Christ, shared in this building, and prepare to move forward to our new chapter of ministry, seeking to discern and follow God's call.**

Sharing Gratitude:

For the worship of God in prayer and praise, for the preaching of the Word,  
for the celebration of the holy sacraments,

**Offered by this congregation, we give thanks.**

For the comfort of those who mourn, for the help of those who are perplexed,  
for the guidance of those who seek strength,

**Offered by this congregation, we give thanks.**

For the support and nurture of families, for the guidance of children,  
or the calling of youth to a life of service,

**Offered by this congregation, we give thanks.**

For guarding against evil, for fostering faithfulness,  
or promoting peace and justice in all the earth,

**Offered by this congregation, we give thanks.**

For the opening of minds to your truth, for the care of those in need,  
for the giving of hope and courage,

**Offered by this congregation, we give thanks.**

For the unity of believers in Christ, for the carrying of the gospel into all of the world,  
for the furtherance of the unity of all people,

**Offered by this congregation, we give thanks.**

For the consecration of life and service, in grateful remembrance of those who have  
gone before us, and in gratitude for our life together in this building,

**We give thanks to you, O God, for this church's past and pray for your  
continued blessing and guidance. Amen.**

Praying for our Future:

**O God of all Creation, we give thanks for the calling to be your church and for the  
power you give us to fulfill our calling. We are a people with a past full of assurance  
and a future full of hope. Your everlasting love for all is trustworthy. Help each of us  
to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together here in your  
name saw our laughter and our tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as  
we hold these cherished memories but move confidently in new directions, until  
that time when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of  
Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Let us go now, led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of  
the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG: (Tune: Hyfrodol) God Who Sets Us On a Journey**

Words: Joy Dine (1937 – 2001) © Revd Mervyn Dine. Reproduced with permission; available for reproduction for the purposes of worship.

God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward, stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbor marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights, changes, choices we must face;  
give us wisdom in deciding, mindful always of your grace;  
should we stumble, lose our bearings, find it hard to know what's right,  
we regain our true direction focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days, grant the vision that we lack –  
once we've started on this journey there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding excess baggage from our past,  
cherish only what's essential, choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort, pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us traveling in the knowledge you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey, Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

**SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**

**BENEDICTION & SENDING**

**POSTLUDE**

Go Forth With Joy by David Wion

Bill Metevier