

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. W. David Weddington  
Organist & Music Director: Dorothy Morton  
Administrative Assistant: Pam Nute

**OFFICERS:**

Moderator: Tim Gould  
Vice-Moderator: Alice Muh, Acting  
Treasurer: Joyce Krill, Acting

**COMMITTEES**

**Christian Education:** Kim Smith, Chair  
**Deacons:** Mary Menzies, Chair  
**Finance:** Phil Krill, Chair  
**Mission:** Linda Warden, Chair  
**Music:** Tina Peabody, Chair  
**Personnel Relations:** Tina Peabody, Chair  
**Property Management:** Dan Kiefer  
**Stewardship:** Mary Menzies  
**Trustee of Trust Funds:** Dudley Bailey  
**Steeple Talk:** Pam Nute

**Shining Lights Learning Center:**

Director: Ms. Melissa Kam  
Board President: Suzanne Schott

*First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Littleton, New Hampshire  
May 9, 2021*



*Our Mission Statement:*

*As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.*

*Thank you for joining us for worship today!  
It is our sincere hope that all who gather in  
this place will know and experience the love,  
forgiveness, hope, and new life available  
through Jesus Christ.*

Pastor:  
Rev. W. David Weddington  
E-mail: [pastordavidfcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastordavidfcc@gmail.com)

Music Director & Organist  
Dorothy Morton

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**May 9, 2021**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter: Mother's Day**

Gathering Music: "Surely the Presence"  
*(For the sake of those who may be vulnerable to the Covid virus, we won't be singing out loud; but we hope you'll enjoy reading and singing in your heart as Dottie plays this morning's music.)*

Welcome and Announcements *Ross Fairweather*

Opening Prayer

Prelude

Responsive Reading: A Litany for Mother's Day  
*As a mother comforts her child,  
so will I comfort you. (Isaiah 66:13)*

One: Generous God, we thank you for sharing  
the gift of your mothering love with us:

**All: We thank you for giving us human mothers  
whose nurture and guidance are gifts from you;**

One: We thank you for grandmothers, aunts and friends  
who support us and help us to grow.

**All: We thank you for this community, the church,  
where you touch us with tenderness, wisdom and strength  
and allow us to be your mothering hands for each other.**

One: Today as we lift up our voices in worship,  
help us to remember with grateful hearts  
the gifts of mother-love we have received in this world;

**All: and help us to discover, deep in our hearts,  
the gifts of mother-love you've placed there for us  
to share with your children today and every day. Amen.**

Hymn "Happy Our Home When God Is There"

We Recall Our Joys & Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
The Savior's Prayer

We Recall the Good Things We Have Offered to God  
Doxology  
Prayer of Dedication

Scripture: Acts 10:44-48

Sermon: "For Those Who Gave Us Life and Love"

Hymn: "The Servant Song"

Benediction

Response: "The Servant Song"

Postlude

*Lectionary Readings for Ascension Day, May 13: Acts 1:1-11;  
Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53.*

*Lectionary Readings for Sunday, May 15: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26;  
Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.*



**May 16<sup>th</sup>**

Donations will be accepted anytime during May!

Please make a notation on the memo line of your check or put in an envelope marked:

"Mission's/**Strengthen the Church**"

**Thank you!**

**The Strengthen the Church Offering supports grants which make a difference in the lives of people across the United Church of Christ. The Keep & Till Congregation in the Central Atlantic Conference honor's rural life and faith by focusing on agrarian rhythms, ecological concerns, and creation care. Keep & Till received a grant to stabilize and improve their community garden during the pandemic.**

Pastor Samuel Chamelin explains the impact of the grant: "The quarantine made in-person activities more difficult, but it also helped us to understand the value of gathering together. While Keep & Till elected not to worship in-person in any capacity, we did continue to meet in the garden, masked and socially distanced, to continue our ag work (which is spiritual work also). This exposed us to new friends and neighbors in a way that we did not expect." The grant literally funded the renewal of the garden. Mulch enriched the soil. A 250-gallon trough increased the water capacity. Organic pest control improved the overall yield of the garden. But most significantly, people in the neighborhood came out to spend time in the garden. Pastor Samuel saw a renewal in people. "When a tornado destroyed the tool shed, one of those new families stepped forward to offer their old shed, in good shape. We had community members come out to hang with us and assist, and they brought real help to the garden project. Then, they noticed that we had issues with weeds and poison ivy. The family used their flame thrower to eliminate the problems. Later, we discovered that others were mowing some particularly weedy areas. And then, finally, we realized neighbors were helping each other harvest food for their tables. In this way, Keep & Till truly became a member of the community. Though our interactions were not how we might hope them to be, we saw growth in our community, integration with the surrounding neighborhood, and stories of generosity and sharing."

**TO THE MEMBERS of the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**YOU ARE HEREBY CALLED TO ATTEND**

**THE 218<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**of the FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.**

**SUNDAY, June 13, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.**

*Meeting in the Sanctuary immediately following the church service*

In preparation for the meeting, please read the reports and make notations if there are questions or comments. Reports will be available in the sanctuary and email by May 30, 2021.

*PLEASE BRING YOUR COPY TO THE MEETING FOR REFERENCE.*

A quorum of 20 members is needed to conduct this meeting. Please be sure to save the date. Thank you.



*Happy Mother's Day!*

## **Song Sheet for May 9, 2021**

### **“Surely the Presence”**

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;  
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,  
I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

### **“Happy Our Home When God Is There”**

Happy our home when God is there,  
Binding our hearts in love,  
Blessing each day with moments shared,  
Drawing our thoughts above.

Happy our home when daily prayer  
Bears every daily need;  
When parents share God's Holy Word  
And daily let Him lead.

Happy our home when children praise,  
Lifting our Savior's name;  
When parents speak and show His love,  
Faithful each day the same.

Father of all, our God of Peace,  
We look to You alone;  
Come with Your precious gift of love  
And make our house Your home.

### **“The Servant Song”**

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are travelers on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
In the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
'Til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.

### **“The Servant Song”**

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.