

The Congregate Tidings

Volume 34 Issue 8

August 2020

Rev. John's Musings

As I write this article for the newsletter, I am witnessing stifling humidity and storms typical of summertime weather. It will be my last July in Pennsylvania. I look around and see boxes mounting up in preparation for the move to New Hampshire. We are mapping the route and planning best stay over in the midst of COVID. In preparation we are bringing our own cleaning supplies and items to ward off any potential COVID germs when we stay in a hotel. One of the things I always try to do is look for the good of humanity. I truly believe we witness too much 'sensationalism' of the news media. I look for the best in humanity. I theologically believe there is more good in humanity but not naive to not say we have no evil. That being said, I always bring uplifting true stories of what people are doing who exemplify the christian life in any meetings I may have and bring a spiritual focus. With recent graduations, which I thought North Conway seniors graduating via ski lift that made the national news was totally awesome, graduates witnessed the best they could in this COVID environment. However, can you imagine no one coming and celebrate your graduation? It happened for a teen in Alabama. Bessemer City High School held its annual graduation ceremony. Dominique Moore was one of the teachers involved in coordinating the event.

After the ceremony had ended, Dom was cleaning up after the festivities. Nearly everybody had left to celebrate with friends and family, but one young man was still sitting there by himself. Dom said, "I asked him, 'Where are your people?' and he was like, 'Nobody's here.'"

Not knowing what to say at first, the teacher told him "I expect big things from you and it's going to be OK."

Dom assumed that someone would show up eventually to give the graduate a ride home. But nobody did. When Dom offered to drive him, neither of the two had any idea that this was to be more than just a ride home. The teacher decided to take him out to eat—at any restaurant of his choice. They ended up at the Cheesecake Factory, and enjoyed a hearty meal and dessert to celebrate the graduate's achievement.

At first, the two were fighting back tears. But before long, they were having a great time together. Dom never asked why the boy's family did not attend the ceremony. What was important to him was that the young man felt appreciated for what he had accomplished.

Later that evening, Dom took to Facebook to share a photo and some thoughts on the event. He says that he doesn't normally post about these situations, as they are all too common in his profession, but that something inside urged him to share this experience.

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And, he shared his Cash App ID in the post (\$mooredaeducator) for anyone who may want to be a “blessing” to this young man.

Before long, generous people—many of them strangers—had sent more than \$5,000 in donations. Dom took the teen to open a bank account with the money, and is also hoping to help him buy a car, and save up to attend college one day. Dom hopes that the story will remind all of us what is truly important and give hope to those who are struggling. “We take people and life for granted.” You can Facebook Dom Moore as his verification of this remarkable true story. To me what a powerful testimony of paying it forward and extending love and radical hospitality to a teenager.

Somehow, I sense someone (s) in the future will cross our paths here in the area of North Conway. Who knows? Maybe, just maybe we will change several lives.

Blessings, Rev. John

WHITE MOUNTAIN MUSICAL ARTS UPDATE

Since its founding in 2002 White Mountain Musical Arts has showcased a wide variety of outstanding performances highlighting music from the Renaissance to contemporary times. Without traveling outside of the Mount Washington Valley music lovers have been able to hear great choral & instrumental works, organ recitals, festive band programs, recitals for solo piano, music for four hands as well as two pianos, acoustic folk ensemble. White Mountain Christmas Concert (organ & brass) and toe-tapping All Woman’s Big Band (dance band style) In 2002 WMMA took ownership of an established North Conway Bach Festival. This August would be the 32nd annual Bach event. Unfortunately, because of the worldwide pandemic all WMMA to date were cancelled or postponed, and the remainder of presentations for this year will not happen with exception of the White Mountain Christmas concert scheduled for December 4th. A decision will be made soon to determine whether or not to hold this annual event. WMMA Board of Directors is committed to keep musicians and audience safe. For many years First Church of Christ, Congregational Church has been the venue for most WMMA concerts. Sadly, 2020 will not be remembered as a year of wonderful WMMA musical events. When everyone can gather together safely WMMA musical events will happen again.

Submitted by Floyd W. Corson

B.I.B.L.E: Simply means:
Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth



Julie James has a new phone Number: 603-662-6177

WON'T YOU LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT?
TUNE: SERVANT SONG—Hymn # 539 in the New Century Hymnal
By Muriel Magg

Clearly Richard Gillard felt the need to influence Christians to be united in their service to the Lord and to support each other through life's ups and downs.

Richard Gillard, author and composer was born in England, May 22, 1953. The eldest of six children, he emigrated to New Zealand with his family when he was three years old and where he still lives to this day. Gillard had little formal musical training, but from the age of seven began playing the ukulele, often to accompany his own singing, learning by experiment and later with the help of his father and of Pentecostal church musicians. Also a self-taught guitarist Gillard played mostly in a "folk style". He prefers to play by ear and allows others to transcribe his songs into manuscript form.

Richard attended a teacher's training college, worked as a teacher until 1975 in primary schools and then in a warehouse. A member with his wife for many years at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Auckland, they were inspired by an early folk-praise group called the Fisherfolk originally from Houston, Texas.

Gillard solidified his compositional style by participating in the St. Paul's Singers, a group of mostly young students. Taken with this style, the Gillards introduced many folk songs to New Zealand congregations. Richard began writing his own songs in the 1970's. His best-known composition is "The Servant Song". Betty Pulkingham arranged and adapted the tune.

The song began in 1977 when Gillard jotted down verse 3 on a piece of paper which, on returning from travels in Europe and Israel, he found in his guitar case. Several months later, the rest of the words flowed out and the song was completed. Since then, the text has been altered to be more inclusive, and has become one of the most popular songs of the last 30 years on hymnody. The simple melody is very hymn like and highlights the prayerful nature of the text.

"The Servant Song" speaks of "pilgrims" on a "journey" and encourages us to "walk the mile and bear the load". It speaks of "holding the Christ-light...in the night-time of your fear" and how we are called to reflect Christ's light in the world. We are reminded to weep, laugh and share our joys together. Finally, the great lyrics point us to being a servant of others as the culmination of the Christian life.

The church is a body. We are meant to depend on each other, to rely on each other. In God's design, every member has a role to play, whatever your gift is, whatever love compels you to do. We are pilgrims on a journey; we are brothers and sisters on the road. We are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load.

We are delighted to welcome Pastor John and his family to First Church of Christ, Congregational. Thank you for coming to serve our church. We are glad you are here, and pray that your ministry will be abundantly blessed.



Schedule of August Events

Weekly Events

Food Pantry Hours	Tuesdays Noon. to 1:45 p.m. AND Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Women's AA Step Group	Mondays 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.— CANCELLED
Scouts	Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.— CANCELLED
Chancel Choir	Thursday 5:30 p.m. - PENDING
Bell Choir	Thursday 6:45 p.m. - PENDING
New Sunlight Group (AA)	Wednesday & Friday 12:00 Noon— CANCELLED
DaCapo	CANCELLED

Monthly Events

Revolving Closet	Sunday, August 2nd 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for teen shopping Sunday, August 16th 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for teen shopping Thursday, August 20th 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for adult shopping
<u>Due to the coronavirus, the Revolving Closet hours are by appointment only</u>	
WIC	Thursday, August 6th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - CANCELLED
ONA	Monday, August 3rd 6:00 p.m.— CANCELLED
Survivors of Suicide	Thursday, August 13th 6:00 p.m.— VESTRY
Men's Breakfast	Friday, June 19th 8:00 a.m. at the Gibson Center— PENDING
Trustees Meeting	Tuesday, August 18th 2:00 p.m.— PENDING
Diaconate	Tuesday, August 18th 5:00 p.m.— VIA ZOOM
Music Committee Meeting	To Be Determined
Youth & Family Movie Night	CANCELLED

August Special Events

Revolving Closet Back-Pack Giveaway

August 14th, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.—Church parking lot

WMMA Bach Festival

CANCELLED

“The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.”

-Abraham Lincoln

Have you changed your address, phone number or e-mail address? If so, please contact Bonnie in the church office at 603-356-2324 so that the new directory can be kept up to date.



A message from Pastor John

'Please let me know if you will have surgery or procedures. I want to pray and being supportive for everyone who wants prayer and comfort. IN this COVID environment, Ministers still are not allowed to be in the surgical areas before one enters surgery, I always try to be present for folks but in this COVID environment, I will call your cell phone or hospital room before procedures are performed. All I ask is you let me know ahead of time for communication purposes and I will always maintain confidentiality as well.

My cell phone number is 610-291-7497 for texting and I will inherit the pastor's email address. Once I am settled in NH after the first week in August, I will have a NH cell phone line. UCC requires all contacts from prior congregation be severed for one year (UCC Manual on Ministry) and I need to honor this requirement and will email everyone the new number.

Grace and Peace, Pastor John

News from the Vaughan Learning Center

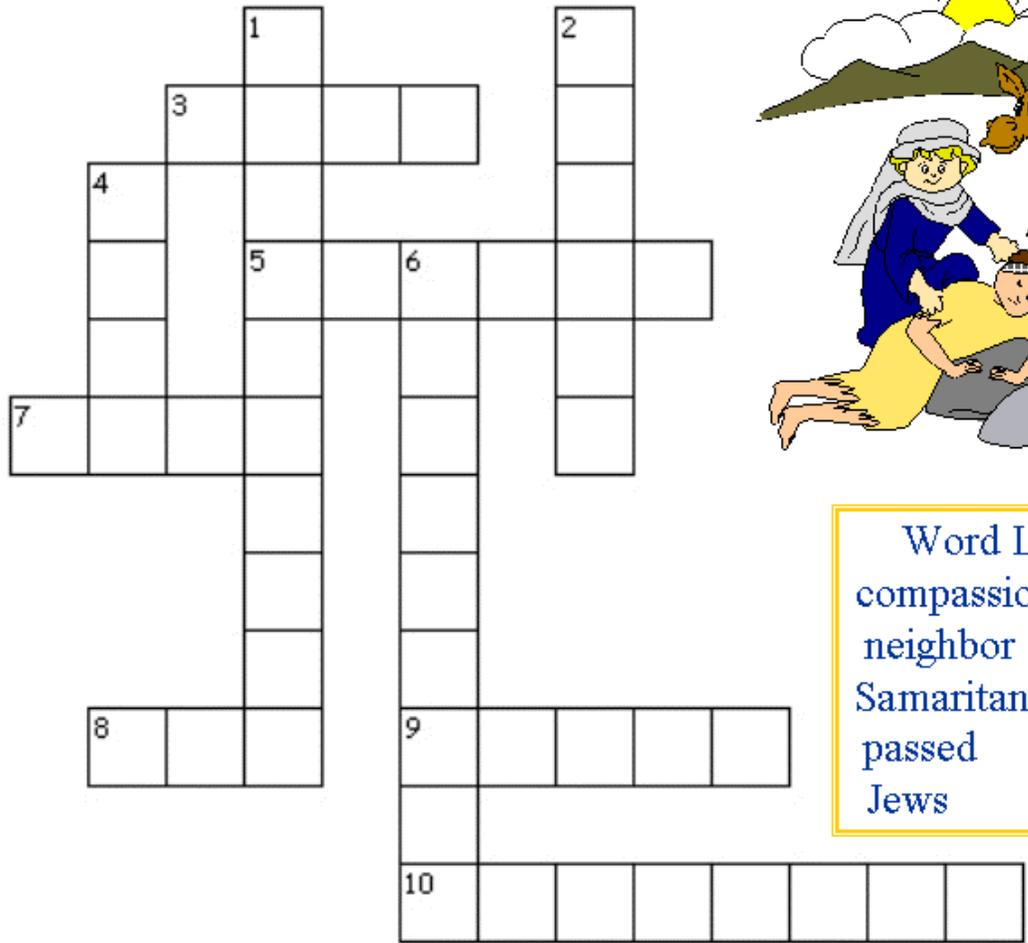
After being closed for a few months due to the Covid19 virus, Vaughan Learning Center will be opening its doors to the children on August 31st. They are in need of donations, especially for the childcare center for the upcoming school year. Since being closed, two of the biggest fundraisers had to be cancelled which has left them short of what they need. Donations can be mailed to Heather Ouellette, Vaughan Learning Center, PO Box 401, North Conway NH 03860.



Please remember to send your pledges to the attention of Dan Jones, First Church of Christ Congregational, PO Box 401, North Conway, NH 03860-0401

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

Good Samaritan Crossword



Word List:
 compassion inn
 neighbor live
 Samaritan love
 passed priest
 Jews three

Across

- 3. We are to ___ God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind.
- 5. The man was beaten, yet people ___ the man without helping him.
- 7. These people did not get along with the Samaritans.
- 8. The Samaritan took the man to an ___ while he was getting better.
- 9. The number of thieves that robbed the man.
- 10. Jesus told this parable to answer the question, "Who is my ___?"

Down

- 1. We all should have this just like the Samaritan did.
- 2. This was the first person to pass by and not help.
- 4. Love God and your neighbor and Jesus said you will do this.
- 6. This was the only person to help the Jew who was hurt.

A Note from your Diaconate Committee

It's hard to believe that Summer is in full swing here in the Mount Washington Valley! Although 2020 has been a challenging year so far, let's hope and pray for better times ahead.

Several weeks ago, a Church Member made a suggestion to a member of the Diaconate. The suggestion was that we use the very visible lawn area in front of the Church to place signs and symbols designed to support those who are in need.

The Diaconate considered this suggestion at our June 16 Meeting. After much discussion, thought and prayer, we came to the conclusion that this suggestion was a very good one and that our Church showing support for those in need, in a visible way, was appropriate and worthwhile.

Our Church has a long history, of which we should all take pride, of helping those in need, both inside and outside of our community. We are proud and excited to continue this tradition and want our entire Church Family to share this excitement!



We believe that as a Church and as Christians it is our duty and responsibility to help and to show support for those in our world who are struggling, oppressed and in need. It seems that every issue is politicized these days and this is very unfortunate as it detracts from the real problem. As a Church, it is our hope that we can stay on the high road and show our support for those most vulnerable in our society. We want to continue to be the Church that makes a difference!

As always, your Diaconate welcomes your opinions, concerns and ideas. We hope to change the message at least once every two weeks to keep it relevant and worth noticing. We would like to hear from you! We are always accepting suggestions!

In His Service,

Lee Coffield, Linda Derse, Helen Goss, Julie James, Muriel Magg, Ken Schiller

APPROACHING THE NEW NORMAL: OUTDOOR WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Diaconate is called to oversee and nurture the spiritual life of the congregation of First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ in North Conway, New Hampshire. As a body, in consultation with the outgoing Interim Pastor, Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver, the incoming settled Pastor and Teacher, Rev. John Hogue, and Licensed Minister Gerry Tilton, the Diaconate has discerned that there is enough available knowledge about SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease called COVID-19, and mitigating the spread of the virus, to cautiously resume in-person worship outdoors this summer. We have also consulted with staff at Memorial Hospital to assure that our regional medical facility was aware of our plans and to solicit any additional precautionary advice. Our plans fall within the state and federal guidelines for gatherings generally but also specifically the guidelines for communities of faith.

First, we want to acknowledge that not everyone is going to feel comfortable gathering with larger groups of people. We expect each person and family to make the decision that best meets their needs for safety and comfort and also know that this may be a week-to-week decision based on varying factors. If you're not feeling well, for instance, that is a very good reason not to join us and in fact, we ask that you not in that instance. Rest assured that recordings of any in-person worship service that is held will be made available on the church's YouTube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4xGhkZ9fG6YvNtYZMf5VmQ>, as soon after worship ends as possible on Sunday mornings. This practice will continue until such time as live-streaming and subsequent on-demand viewing is possible, whether in-person services are outdoors or indoors.

Second, we want to state up front that the decision whether to hold worship in person will be made weekly based on two factors: 1) changes or lack thereof in the active case count in the communities of Conway, Bartlett, Jackson, Madison, Freedom, Chatham, and Albany, New Hampshire, and in Fryeburg, Maine; and 2) on the weather forecast for Saturday noon through Sunday noon. A decision will be made not later than Friday at noon for each week based on these factors. Note that even an excellent weather forecast will not override the need to hold worship virtually should there be a rise in case counts. In the event that worship cannot be held in person, a service will be available on YouTube beginning at 10:00 Sunday morning.

We will gently but firmly enforce the following guidelines for the health and safety of all who join us in person:

1. Everyone in attendance must wear a mask at all times. Worship leaders may remove masks when speaking to the congregation for the sake of clear communications (e.g., lip reading)
2. Each individual or group of attendees sharing a house or in a joint "quarantine bubble" will be expected to sit at least 6 feet away from all other groups or individuals. Ushers will be prepared to assist with this



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3. Please refrain from shaking hands, hugging, or standing within 6 feet with others for conversation. Physical distance is for everyone's safety
4. The tent, which will be open on all four sides for proper air flow, has limited properly distanced seating space. We will provide a limited number of chairs for use by attendees. For these reasons, attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs, blankets, and shade (canopies or umbrellas) for sitting in the yard or to stay in their cars with windows down for the service
5. Attendees are urged to bring cool beverages such as water, juice, or soda to avoid dehydration
6. We urge all who plan to attend to use the restroom at home before you come; the church restroom in the kitchen will be available should you need it but you will be asked to wipe or spray surfaces after you use it and expected to both sanitize and wash your hands before you return to worship, for your safety and the safety of others
7. Ushers and members of the Diaconate will assist everyone to leave in a properly distanced way at the end of the service

What to expect for the service:

- A. Bulletins will include the Scripture readings and prayers; each week's will be available on the church's website to download and print and we will have copies available when you arrive
- B. There will be music but no singing. Though it is safer to sing outdoors, it is not safe; therefore, the Diaconate felt that we should not do so. Weekly preludes and postludes will be prerecorded by Floyd Corson; music within the service will include selections from a library of offerings assembled by the choir and other musicians associated with the congregation
- C. You are welcome to move to the music in lieu of singing; if you get up to dance, please be aware of distancing—but dance if the Spirit moves you!
- D. There will be no unison reading or speaking except for The Lord's Prayer
- E. The Time for Young Disciples will not include asking children to gather at the front
- F. The offering will be received in a basket as you enter or leave the worship area rather than by passing plates or baskets through the gathering
- G. Joys and Concerns will be offered silently except those that are shared with Gerry Tilton before Sunday morning for her to announce
- H. Worship leaders will stand at a distance to greet attendees before and after worship

Much of what is being asked now will help to shape future decisions about worship indoors until such time as there is a solution that significantly reduces the amount of severe disease and death. We do not take lightly either the responsibility as Pastors and Deacons to provide spiritual nurture and care or the essential call as Christians to love and care for our neighbors as we love and care for ourselves. At this time, we feel that we can balance both of these in a way that moves us toward a new sense of community in this strange time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail any member of the Diaconate or the pastors. And once again, please know that we respect the decision-making process each of you will need to go through to determine your comfort with this opportunity. We know it is not easy because we have done it ourselves. You are in our prayers as we pray that we are in yours.

Ken Schiller, chair; Lee Coffield, Linda Derse, Helen Goss, Julie James, Muriel Magg, and Bob Porter, Deacons; Rev. Dr. Ruth Shaver, Interim Pastor; Gerry Tilton, Licensed Minister; Rev. John Hogue, called Pastor and Teacher



SCRIPTURES AND SERMON FOCUS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

August 16

Genesis 45:1-15

“Storms and Rainbows”

August 23

Romans 12:1-8

“Caterpillar into a Butterfly”

August 30

Romans 12:9-21

“Walk the Talk”

HUMOR CORNER

I'm reading a great book on anti-gravity.
I can't put it down!

A photon is going through airport security.
The TSA agent asks if he has any luggage.
The photon says, “No. I'm traveling light.”

Where was Solomon's temple located?
On the side of his head!



Did you know.....

August is the eighth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars, and the fifth of seven months to have a length of 31 days. It was originally named Sextilis in Latin because it was the sixth month in the original ten-month Roman calendar under Romulus in 753 BC, with March being the first month of the year. About 700 BC, it became the eighth month when January and February were added to the year before March by King Numa Pompilius, who also gave it 29 days. Julius Caesar added two days when he created the Julian calendar in 46 BC, giving it its modern length of 31 days. In 8 BC, it was renamed in honor of Augustus. According to a Senatus consultum quoted by Macrobius, he chose this month because it was the time of several of his great triumphs, including the conquest of Egypt.

In the Southern Hemisphere, August is the seasonal equivalent of February in the Northern Hemisphere.



- 8/2 Laura Jean Beeler
- 8/3 Patricia Johnston
- 8/8 Gilman Healy
- 8/14 Dudley Hall
- 8/14 Steve Cote
- 8/16 Erin Donabedian
- 8/19 Nichole Schiller Smith
- 8/20 Julie James
- 8/23 Dorothy Towle
- 8/24 Mike Davenport
- 8/29 Stephen Woodcock

- 8/4 Fred & Nichole Smith
- 8/6 Sean & Patricia McGrath
- 8/16 Daniel & Katrina Jones
- 8/26 Andy & Laura Jean Beeler

• • • • •
 • **The Third quarter** •
 • **Mission contributions are** •
 • **dedicated to the Veterans** •
 • • • • •

“To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides.”
 -David Viscott

Missions Committee Update
 Co-chairs for the Missions Committee for 2020-2021 (through the Annual Meeting) are Trina Jones and Laurel Ekberg.



Let us remember those who are not able to be out and about due to physical limitations or fragile immune systems.

Those with ongoing health concerns include **Dudley Hall and family, Janet Earnshaw, Audrey Vorperian, Arthur DeRosa, Don Waite, Linda Derse and Joan Santos.**

Agnes Birch, Liz George-Hussey, Cynthia Briggs, and Marilyn Elliot are at Merriman House, 3073 White Mountain Hwy, North Conway, 03860. **Peg Chisholm** is at Mountain View Nursing Home, 93 Water Village Rd., Ossipee, 03864. You can send cards to **Lynn Runne** at Bella Point, 70 Fairview Dr., Fryeburg, ME 04037.

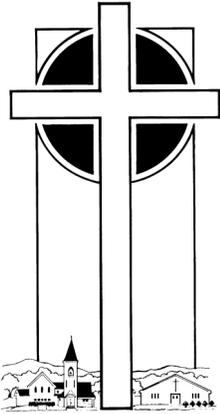
Please contact **Bonnie Tryder** or **Pastor John** in the church office with prayer concerns for the next month’s issue of The Congregate Tidings. You are welcome to ask for church greeting cards to be sent for celebrations, illness/recovery, grief, and general “thinking of you”/“pick me up” notes by contacting **Evelyn Porter**, the Coordinator of the Diaconate’s Ministry of Greeting. Call her at home, (603) 496-2314, or by e-mail at hambro35@yahoo.com.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
firstchurchnc.com

The Congregate Tidings
First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ
PO Box 401
N Conway, NH 03860-0401



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



TO:



Under the tent

FIRST CHURCH AND VAUGHAN STAFF

Pastor: Rev. John Hogue

Licensed Pastor: Gerry Tilton

Organist: Floyd W. Corson

Associate Organist: Muriel Magg

Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir Director:

Anne W. Polak

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper: Bonnie Tryder

Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins

Vaughan Learning Center Director:

Heather Ouellette

Vaughan Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton

Grounds Keeper: Ryan Tuttle

Sunday Worship Service/Sunday School

10 A.M.

Church Office and Vaughan Office (603)356-2324

E-mail address:

churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com

FAX Line number is: 356-7104 (24 hrs. a day)

firstchurchnc.com

Pastor's e-mail: pastor@firstchurchnc.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh