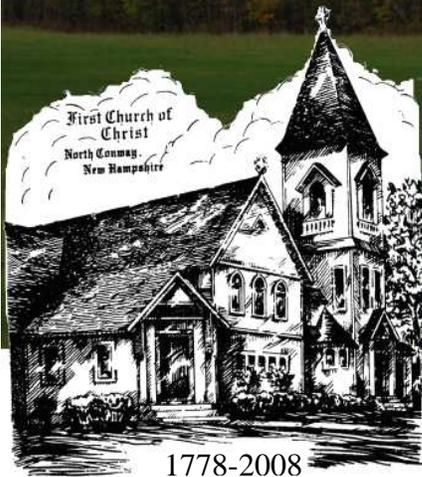
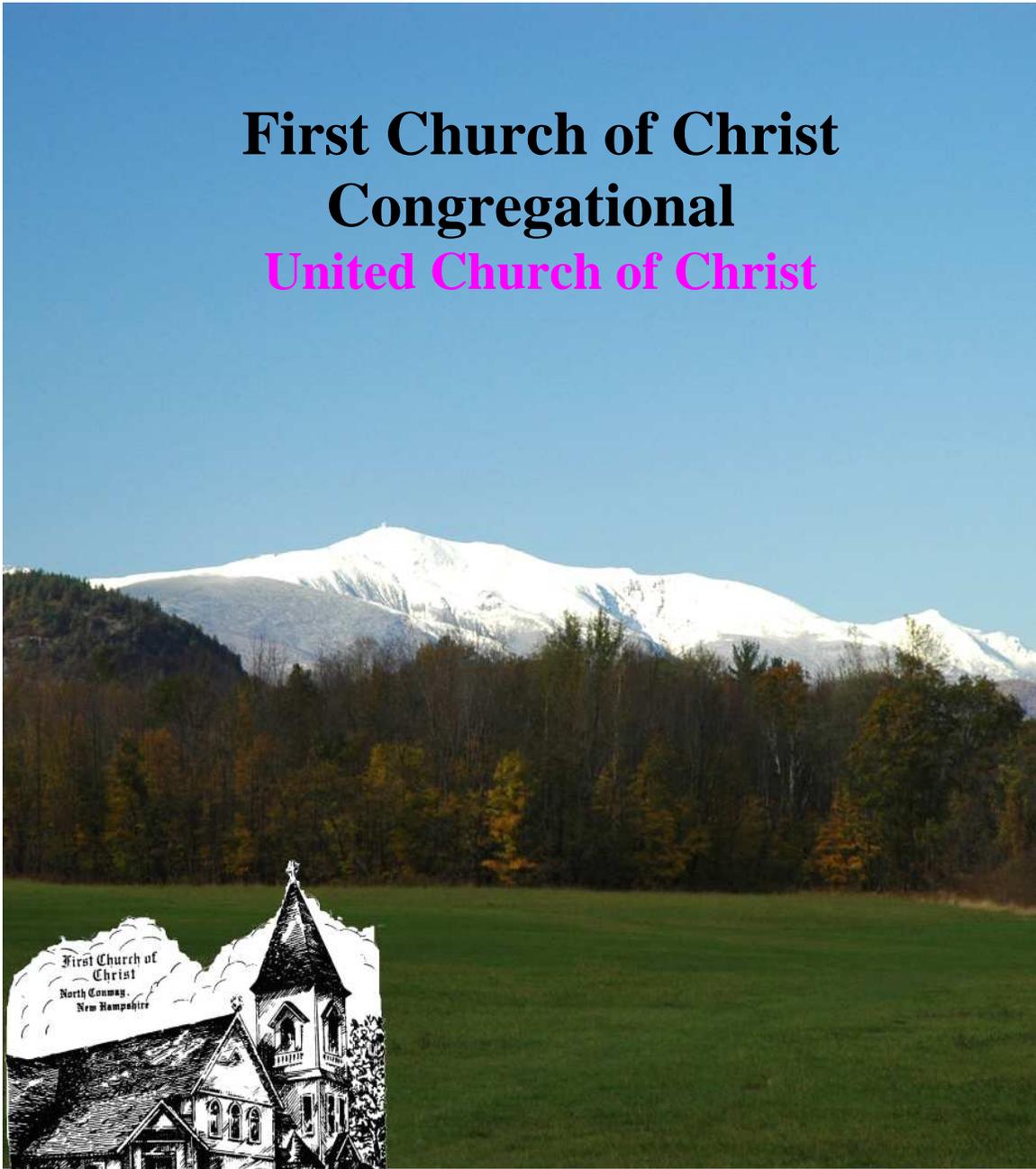


**First Church of Christ
Congregational
United Church of Christ**



2521 Main Street
North Conway
New Hampshire 03860



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Our Community

North Conway is a wonderful place to live. It is located in the heart of the Mt. Washington Valley, which is made up of 28 towns, and is known as a great year round vacation destination. The Village of North Conway is truly a community where many come to visit and end up making their home here! The population of the Town of Conway is just over 9,400 year round residents, which often swells to over 30,000 during the height of the tourist season.

There are many excellent four-season recreational experiences including golf, hiking, rock and ice climbing, mountain biking, camping, canoeing, swimming, hunting, fishing, skiing, skating and snow shoeing. These activities, in addition to retail shopping, attract many vacationers and second homeowners to our town. Additionally, there are many local cultural activities including, theater productions, musical concerts, and museums that help to broaden the small town feel of the area. Volunteer organizations sponsor major community events nearly every week.



www.thememorialhospital.org

www.gibsoncenter.org

The area school systems provide quality education K-12. In August of 2007 we saw the completion of the new Kennett High School, and in August of 2008 the completion of the Kennett Middle School renovations. Kennett High School is also home to the Mount Washington Valley Career & Technical Center. There are several non-public schools in the area. In addition, the community offers the opportunity for higher education at Granite State College (UNH affiliate), as well as being just a couple of hours away from the campuses of the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, and Southern Maine University. Programs through Head Start, Children Unlimited, and Northern Human Services also offer specialized services.

The Memorial Hospital, an accredited hospital, with medical and surgical care, outpatient, and emergency room service is located in North Conway. For an aging population we have the Merriman House, a division of the hospital, SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation and additional health services available within the town. Major medical centers are located in Portland, ME (Maine Medical Center), Lebanon, NH (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center) with others available in the state. The Gibson Center for Senior Services, Inc. is located in the center of North Conway.



www.kennett.k12.nh.us
www.northconwaynh.com
www.mtwashingtonvalley.org

Our Church

The history of our church goes back to 1765 when the first settlers braved the trip from the Portsmouth, NH area to Conway. These young men and women were farmers looking for fertile land and a place to call their own. The spirit of these settlers was shaped by their strong Pilgrim background. One of their first endeavors was to establish a Meeting House in Redstone used in the summer and when there was a visiting minister. The Meeting House was relocated to Center Conway and became known as the South Meeting House. In 1778, during the American Revolution, a group of eight people organized the Congregational Church and in 1782 established the North Meeting House on Main Street in North Conway. The church called Dr. Nathaniel Porter as its first minister and he served the Congregation until 1836.

With its growth North Conway was served by two railroads, home to several large hotels and an artist colony. Erastus B. Bigelow, the owner of a large summer home, now Stonehurst Manor, believed the village needed a larger church closer to its center of town where visitors and summer residents could walk to church. In 1884, the Bigelow carpet family provided financing to build the current structure in its current location in the Village of North Conway. The church has a seating capacity of just over 200.

The church building and grounds have seen many changes over the past 150 years. The first recorded deed dates from 1882 when George W. Pitman sold a strip of land between Main Street and the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad for \$1200 to the church. Since then additional land has been added. Early improvements included indoor plumbing and the basement under the church. Within the last 15 years the improvements include the application of vinyl siding, a fully equipped kitchen, refurbishment of the Sunday school classrooms, and other improvements to the building.

The church owns a landscaped park across the street which is enjoyed by the community. Within the park are a peace pole and a small memorial conducive to meditation while viewing Moat Mountain. Weather permitting Easter Sunrise Services are held in the park. It is truly a glorious setting for the celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning. We recently established a Memorial Garden behind the church.

In 1965, Dr. Clarence Vaughan established a trust that resulted in the Vaughan Community Service, Inc. to promote health and well being in the individual, the family and the community. The Vaughan programs are housed in the Reverence for Life Building built in 1972 with funds provided by Helen Whitney Gibson.

The church is not just buildings and grounds, but rather a congregation filled with young and old who embrace the spirit of the early settlers, but are not mired in the past. The congregation looks to the future with a determination to improve the understanding of God's word and make a difference through service to the community.



Our Congregation

Our open and friendly congregation at the First Church of Christ Congregational is a diverse mix of young and old, single and married, with our recent growth trending toward younger members and friends but with some attrition. We use the UCC Statement of Faith adapted in 1976 by R.V. Moss. Our worship service is structured in form but flexible in the order of worship. Members and friends are committed to maintaining the vitality of the church.

We seek a pastor who is energetic and will inspire with intellect, knowledge, compassion, and commitment. We look for an effective preacher/teacher who produces thought-provoking sermons based on topics related directly to contemporary life and presents varying sides of an issue in a message based on the Bible.

Our Sunday School has had significant growth in recent years. The program has expanded to include church family outings.

Adult Education is an integral part of the church. Members and friends benefit from participation in these well attended classes.

The goals of our church continue to be:

- *to provide spiritual guidance to our congregation*
- *to encourage the discipleship of new members*
- *to enhance our Christian Education*
- *to improve and expand our mission and community outreach*

We are confident that First Church of Christ Congregation will flourish with a strong pastoral leader who:

- *builds a sense of fellowship*
- *commits to Christian Education*
- *reaches out to others*
- *encourages people in their faith journey*

Our Local Outreach Program

The First Church of Christ has established an outreach program widely recognized and unmatched in the state, Vaughan Community Service, Inc. This program was established by the church in 1965 with a bequest of Dr. Clarence Vaughan for the purpose of alleviating unmet and under met health needs of the community. Since its inception, Vaughan has provided for a great number of health and human service needs. Some programs that began out of Vaughan and eventually branched off on their own include: Domestic Violence Program, Visiting Nurse Services, and Hospice. The North Conway Daycare remains a program of Vaughan. The Daycare serves children from 13 months to 12 years of age with a variety of programs to further the development and education of the children. Breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack are provided as part of the daily fee.

For many years now Vaughan has maintained a community food pantry and a free clothing depot. Assessment and referral services are offered to struggling families within the community.

Most recently Vaughan has opened programs for court ordered counseling, supervised visitation, and child health support. Services are available to individuals and families who, for a variety of reasons, are seeking counseling. The Visitation Program provides therapeutic, fully supervised and monitored visits as well as child exchanges between parents. The goal of this program is to assist parents and children in building safe and healthy relationships. The Child Health Support Program is designed to keep families together by helping them to improve their relationships and develop more effective parenting skills.



For more detailed information visit our website at: www.firstchurchnc.com



The Parsonage

The Parsonage is adjacent to the Church and is available for your residence. It is a 2 ½ story frame building, consisting of eight rooms, including 4 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, galley kitchen, and an enclosed front porch. There is a one car garage with ample lawn and garden areas.



Reverence for Life Building

Church Administration Offices
Pastor's Office
Vaughan Community Services Inc.
North Conway Day Care Center