

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ BRADFORD

GATHERED 1682



VISION & MISSION

FCCBRADFORD.ORG



VISION: OUR FOUR PILLARS

Our God-given vision here at FCC is *connecting God's inexhaustible grace to an exhausted world* through Jesus Christ!

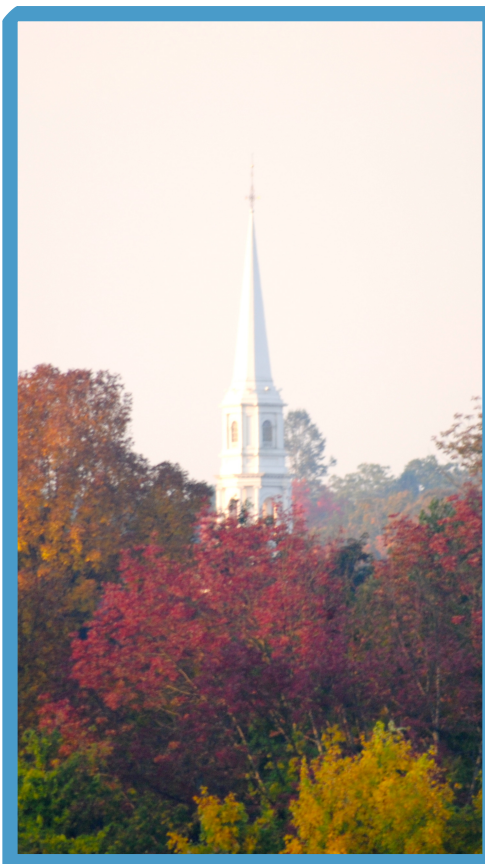
One way we put it in writing is OUR FOUR PILLARS. FCC exists to be:

I. ROOTED IN THE BIBLE - First Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, and holds as truth the doctrine of the Trinity: God as Father and Creator, Jesus as the Son and Savior, and the Holy Spirit as Guide and Comforter. We further acknowledge as kindred in Christ all who share this confession. We adhere to the Word of God in Scriptures and in the direction of the Holy Spirit to prosper our redemptive mission in the world.

II. CONNECTED TO THE PAST - We claim as our own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers.

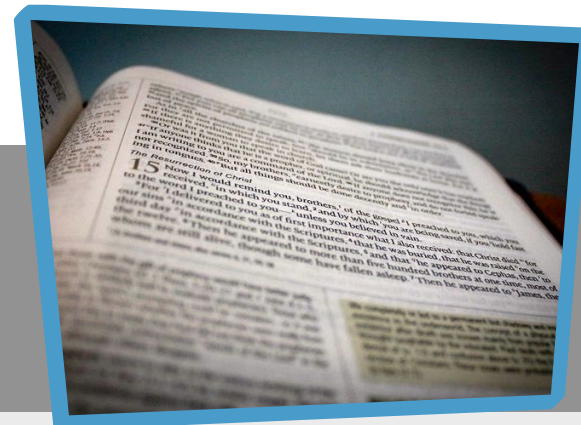
III. RELEVANT IN THE PRESENT - We accept the responsibility to make this faith our own in the reality of worship and in the expression of its mission and ministry locally and into the world. In accordance with the teachings of Jesus, we recognize two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. Our very existence is to serve God by providing all people an opportunity for Christian worship, education, fellowship, pastoral care and mission within the spirit of Christian love.

IV. HOPEFUL FOR THE FUTURE - As we continue to live by faith in the precious promises of God's Grace that are in Christ, we trust that the Lord will guide us as we move forward and bless our future, as He has our 300+ years past! Soli Deo Gloria! All Glory and Honor to our God, through His Son, Jesus Christ.



MISSION: OUR FOUR REACHES

THE *DOWN*-REACH



There it is...Man's deepest cry. "**Help Me, Lord**"!

The best news you will ever hear in your whole entire life is that God has **reached down** to do something about our deepest cry. This "good news" is called the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Here are the Bible basics on the **DOWN-reach**:

- ❖ God has created all things to bring Him glory.
- ❖ Humans are His prize work of art, made to worship & enjoy Him supremely. Intimately.
- ❖ We are good at dissin' Him. This is called sin. We are good at it and we all have a lot of it. Sin = Death.
- ❖ God **reached down**, by sending His Son, Jesus ... To die in our place, on the cross, for our sins ... And 3 days later, Jesus walked out of the grave - ALIVE!
- ❖ God speaks His two words of Law & Gospel!
- ❖ By faith in Jesus (His doing, dying & rising again) you will be forgiven all sin - given new life - brought back to God! FREE OF CHARGE, with no strings attached!
- ❖ "Tetelestai" (IT IS FINISHED!) is our anthem!

We were created to live life looking **upward** to God & outward to our fellow man. Worship of God and love for our neighbor. Sin ruined this external focus and has turned us all inward, 'navel-gazing' as it were, thinking all the time 'me first' or 'for my glory'.

But Jesus changes all that and renews in us a deep desire to joyfully **reach UP** to God...and out to our neighbor. Imagine having a new lease in life that is full of meaning, purpose & value that glorifies God and blesses others? A life worth living.

This is love to God, because He first loved us, and gave His Son for us! This is worship! This is the **UP-reach** of the redeemed!



THE **UP**-REACH

THE **IN**-REACH



Because we are a people dearly loved by God, we are given a renewed ability to love one another - to **reach in** to each others lives with grace and truth. "Our walk with God is a community project" (Paul Tripp). Broken people helping, encouraging & serving fellow broken people.

And this is not just a once a week **in-reach** into one another's lives ... This is a way of life. Since we spend more time outside the walls of our church building, and since a real church is people, not a structure, we will commit to being there for each other to help carry one another's burdens. Life is hard. Painful. And God has provided US to love each other in real, practical ways!

THE *OUT*-REACH



"Freely you have received, freely give" - Jesus

Our focus is not only inward, but also **outward**. We deeply desire to share with others what God has given us - and to do this in a non-judgmental way, that is filled with thoughtfulness, compassion, truth and grace. We love grace, because God is gracious toward us, we long to be likewise to others.

Our **OUT-reach** extends from historic missionary efforts (Adoniram & Anne [Haseltine] Judson) to the Bradford Food Pantry to the remote villages of Central America. From helping our neighbors in town, to total strangers across our nation's border. It is our joy to be a blessing to one another in our church, community & world!





UNDER OUR ROOF



Here are some of the weekly & upcoming ministries, outreaches and events :

WEEKLY

- ❖ **Worship Service** Sunday @ 10 AM
- ❖ **AA Meeting** (ongoing since 1945) & **Al-Anon**: Monday @ 7PM
- ❖ **AA Young Peoples Meeting** Wednesday @ 6:30 PM
- ❖ **Back N Forth** Bible Study, Discussion & Prayer -Tuesday @ 7 PM
- ❖ **OA Meeting**: Wednesday @ 7PM
- ❖ **Worship Rehearsal** Join our worship/praise team - Sunday @ 9:15 AM
- ❖ **Haverhill Arts Assn.** Workshops: 2nd & 4th Saturday's @ 9-NOON

UPCOMING

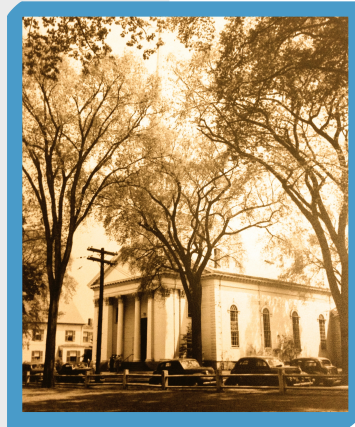
- ❖ **January** Annual Super-Bowl of Caring Outreach
- ❖ **February** Annual Valentine Road Race: @ 10AM | Annual Meeting Sunday
- ❖ **March** FCC Vision / Planning Day
- ❖ **March & December** Special Worship (Breakfast) Service @ 10 AM
- ❖ **April & October** Community Meals: Dinner outreach to the community 4PM
- ❖ **July & August** Bradford Common Summer Concert Series
- ❖ **September** Recycle Event (to support Haverhill Students)
- ❖ **November** Christmas Craft Fair: from 9-3
- ❖ Prayer-support Ministry: In our worship service, online, by appointment
- ❖ Support Sacred Hearts Food Pantry & Veteran's Home Outreach
- ❖ We host Bradford Christian Academy





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