

First Church and 333 years of community

"The opposite of poverty is not wealth, but community. In community, individuals become rich, rich in friends who can be trusted, rich in mutual help, rich in ideas and power, rich in the energies of solidarity."

— Jurgen Moltmann

How does architecture shape space, reinvent place and build community?

If ever there was an

iconic bit of stunning Romanesque Revival architecture at "town center" of Nashua, it is surely The First Church, Nashua, Congregational, United Church of Christ—named so at its completion in 1894 because it was the northern-most or "first" and only church you would see between Nashua and the Canadian border.

As its soaring bell

tower stands imposingly at the top of Library Hill, its monumental archways, and romantic-style turrets suggest another time. In fact, the unique asymmetry of this beautiful stone building has presided at the corner of Lowell and Concord Streets for 124 years. As stunning as it is, it represents something even more remarkable: 333 years of

deliberate, purposeful community sustained in nine previous locations by determined citizens who are themselves a study in community, across time and space.

The First Church will celebrate its 333rd anniversary at 6 p.m Friday at the Marriott Courtyard in Nashua.



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