



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

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THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .

WATCH FOR IT.....

Watch for it, it won't be long now.

You will see it, as sure as the sun rises each morning. That first little day lily, somehow—impossibly—poking up through the cold, hard ground.

The crocus, too. What color is it? How remarkable!

And then, that day when snow has melted, and the grass has been brown for a while, and after a bit of warm sun and a soft rain: sudden greening!

Spring comes.

And, too, Easter comes.

Every time life challenges us in a way from which we feel we might not quite recover, the Spirit has the ability to soothe, cajole, invite, and strengthen us into some new way of being. Are we open to this? It is not easy; our hearts can be as hardened as the cold winter earth, but the capacity is there. God will show us a way forward, will send holy ministrations our way, until we can blossom again.

As if our own challenges were not enough, then there is the brokenness in the world. Again, this can overwhelm us, make us want to never read a newspaper again. But did God not enter the pain of the world in order to show us the very way out of that pain? Every time we feel we cannot ever make a difference in this world, the Spirit has the ability to remind us that we are each gifted in ways that matter, and that no act of kindness is too small. We may even be encouraged to dare a BIG idea, a grand and generous gesture, as a bulwark against the suffering in our world. Are we open to this? It is not easy; our sense of our own smallness can be very large, but the capacity is there. God will show us a way forward, will send spiritual gifts and talents our way, so that we can help the world around us blossom, too.

Easter comes. Jesus has shown us that all that is wrong in the world will never have the last word. Let us trust God's Resurrection Love and Power.

As we sojourn through the weeks of Lent, may the earth soften and warm, and our hearts along with it. How remarkable, then, may the coming of Easter be for each heart!

Blossom!

Blessings and peace,
Mary

“They found the stone rolled away from the tomb....”

Luke 24: 2

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE

Gift Dhliwayo, a member of the Rufumiso Church and the deputy headmaster at the local high school, sent the following acknowledgement of the items received from the Sept 2014 shipping container which arrived in December.

Connie Littlefield

Re: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDES FOR DONATION

Dear Wakefield Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. We sincerely hope that you are physically and spiritually fit. Furthermore it is our hope that you had a merry Christmas and that this new year has brought you immeasurable vigour and greater spiritual and humanitarian determination.

Belatedly though, we UCCZ RUFUMISO hereby write to acknowledge receipt of a consignment of a wide variety of goods which included reading material, stationery, medical equipment, footwear and outfits/ garments for Sunday School, CYF, Ruwadzano and Men's Fellowship. We are extremely grateful for your all-weather support.

We distributed the items to all the needy people in and outside our Church and, undeniably. The beneficiaries found them (items) very valuable well- timed. Imagine people receiving donations two days before Christmas! Wonderful!

We cherish the partnership between UCCZ RUFUMISO and the great congregants of UCC Wakefield Church. Many thanks also to non- church members who extended a helping hand. May the Lord bless you profusely.

We run short of words. However let us hope that the Lord will add more years of life to our churches and help us realise our full potential. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Gift Dhliwayo (for Rufumiso secretary F. Sigauke)

For more information on articles you read in the Steeple Views, contact the editor at steepleviews@gmail.com or call the church office at 603-522-3915. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.



www.facebook.com/

FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC

A LIBRARY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

If you want to explore religious issues related to your personal or church life, www.religion-online.org is a great place to start. This website is maintained by the Claremont School of Theology in Southern California, a Methodist school that serves many denominations. The website contains over 6,000 full text articles and book chapters on topics that include the Bible, Theology, Ethics, History and Sociology of Religion, Communication and Cultural Studies, Pastoral Care, Counseling, Worship, Church Life, Missions and more. It is a theology school library at your fingertips!

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

CHURCH LEADERS REVIEW CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Team Synergy will meet following the worship service on Sunday, April 6, to evaluate our current church structure. Snacks will be provided. All officers, ministry coordinators and anyone involved with our church is welcome to attend. We will evaluate what we are doing --- What is working well? What should we change? Are there new ways to organize and call out others to share their gifts? Calling & Discernment Ministry members will lead this discussion which will provide valuable guidance for planning our 4th Ministry Fair in July. If you have suggestions or questions but cannot attend the meeting, please share them with Jan Fairchild, Coordinator, Calling & Discernment Ministry.

PARISH HELPERS MEETING—APRIL 10

All women of the Church and community are welcome to join the Parish Helpers! At the April 10 meeting, we welcome back Beryl Donovan, Gafney Library Director, who will talk about what's new in the world of books and the Gafney Library. Hope you'll join us at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RING HANDBELLS?

Have you ever thought about ringing in our fantastic bell choir? We are currently recruiting and training new ringers to fill positions and to act as substitutes. We can teach you to ring a bell if you have a basic knowledge of music. Being able to follow a music line, timing, and some notation is a must. We rehearse on Sunday evenings and commit to ringing for worship about once a month. Occasionally we are asked to ring for community events. Please see Jan Stanley or one of our ringers if you are interested in becoming a part of this dynamic music ministry.

Jan Stanley

TREASURER'S REPORT

PAIRS AND SPARES – WHO ARE THEY?

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2013 – Feb 28, 2014

Income:	\$ 93,679.13
Expenditures:	<u>\$ 95,960.80</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ (2,281.67)</u>

Restricted Funds balance as of Feb 28, 2014: \$2,850.89

Spring is here or so the calendar says. Perhaps it will feel like it by the time you read this issue of Steeple Views. February through the beginning of April is always a time of high expenditures. Along with the regular monthly bills, winter fuel bills continue, annual sprinkler system and elevator maintenance is done and it is also renewal time for the church insurance policies. Things usually turn much more positive for the budget after we get through this period.

All those numbers included in the Leadership Council Proposed Budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year can be quite confusing. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions about this. I would be glad to talk with you.

*Janice Brejwo, Treasurer
jbrejwo@roadrunner.com
fccwtreasurer@gmail.com*

INTENTIONAL GIVING – READY, SET, GO!!!

It's time – All members and friends who support the church through a “pledge” each year will be receiving their Intentional Giving Packet very soon. If you did not get one, but would like to make a regular financial commitment to the work of this church, please contact the church office at 522-3189. Members who are far away or vacationing: never fear! Your packet is on its way. In order to save postage, folks who attend church regularly will find theirs on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. Intentional Giving is a crucial part of our faith-in-action. Filling out your commitment card IS an act of worship! Take some time to sit and pray. Giving feels good. How are you inspired to generosity when it comes to your church? May the Holy Spirit guide and bless your discernment. On Sunday, April 27th we will dedicate our commitment cards. Questions or concerns? Please contact the church office and a member of the Stewardship Ministry will call you back.

*Carol Lundgren, Coordinator
Stewardship Ministry*

“Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Pairs and Spares Club began in the early 1950s at the suggestion of Dr. Frederick Alden, former head of the New Hampshire Congregational Conference, to meet the needs of the First Congregational and Union Congregations of Wakefield. Under the leadership of then Pastor Ernest Calvert, young couples formed a club and met in member's homes.

At a later time, older couples and singles were welcomed into the club. Thus, presently, there is no age, marital status or church affiliation restriction. There are now active members from the various area churches.

Today, members meet on the 2nd Wednesday evening of each month at the First Congregation Church of Wakefield. Members delight in a popular potluck supper followed by a time of fellowship. On occasion, an interesting program is offered. The Club collects \$1 per person, per supper in order to make moderate donations to the church and to other worthy local organizations.

Won't you join us for an evening of fellowship with new friends and old? For further information about the club, please call Elizabeth Fogg, 522-5116.

Please join **Pairs and Spares** on
Wednesday, April 9th at 6 PM in
the Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner
and slideshow presentation by
Ray Turmelle
on
The Himalayas and Nepal

Please bring a dish to share and your
own place setting and Cutlery. If you have
any questions please speak with Elizabeth Fogg.

ON-LINE FUND RAISING

Thank you to all who have donated items for our on-line fund-raising effort. Since July 2012, we've raised \$2,355.05. We've received all manner of items for sale, and all of it has helped. We've received items including a Jon boat, a canoe, a couch, several sets of dishes, a wrist watch, antique pewter, an iphone, a wireless dog containment system, trinkets, records, SHOES and more! But we're running out of things to sell. It would be wonderful if everyone could look through their unused possessions to consider what might sell well for our church. Please contact Margie Galabrun if you have any questions about this project, or if you would like to help with the actual selling. Let's keep this effort going, and THANK YOU all.

HIGHLIGHTING NEW MEMBERS

On March 9, we welcomed seven new members into our congregation. These are the first two interview in series "Get to Know Our New Members," by Titia Bozuwa.



We had the pleasure of having **Sharon and Skip Theiling** over for coffee after church on March 16.

In 1979, they bought a summer place on Great East Lake, which they moved into for a permanent residence in 1989. They came from Danvers, MA, where Skip had a machine shop and Sharon a bridal business.

They have three daughters (spread over Mass. and NH) and three grandchildren.

Skip likes snowmobiling in the winter and playing golf in the summer. Sharon enjoys painting, both in oil and watercolor, and has involved herself in the Gafney Library, where she is presently on the board of directors.

Their church lives started in different places. Earl was brought up Methodist and Sharon in the Catholic Church. When asked how they came to our church, they unanimously voiced their delight in the welcoming atmosphere, the excellent sermons by Rev. Mary, their appreciation of the shared prayer time, and the joy of seeing the children participate in the service.

We welcome Skip and Sharon wholeheartedly into our church family. Their gifts, energy and insights will contribute to the church's wellbeing.

For the Diaconate, Titia Bozuwa

Barry and Evelyn Truhn came to Wakefield from Long Island. In 2006 they bought a condo at Michawanic Village. They liked the country atmosphere so much; they sold their home in Long Island and decided to make a go of it here in 2009. Barry now works at Huggins Hospital.

What impressed me about this couple, listening to the sketch they gave me of their lives, was how they had stuck together through thick and thin. And there was a lot of "Thick," and many years of togetherness, being 18 and 17 years old, when they met.

They both worked in Manhattan. Barry did computer work at Chase Bank. Evelyn was administrative assistant to the president of a perfume company.

Evelyn was nine months pregnant when she was in a car accident. Their first baby lived only a few hours. They had four children after that tragic start. Evelyn enrolled in Nursing School after the next child was born, but that ambition was interrupted by the discovery of cancer in the form of a melanoma. She was 24 and pregnant at the time. She survived. After the fourth child was born, she went back to nursing school. But cancer struck again. This time it was breast cancer. Again she survived, and worked for a total of ten years she as a peri-natal nurse.

Through these years of trauma Barry ran the household for the most part, while holding down a job in Manhattan. Fate wasn't done with them yet. Their youngest son, at the age of 13, was found to have a brain tumor. He survived as well and is now 23.

Their stories gave a strong impression of a family that pulled together in the face of adversity. Their faith is deep. Brought up Catholic, they looked around in this area to see in which church they would fit best. We are grateful they decided to join our Church.



Celebrations!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Rob Nelson	15 Ginny Schweitzer
4 Karen Hagy	17 Aimee Ball
4 Jean Lloyd	19 Jo Szirbik
4 Julia McCarthy	20 Susan Jacobson
7 David Albro	20 Raenya Morann
7 Barbara Burkham	21 Amanda Boggs
10 Kristin Galabrun	23 Ciera Rose Dee
11 Michael Crew	23 Natalee Royle
11 Michael Weeks	24 Ann Eaton
12 Darlene Clements	24 Molly James
13 Persis Hildebrandt	26 Sarah Kinville
14 Agnes Carlson	28 Dawson Cotreau
14 Elizabeth Heinlein	28 Madison Cotreau
14 Dorcas Knight	28 Del Littlefield
14 Adam Szirbik	29 Lauree Royle

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

5 Rick & Cindy Denver
15 Bill & Susie Goodwin (1978)
15 Anders & Nancy Jacobson
22 Carol & Rob Lundgren
23 Scott & Nicky Mercer
25 Nathan & Debbie Fogg
28 Frank & Pam Frazier

A service of thanksgiving in celebration of the life of dear Florence Morrison will be held at our church on Saturday, May 10th, at 11 a.m. Our condolences and love continue to go out to Ed, all of Ed and Florence's family members, and Florence's many friends. We anticipate a beautiful service in her honor and memory.

A Note of Thanks - A BIG thank you to all those who were so kind and thoughtful sending us cards, telephone calls and bringing food during Florence's illness. Since we joined FCCW in 1999 we have been made very welcome and are grateful for having come to Wakefield. We made many friends and have sweet memories. What more could anyone ask for? Florence will be remembered for her loving smile and kind words for everyone she met. Again, a big thank you to all.

With love, Ed Morrison



FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Paul T.	David M.
Dot R.	Curt C.
Jo W.	Marcia
Julia W.	Penny C.
Tom and Barbara T.	Wesley H.
George B.	Serena H.
Art W.	Ryan R.
Cathy K.	Harold
Mackenzie M.	Ed M.
Beth M.	Paul and Agnes C.

And for:

Our global neighbors in places where there is great strife.

Our servicemen and women

Our friends in Rufumiso, Zimbabwe

Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement Communities in our area

PARISH HELPERS DEVOTIONS

The Parish Helpers meeting for March 13 was cancelled due to weather. The devotions Jan Fairchild was to share at that meeting are now shared here—in memory of Florence Morrison.

Florence loved Parish Helpers and her presence lighted up our meetings. As I remember and treasure her, her positive, constant sense of Gratitude are palpable for me. I have selected the following excerpts from “Gratitude: Affirming the Good Things in Life” by Melody Beattie --
- I invite you to hear Florence's voice in these words and thoughts!

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. Gratitude makes things right. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. It turns problems into gifts, failures into successes, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. It can turn existence into a real life, and disconnected situations into important and beneficial lessons. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. Gratitude turns negative energy into positive energy. We can start with who we are and what we have today, apply gratitude, then let it work its magic. Say “thank you” for all things -- and expect good things.”

APRIL 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
			Deacons Meeting 4:00	Scrabble 10 a.m. Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	Carroll-Strafford Association Spring Meeting Potluck at Community Church of Durham 6 p.m.	
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
LOFT—8:45 Worship And Holy Communion 10 a.m. Team Synergy Meeting 11:15 Bells Practice - 6 p.m.	Choir 6 p.m.	Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	Parish Helpers— 1 p.m. Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.		
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
PALM SUNDAY Family Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bells Practice 6 p.m.	Choir 6 p.m.	Bible Study 12 noon		MAUNDY THURSDAY Service of Tenebrae 7 p.m.	GOOD FRIDAY Ecumenical Service At St. John the Baptist Time TBA	HOLY SATURDAY
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
EASTER SUNDAY Worship and Church School— 10 a.m.	Choir 6 p.m.			Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.		
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>			
Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bell Practice 6 p.m.	Choir 6 p.m.	Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.				

CALLING ALL MINISTRY & TEAM LEADERS!

SERVICE AUCTION

Please save the date on April 19, 2014. We will start at 9:30 a.m. until it is completed. Time to gather together and clean out the closet (umpalumpa or gnome whichever you prefer to call it) in the Parish Helpers room. It has become a hazard and a jumble of items that need to be cleared out and organized. Many of the ministries have items stored in there, so we truly need your help in determining what stays and what goes. I wouldn't want to have something taken to the dump that is useful to your ministry and should be saved. If you have any questions please talk with Ann Bilodeau, Building & Grounds Ministry.

CIRCLE 228

Refreshed with Tulips (goodbye Snowmen!) Down in Fellowship Hall, Circle 228 boards have a fresh Spring-like look. Please stop by and consider taking a tag to provide something for church that is easy and helpful – paper towels, Kleenex, dish detergent, a ream of paper, a friendly visit, volunteer as a church school helper, gift cards to Staples, Rite-Aide, gasoline and much more. 228 represents how many years we have been a settled church. This small way of “encircling” needs is a wonderful way to support your church.

Our fabulous SERVICE AUCTION is set to return on Saturday, June 28th at 6:30 p.m. Members of the Z Team will be calling or emailing you to ask you to consider donating a service. Many times people have felt they didn't have a service to give but we know our congregation is loaded with talent – cooking, providing needed handyman/handywoman services, hosting a fun and relaxing evening with appetizers and beverage, and other creative ideas. In past year we have enjoyed scrumptious dinners – in home or to go, boat rides, car and motorcycle rides, carpentry/yard work, a garlic garden, sinfully delicious baked goods, beautifully hand-crafted photo albums and Red Sox tickets!

We hope to compile as many services as possible. We then encourage members and friends to attend the auction and bid on the array of items. Donors and recipients have a year to collect on the service. The Z Team will have delicious refreshments on hand.

Proceeds will be used to purchase building supplies for the three work camps during our trip in August. Questions? Call Connie at 340-2116, Ann at 387-4588 or Cathy at 522-8489.

HYMNAL DRIVE

The Diaconate and Music Ministry have been asked by Rev. Mary to explore the addition of New Century Hymnals to our pews. We often use selections from this hymnal as bulletin inserts, by permission, in our worship services. It was agreed that it may be time to update our congregational hymn singing with this versatile hymnal. We are hoping that you will consider dedicating a hymnal(s) in “memory of” or in “honor of” a loved one. This is a lovely, yet simple, way to have your loved ones remembered throughout and among our congregation. The cost of one hymnal would be \$17.

The new hymnals will not replace our old favorites, the red and the blue hymnals, but will supplement the hymn selections with more recent Christian music. The form below may be completed and returned to Janice Stanley or to the church office.

Please submit this form with payment. Checks should be made out to the church.

I wish to donate _____ (number of copies) at \$17 each for a total of \$ _____
This hymnal will be dedicated as follows (please print):

In **honor of** _____

In **memory of** _____

By (your name) _____



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD, PO BOX 809
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**SEE CALENDAR PAGE
FOR
HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP SERVICES**

APRIL LECTIONARY

Sunday, April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10



Sunday, April 13 Palm/Passion Sunday

Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66 or
Matthew 27:11-54

Sunday, April 27 Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Priority items for 2014 Shipping Container to Zimbabwe

FOR THE CONFERENCE OFFICES AND SCHOOLS:

- desk top computers, laptops
- printers and ink cartridges
- Office Jet 920XL cartridge black
- copy paper, box files

FOR THE HOSPITALS:

- Hearing aids with batteries
- Pain relievers - ibuprofen, aspirin
- gauze bandages, antibiotic ointment
- anti diarrhea medication
- cough/cold medication, Vaporub
- vitamins (children and adult)
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap
- sanitary pads, petroleum jelly

FOR THE SCHOOLS:

- student notebooks
- library books
- textbooks (math, science, reading)
- office supplies; stationary, envelopes
- pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners
- rulers, chalk
- art supplies
- musical instruments
- tote bags for teachers
- Playground toys: i.e., soccer balls, basketballs, jump ropes, volleyballs
- Athletic uniforms and equipment
(High demand for soccer jerseys, bibs, athletic footwear, socks, sports towels, uniform bags, and equipment for soccer, baseball, track, basketball, and volleyball.)

FOOD:

- Peanut Butter, Shelf stable milk
- Infant formula; Protein and vitamin powder (mixes with water)

TOOLS:

- saws (hand saws or electric)
- nails, any size or variety
- screws, any size or variety
- planes for carpentry
- sandpaper and blocks, clamps
- basic tools (hammer, crowbar, screwdrivers, etc.)
- tools for electrical or plumbing

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Bedding (sheets & blankets)
- Reading glasses and sunglasses
- adult bicycles
- basic books for cooking and sewing
- basic portable sewing machine
- sewing supplies - fabric, zippers, buttons, thread, and sewing patterns for dresses, skirts (ladies, girls) and shorts (boys)
- adaptor plugs and voltage converters
- door knobs, locks
- solar powered lights
- GENERATORS - HIGH DEMAND!

CLOTHING:

- Gently worn clothing for children and infants
- sneakers and shoes in great condition
- rain coats, windbreakers, fleece,
- medium weight jackets
- sweaters, jerseys
- socks for males, females, kids
- new underwear for children and adults
- bras, new or gently worn
- men's suits, shirts, ties

CLERGY

- clergy gowns and shirts
- Theological books
- Bible Commentaries

All items should be securely boxed and all boxes labeled.