

STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



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THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .

NEIGHORLY WAYS

Now that we can reasonably expect, on balance, a good number of warm and pleasant days, let us step out into God's gorgeous outdoors and experience the joy of a bit of sun on our faces. How we appreciate the advent of green and blossom, of birdsong and warm breezes! On some of our coldest Sundays this past winter, we noted that the weather affected attendance greatly. At times, folks just did not want to go outside. All too often, we stay inside much of winter, missing opportunities to simply be with one another. Now is our chance to get out and greet one another without freezing, slipping, or shoveling through snow to do it!

We can sometimes bring this "indoors" attitude to church with us. Drawn to worship for a time of peace and nurture, contemplation and quiet—maybe a little time in our heads and hearts just with God—we can come in wanting to be left to ourselves. There is nothing wrong with that; we all need to draw inward at times and such personal quiet time is essential to our spiritual health. Yet, if we find ourselves looking around the sanctuary and not knowing the names of a number of the people around us, perhaps we are overdoing the interiority just a bit. Worship on Sunday morning is a community experience, and if we find we aren't meeting new people and chatting with them, we may be missing some wonderful opportunities to get to know fellow congregants and visitors.

Jesus often sought to invite people across barriers to get to know one another. He mingled with all kinds of people and was often criticized for spending time with the "wrong" people. With the parable of the Good Samaritan, he taught that our "neighbor" is not only the person we know and with whom we are comfortable, it is also that person we consider the stranger, the "other," and even the enemy. This is a very challenging definition of "neighbor," but it is the one Jesus calls us to work with and live by.

Spring's beauty calls us outdoors, and God's love calls us "outdoors" in another way: let us regularly get outside of ourselves when we are inside the church. Whether a long-time member, a new member, or an old or new friend of the church, look around on Sunday. Are there folks you don't know? Dare to step up and introduce yourself, and see where the Holy Spirit takes the conversation!

Blessings and peace,
Mary

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10: 29

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2013 – Mar 31, 2014

Income:	\$104,161.24
Expenditures:	<u>\$110,348.59</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (6,187.35)

Restricted Funds balance as of Mar 31, 2014: \$2,582.89

The net loss number as of March 31 looks rather bleak. It really is not as bad as it appears. Our unexpended funds from previous years are carrying us through. This is why it is always nice to have a little extra money in the checkbook. As I said last month, this is the roughest time of year for church finances. Income should catch up to expenses during May and June.

I have often mentioned how our church depends on the caring volunteers who watch out for it. Recently, a broken sump pump pipe was discovered. A special thanks to Charlie Bilodeau and his trusty helper, Ann, for not only cleaning up a big mess (the water found its way into the nursery room), but also replacing the pipe. They solved the problem and saved us the cost of a plumber (being Treasurer, you knew I was going to love that!) Special kudos to all our volunteers who roll up their sleeves and pitch in whenever they are needed.

Janice Brejwo, Treasurer
jbrejwo@roadrunner.com

FROM THE EDITOR:

This issue marks the 6th anniversary of the Steeple Views being published online and via email!

You may have noticed that the lectionary is not included in this issue. For those of you who may want to refer to the lectionary readings, go to <http://www.macucc.org/pages/detail/2206>.

Lastly, there will not be a June issue. The Editor will be away and unable to publish it. News and information about current events can be found in the weekly church bulletin, by weekly email, and on our Facebook page.

Carol Jeffery

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](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC)

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC will be held on Sunday, June 8, following the Worship Service.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to keep our beautiful sanctuary clean.. It is vacuumed and dusted once a week by a wonderful group of people but they are in need of more help. Please think and pray about this ministry and offer your help. Frank Frazier has been setting up the weekly schedule, so let him know if you can help. You could also email the office and it will be passed on to Frank. Thanks for considering this.

Ann Bilodeau,
Buildings & Grounds Coordinator.

CONVERSATION: SPIRITUAL GIFTS & DISCERNMENT

Join us following worship on Sunday, May 18, for a discussion of spiritual gift inventories. You may have recently learned about spiritual gifts and completed your inventory or you may have done an inventory 3 or 4 years ago. Come and talk about how careful consideration of your gifts can help you decide how best to contribute to the church community life. Please bring your completed inventory. Inventories are available from Jan Fairchild, who will lead this discussion.

Jan Fairchild

TREASURER & ASSISTANT TREASURER

We are looking for people to fill two important offices for our church: Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Janice Brejwo and Pam Frazier have provided faithful service in these offices and they have made valuable changes in fulfilling their responsibilities. We are grateful for their clear descriptions of their respective jobs. These descriptions are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please review the responsibilities of these two offices and consider the question, "Do my gifts match these Offices?" Share your thoughts with Jan Fairchild, George Ackerman, Donna Ackerman or Mary James.

Jan Fairchild

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

All churches within the Carroll – Strafford Association are invited to attend an Association Council which will examine Celeste McQuarrie as a candidate for ordained ministry. This examination involves participants reading Celeste's written views regarding theology and church ministry, as well as an opportunity to ask questions as she journeys along the path to ordination. This gathering will take place on Sunday, May 18th at the First Congregational Church in Rochester at 3:00 p.m.

Connie Littlefield

Z TEAM NEWS

Members of the Z Team have been busy sorting and packing your very generous donation to the shipping container! We will load boxes on Friday, May 23 and will meet at Spaulding High School on Saturday morning, May 24th. If you have a truck or a large vehicle we would LOVE to have you join the caravan. No worries about lifting. We generally have plenty of help in that department. Please let a member of the Z Team know if you are available to assist!

We have added another traveler to our end of July trip! Sarah Keith, a student at Keene State College and friend of Maggie Mason, is our 5th member. Our Zim partners are delighted that three youth will be accompanying Ann and me.

I received an email from Gift Dhliwayo, the deputy headmaster at Goko Secondary School and member of the Rufumiso congregation. He writes: "Greetings in the name of the Almighty Jesus Christ, Amen. I hope you and the rest of the church members are doing well. Our pastor, the high deaconess, and the rest of the church congregants are very thankful for your unwavering spiritual, moral, and material support. May the Lord abundantly bless all who work tirelessly to put items together for the container. Blessed is the hand that giveth. We hope you are having peaceful, spiritually refreshing and revitalizing Easter holidays. We eagerly await your arrival in August. God bless, Gift."

We are edging closer to our goal of \$6,800.00 for the borehole at Dzika and have reached approx \$5,525.00. Students at the Maple Street School in Rochester recently held a "mini decathlon" and saved pennies to donate to the water project.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the **SERVICE AUCTION on Saturday, June 28th**. A Z Team member should be in touch with you soon! This is always great fun with wonderful items to bid on and delicious desserts to enjoy. All money raised will go toward purchasing supplies for the three Zimbabwe work camps we will be doing in August.

Connie Littlefield

SHEPHERD PROGRAM

Our Shepherd Program is always looking for drivers who are willing and able to transport people to medical appointment who cannot drive themselves. If this ministry appeals to you, please contact Rachel White or Margie Galabrun. We would be happy to offer you more information.



Put on Your Sneakers for Dzika! The Decathlon team participated to raise money for the borehole at Dzika, Zimbabwe on March 30 at Spaulding High School.

FOURTH ANNUAL MINISTRY FAIR SUNDAY, JUNE 22

The Worship Service on June 22 will be a specially created Ministry Fair. Officers and Ministry Coordinators will present information about their activities. More information is forthcoming. Please save this date and plan to attend!

Jan Fairchild

GARDEN PARTY DISCUSSIONS

Rev. Mary and I have been thinking... How would you like to attend a series of garden discussions over the summer? We're not quite sure if they would be in one location, or if they would move around among hosts. This will likely be determined by the people who wish to participate. Please let me know of your interest and we'll begin planning. As always, our events are open to all.

Margie Galabrun 522-6647

PARISH HELPERS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

May 8 is the date for the Annual Luncheon of the Parish Helpers. This year's luncheon will be held at the Wakefield Inn at 12 noon. Please let Ginny Schweitzer know if you will be able to attend. You can call her at 522-9593. Hope you'll join us!

Our annual raffle quilt will be unveiled at the luncheon! We'll also be looking for sign ups to help sell Raffle Tickets at Pride Day. It's also time to look ahead to cleaning the Treasure Shop. A busy summer season is coming soon!

As always—all women of the church and community are welcome as guests or to join the Parish Helpers!

Carol Jeffery

NEW MEMBER SUE LYNN



Sue and her husband Marvin Gruelle bought a condo at Michawanic Village twenty-two years ago. They both worked for airlines; Marvin as a pilot (he was a fighter pilot in the Korean War), and Sue worked in the office of, among others, the Trump Shuttle. She was the in-house travel manager. This necessitated living in various places, like Cincinnati and New York, but they always came back to Wakefield; for weekends at first and for retirement later.

Sue was born and raised on Long Island. She attended the Lutheran Church where her mother was the secretary. As a teenager she worked summers at the Chase Manhattan Bank, her father's place of work.

Among them Marvin and Sue had four children, who are now all married and living spread out over NH, Penn and Taiwan. Sue is called OMA by her grandchildren, because of her German/Swedish ancestry.

The last three years have been very trying for Sue and Marvin. Sue was diagnosed with ovarian cancer on 2010. She spent much time driving back and forth to the Norris Cotton Cancer Center in Hanover for, thankfully, successful treatments. Then, in October 2013, Marvin died of pancreatic cancer.

Over the years they lived here, Sue was looking to find a "church home." She said it was the warm atmosphere and the hospitable attitude she found in our church that influenced her to become a member.

We wholeheartedly welcome you in our midst, Sue!

*For the Diaconate,
Titia Bozjova*

FELLOWSHIP CAFÉ

Please remember to pick up a package of Fair Trade, Organic Coffee or Tea from the Fellowship Café. We mark the product up very little, so it's the best pricing you're going to find for this high quality product. Your purchase is also helping people in many parts of the world form small cooperatives and provide a better livelihood for their families. And because Equal Exchange is partnered with the United Church of Christ, small farmers in the US benefit as well. IT'S ALL GOOD. Want more information, please pick a brochure from the Café, or ask Margie Galabrun or Linda Petkunas.

Margie Galabrun

NEEDED: COFFEE HOUR COORDINATORS

Rachel White did a splendid job of coordinating our twice monthly coffee hours from January through April. Her regular assistants included Janet Twombly, Sharon and Skip Theiling. Others have contributed delicious snacks and assistance. Coffee hour hospitality provides invaluable times for visiting with old and new friends. We are looking for a volunteer(s) to organize coffee hours from May-August. Are you available to do this for one coffee hour, one month or more? Please contact Rachel White or Jan Fairchild if you have questions or if you wish to volunteer.

Jan Fairchild

WAKEFIELD CITIZENS OF THE YEAR



Dave and Ginny Schweitzer have been named the Wakefield, New Hampshire 2014 Citizens of the Year!

Congratulations to two very deserving individuals. Thank you for all you do for our church and for the community of Wakefield!

Celebrations!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 Sarah Connell | 14 Scott Frothingham |
| 5 Emma Dolbear | 17 George Ackerman Jr. |
| 7 Jane Ostrye | 17 Bridgette Gehring |
| 8 Scott Mercer | 18 Lance MacLean |
| 9 Maurice Hatch | 19 Cindy Eggleston |
| 10 Sophia Moran | 21 Mim Sargent |
| 11 Sharon Baldwin | 22 Peg Bridges |
| 11 Patricia Martin | 23 Marc Galabrun |
| 11 Wayne Robinson | 23 Lynn Shaffer |
| 13 Nicholas Gatchell | 29 Scott Twombly |
| 13 Dot Roberts | 31 Brittany Frothingham |
| 14 Elizabeth Fogg | |

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Nicholas Legere | 15 Adam Koukal |
| 6 Sienna Canney | 16 Frank Frazier |
| 7 David Coutreau | 16 Cathy Koukal |
| 7 Pam Frazier | 16 Julie Leyare |
| 7 Donna McDougal | 17 Janet Carr |
| 8 Chuck Dolbear Jr. | 19 Lorrie Hughes |
| 9 Kevin Connell | 19 Lois Royal |
| 9 Carol Lundgren | 21 Connie Littlefield |
| 11 Steve Michalsky | 22 Jean Ball |
| 13 Joseph Cawlina | 25 Kaylee Fogg |
| 14 Josie Perkins | 25 Ron White |
| 14 Paul Steer | 27 Morgan Haag |
| 14 Erin Perkins | 28 Louise Wheeler |
| 15 Hunter Roberts | 30 Seth Fogg |
| 15 Gina Golden | |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 1 Sid & Ginny Silcocks (1948) |
| 13 Charlie & Ann Bilodeau |
| 18 David & Gisela Haag |
| 24 Chip & Karen Hagy |
| 29 Rob & Kelly Druge |
| 31 Dick & Harriet Wilson |

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Mary & Bob James (1979) |
| 4 Paul & Janet Twombly |
| 5 Ryan & Martha Jo McCarthy (1993) |
| 8 Curtis & Janet Carr (1957) |
| 9 Chris & Titia Bozuwa (1956) |
| 12 Jack & Marie Hebb (1952) |
| 15 Phil & Connie Twombly |
| 20 George & Donna Ackerman |
| 21 Maurice & Ann Hatch (1958) |
| 21 Wayne & Lisa Robinson |
| 23 George & Marion Blomster |
| 26 Sid & Susan Girardin |
| 26 Ken & Carol Jeffery (1976) |
| 26 Parker & Donna Vanderhoof (1954) |
| 27 Bruce & Judy Levis (1953) |
| 28 Jim & Lucille Pirie |
| 29 David & Jan Fairchild |

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



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

MAY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Scrabble 10 a.m. Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	2	3
4 Worship And Holy Communion 10 a.m. Congregational Meeting Bells Practice - 6 p.m.	5 Choir 6 p.m.	6	7 Deacons Meeting 4:00	8 Parish Helpers Luncheon 12 noon Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	9	10 Memorial Service for Florence Morrison 11 a.m.
11 Family Sunday Worship 10 a.m. MOTHER'S DAY Coffee Hour	12 Choir 6 p.m.	13 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon Leadership Council 6 p.m.	14 Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	15 Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	16	17 Wakefield Pride Day
18 Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Conversation of Spiritual Gifts Bell Practice 6 p.m.	19 Choir 6 p.m.	20 Bible Study 12 noon	21	22 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	23	24
25 Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bell Practice 6 p.m.	26 MEMORIAL DAY Choir 6 p.m.	27 Bible Study 12 noon	28	29 Community String Band Beg— 6 p.m. Mixed—7 p.m.	30	31

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Circle 228 – Stop by the tulip covered posters in Fellowship Hall and consider something you would like to give to the church from suggestions in the left Circle and take a tag. Or make a tag of your own if you know of something your church needs. Then sign the tag with a value of your item and pin it to the right hand board (heart shaped) once you have made your purchase. Reams of paper, gift certificates to Staples, Rite Aid, Hannaford, cleaning supplies, detergent, \$ for music or \$ for repairs, volunteer for Church school teacher or aide, volunteer for visitation ministry, Good Shepherd rides – all welcome!

Liberty's Education – thank you so much to all in the congregation and church school children who faithfully drop coins into the Liberty Education Fund jug in the Narthex. Liberty sent us a tender letter. Here is a quote: "Dear Friends: I write this letter appreciating all the help you give me. I am now in secondary school doing Form One. I never knew that I was going to be in secondary school. Your kindness has raised me to a greater excellence. ...God Bless you all. Your loving friend, Liberty."

*Carol Lundgren,
Stewardship Ministry Coordinator*

RELAY FOR LIFE

June 21, 2014 is the date for this year's Relay For Life of Lake Winnepesaukee. If you have never attended this event, why not come this year? It is filled with opportunities to meet lots of people in the area who have been touched by cancer, and are determined to **"Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back!"** It opens at 2 p.m. with a short introduction, followed immediately by the Survivor Lap, walkers are then invited to share in a "Survivor Reception". We offer a nice lunch, and no one goes home empty-handed! Come for dinner, there are always lots of choices. 9 p.m. brings the luminaria ceremony, a quiet time of remembrance, walking around the track lined with lit luminaria bags decorated with the names and pictures of loved ones lost to cancer. Tissues are a necessity. It brings home exactly why we do this. Luminarias will be available at coffee hours in May and June. Thank you.

Nancy Dee

Intentional Giving

We can do it! You are doing it! Whether you are a member of FCCW or a faithful friend, your generosity when making a pledge through intentional giving supports the work of the church as no other gift can. The promises that we make, together in this time, become the very foundation of church life and ministries for the year that begins July 1. Our Budget Team, along with Stewardship, waits. If you have made an I. G. promise already, we thank you most sincerely with joy and appreciation. If you have not yet returned your I.G. card, please kindly do so now. In this way, all of us together, declare our collective support for the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, our beloved staff and important ministries. Oh yes, and we can keep the lights and heat on, insurances paid, copier humming, ink in the printer and reach out carrying Christ's message of love to all people.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD, UCC

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015
Intentional Giving Commitment

My/Our annual Intentional Giving Commitment is \$ _____ .

To be given: Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

___ Check here if you would like offering envelopes.

You may place your Commitment Card in the offering plate or mail to:
First Congregational Church, Attn: Assistant Treasurer, PO Box 809, Sanbornville, NH 03872



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD, PO BOX 809
SANBORNVILLE, NH 03872



ANNUAL
MEETING
JUNE 8

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

May 4: Following Sunday Worship — Congregational Meeting: Parsonage Fund
May 8: Parish Helpers Luncheon, 12 noon
May 10: Memorial Service for Florence Morrison — 11 a.m.
May 11: Special Celebration Sunday for Dedication of New Hymnals/ Family Sunday; Mother's Day
May 13: Leadership Council—6 p.m.
May 14: Dinner at Methodist Church, 6 p.m.; Discussion on finding solutions for local poverty
May 17: Pride Day; Rev. Mutsumbei's graduation from Andover Newton Theological Seminary
May 18: Following Sunday worship—Conversation: Spiritual Gifts and Discernment
May 18: Ecclesiastical Council for ministerial candidate Celeste McQuarrie at Rochester UCC Church, p.m.
May 22: Prayer Shawl Ministry — 10 a.m.

June 8: Annual Meeting following Sunday Worship
June 12: Parish Helpers Meeting — 1 p.m.
June 21: Relay for Life—2 p.m.
June 22: 4th Annual Ministry Fair — 10 a.m.
June 26: Prayer Shawl Ministry—10 a.m.
June 28: Z Team Service Auction — 6 :30 p.m.

Ongoing: Tuesdays at Noon: Bible Study (Except May 6)
Thursdays at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.: Community String Band

