

# STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION*



REVEREND MARY A. JAMES, PASTOR

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS

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## ***THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .***

### **A PRAYER DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

Holy God, who comes to us in the form of an infant, guide us, we pray.  
in this season we have entered, slow our pace.

Where we soldier on to shop for that which we and our loved ones really do not need,  
help us instead to seek your Sabbath.

Where we grumble about cold and snow and early darkness,  
help us instead to gaze in awe at your ancient starlight, crisply twinkling in the sky of the long night;  
to notice the dazzle of light on snow; to appreciate the necessity of darkness for rest, and for rejuvenating  
forms of sleep and growth.

Where we fill the calendar's pages with relentless tasks, projects, and meetings,  
help us instead to make time to listen to one another's stories, and yours.

Where we swear we won't overload this year but don't make the changes needed to avoid doing so,  
help us to sweep our calendars clean and open, with time for wonder and sharing.

Where we too soon leap to Christmas,  
help us instead to learn to wait for you, to listen for the signs of your coming.

Where we are about to come to Christmas exhausted (again), saying we are glad it's almost over,  
help us carry your infant self in our hearts, soothed by this truth:  
despite our frailties, you came to us, and you yet still do.

Blessings as you wait on the Lord during Advent.  
Blessings as you come to Christmas, and Christ comes to you.  
Mary

*....therefore, the child to be born will be holy.....* Luke 1: 35c

## NEW TIME

Please note that our Christmas Eve Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. this year. This is a change from previous years.

## CANCELLATIONS

With the winter upon us it is time to think about how to notify members if church is cancelled. You may call the church after 8 am on the day of the event and if church is cancelled the message will inform you as such. We will also post on the TV on channel WMUR and on the radio at WOKQ. We will also post on Facebook. We will advise you of any other venues as we arrange for them.

## CHURCH HISTORY MOMENT

Our Second Pastor, Rev. Nathaniel Barker was a native of Amesbury, MA. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College and Andover Theological Seminary. His service as our church's pastor began 1835 and extended until 1875 though not continuously. An article in the Congregational Journal described him as a patron of education and temperance who was a peace maker and wise counselor. Source: Through the Open Doors of the First Congregational Church By Majorie G.H. Banks

*Linda Petkunas/Archivist*

## AED

What is an AED? This piece of equipment is a life-saving tool known as an Automated External Defibrillator. Our church has recently purchased one. Buddy Dee has offered to install it in a readily accessible space. A training will be offered and is yet to be scheduled. We will announce the date and time once we have finalized details. This would be a useful skill and the more that are aware of how to use the AED, the safer we will be. Watch for forthcoming details.

*Jan Stanley*

## CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SEARCH

As you may know we are starting a search for a new Church Administrative Assistant. The Church Personnel team (Jan Fairchild, Carl Jeffery, Dave Schweitzer and Frank Frazier) will be starting the formal search process as per our Church Personnel Guidelines in late November with guidance from Reverend Mary. If you have any questions, suggestions for the search or if you know of someone who might be interested, please let a member of the team know.

*Frank Frazier*

## 2014 PAGEANT - "THE ANNOUNCEMENT"

Our church family will be holding our annual Christmas Pageant on Family Sunday, December 14. We will be celebrating the role the angels played during the time of Christ's birth. ALL children, toddlers to teens, are welcome to participate. We will need Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, and three kings to create the Nativity Scene. Adult help will be needed to costume the children and set the stage. I will be teaching the children a song which they will all sing together closing the Pageant. Practices for learning the song may take place on Sundays in November just after the Children's Story. There will be a "dress rehearsal" on Saturday morning, **December 13**, for costume fitting and a "run through" so the children will know what to do on Sunday. The Pageant is always a special event for our church and a lasting memory for the children who participate.

*Blessings, Jan Stanley*

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Please join in helping with the "Hanging of the Greens" on December 6 at 11 AM until ?? ***Please note the new time for starting.*** We will be having a 'pot luck' luncheon afterwards and everyone is invited. Please bring a sandwich to share and a dessert if you are moved to do so. I'll be providing some soup, drinks and a few extras to help with this celebration! All are invited and as the saying goes, 'many hands make light work.' We usually can complete this in about 1½ hours AT THE MOST!! Please give Deborah Smiley a call at home to leave a message (569-2867) or email at [smiley.deborah@gmail.com](mailto:smiley.deborah@gmail.com) if you are able to attend.

Also just a reminder to please ***make your poinsettia orders by December 7<sup>th</sup>***. Order forms are available in this newsletter and also at the church.

*Deborah Smiley*

## THE PARISH HELPERS CHRISTMAS GATHERING

The Parish Helpers will gather on Thursday, December 11, for their annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon and Yankee Swap. This is always fun time and we hope you'll all join in the merriment. Bring a dish for the potluck if you are able. For the Yankee Swap, you should bring a wrapped gift (value \$10) "Don we now our gay apparel!" (your favorite Christmas sweater?) and let's get down to having some fun!

All women from the Church and community are welcome. Bring a friend! Hope to see you there!

*Carol Jeffery*

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us after Worship on December 21st for a potluck luncheon and Christmas Caroling!

## ALTERNATIVE GIFTING

It is almost upon us, the Christmas Spirit. Even though commercialistic advertising has been spouting its “buy, buy, buy” message since October we within Christian Outreach, and you as well, know what this season is all about. So before you get sucked into the galactic void of holiday shopping and the infamous “Black Friday” please consider the simplicity and heart of alternative gifting. Once again we are offering an assortment of ways to share your abundance in the name of others. So instead of buying another tie or sweater how about buying a card showing the proceeds going to the betterment of others. The choices for alternative gifting are:

**Friends of Orphaned Trust (FOOT)**, this helps children in Zimbabwe with their school fees and uniforms. As you know an education can change a society not just an individual.

**Heifer**, this is an international organization that provides various animal contributions that not only sustain the family that receives the animal, but also spreads within their community the opportunity for better food, economy and health.

**Food Pantry**, supporting our local food pantry is a strong ministry within the church membership. Your gifting in the name of the Food Pantry spreads your abundance locally.

**Feddern Discretionary Fund**, provides an opportunity for Reverend Mary and others to assist people within the Wakefield community to meet certain financial obligations that due to circumstances have left them monetarily behind.

A display table will be set up in the Fellowship Hall starting Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, or you can contact Chris Feddern, Jan Stanley, or me for more information.

Purchasing a card under the banner of the listed gifting opportunities and sharing that card with a friend or loved one shows that they mean more to you than another item to be returned to the store or worse discarded. Share your abundance with others while sharing your love for others.

*Respectfully,  
Donna V Ackerman  
. Outreach Coordinator*

## TREE OF MEMORIES

One of the most meaningful and expressive events of the holiday season, the Hospice Tree of Memories, is celebrating its 19th annual commemoration at the Wakefield Opera House on Saturday, December 13, at 11 a.m. This occasion provides opportunities for family, friends, and neighbors to remember a loved one by placing an inscribed porcelain dove, a symbol of serenity, peace, and tranquility, on a lighted tree. Everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony.



To purchase a dove in the name of a loved one, please speak to Ginny Schweitzer (522-9593) or contact the VNA-Hospice of Southern Carroll County at 569-2729.

## LIBRARY AUTHOR HIGHLIGHT: BRUCE LARSON (1925-2008)

Larson was a pastor in the Presbyterian Church for nearly 50 years and was the author of 23 books. His books emphasized the practical side of Christianity focusing on our relationships with God and others.

Our church libraries have these books he authored: Living Beyond Our Fears (J-G) Spiritual Growth; My Creator, My Friend: The Genesis of a Relationship (R-T) Theology; No Longer Strangers (S-J) Spiritual Journey; There's a Lot More to Health than Not Being Sick (J-H) Health & Healing

*Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian*

Source: Obituary by John Iwasaki of the Seattlepi.com (Seattle, WA)

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY SEMINAR

The United Church of Christ NH Conference sponsored an important presentation to churches in an effort to inform us about energy efficiency measures we can take to not only save money on the fuel bill, but be kinder to the planet. This was particularly interesting to Chris Feddern and Carol Lundgren as Stewardship Co-coordinators. The Stewardship Ministry is actively looking at ways we can change our habits at church. Those ways will go far beyond turning the heat back and shutting the lights off when we leave a space. Stay tuned for a brainstorming session this winter.

*Carol Lundgren*

## NEWS FROM CONNIE IN ZIMBABWE

Hi all,

The good news.... Blessed got his birthday cake on Tuesday! The stove was fixed after I bugged them for three months.... but I did have to tie the oven door shut in order for the cakes to cook. Blessed was so stinking excited. Perhaps it was when I went to his classroom and wished him a happy birthday in front of his 40+ classmates... or maybe it was licking the spoon from the cake batter... or perhaps it was the singing, dancing and drumming by the other kids in the home. He didn't know about blowing out the birthday candle because, sheesh, he has never had a birthday celebration. The kids ate every last crumb from the two cakes I made. It was fabulous!

Also Rumbidzai, our newest FOOT child, is an absolute delight. Her teacher says she is a happy girl who is doing well in school following the recent death of her mom. I see her several times a week and I always get a big smile, some hugs, and always words of gratitude. She is a doll!

The not so happy stuff--We had a new baby boy join the home after his mother abandoned him a few days after birth. Little Nyasha (God's grace) is doing fine and it is by God's grace that he was still alive when found. Another mom died in childbirth after a c-section because the hospital didn't have any blood to give her after she lost so much. She was attended by a Zim doctor as well as a doctor from Canada so she had plenty of medically experienced people there. Can you imagine a hospital without access to blood? The mother of the deceased was grief stricken and not prepared to care for this baby boy as the baby's mom was the breadwinner for the family. No dad in sight. I got some baby formula, cloth diapers and some baby clothes to bring to the grandmother who lives in a very clean two room traditional home/hut. She doesn't speak a word of English but no English was needed to understand what we were trying to say to each other. How does this woman get a tin of baby formula each week at a cost of approx. \$7 when she has absolutely no income? Ah... they start feeding the kids a type of corn meal porridge far too early to compensate.....

I can just picture the culture shock that awaits me as I transition back into the land of plenty (where everything works pretty much as it should) after these months of living a different kind of life!

See you all soon!  
Connie (Littlefield)



## WHAT TO GIVE TO THE FOOD PANTRY

The November issue of Readers Digest included an article by Deb Martinson concerning what to give (and what not to give) to your local food pantry. Ms Martinson was once both homeless and hungry.

1. Give foods that don't require cooking. If one is homeless, there's no access to cooking facilities. It's also impossible to cook if the landlord hasn't fixed the stove or if the electricity has been shut off. Consider giving granola bars, tuna, peanut butter, dry milk – things you might take on a hike.
2. A boxed mix that says "just add milk & eggs" may be useless if one is homeless or destitute. Donate the "just add water" mixes instead.
3. Give easy open packaging. A canned meal is no good if there's no can opener – pull-top cans are easier. Pouches are easier still.
4. Avoid glass jars – they break too easily.
5. Donate, and label clearly, foods for special dietary needs (gluten free, allergen free, etc).
6. Don't donate outlandish things. Ms Martenson once received a tub of candied fruits for fruitcake from a food pantry. Imagine if that was your only food for a few days.
7. Try to include at least one item you might buy as a treat for your children.
8. Give money. Food Pantries can often get better deals on food than you can.
9. Donate items which can't be purchased with food stamps.
10. Ask the Food Pantry what is needed.

Bless you for giving whatever you give!

*Harriet Wilson*

**Christmas at Wakefield Corner – A Historic Walking Tour**  
**Saturday, December 13 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Our church, together with the Heritage Commission, has been busy SINCE AUGUST planning this special event. Based on our similar event last year, but with many added features, we hope you will talk it up among friends and plan to come enjoy the ambiance of the Village at Christmastime.

**Here are the details:**

Tickets: May be purchased in advance by calling or emailing  
Pam Frazier at 522-0031 or [pam@mooseview.com](mailto:pam@mooseview.com) .

Tour only tickets may also be purchased on the day of the event: \$20/pp.  
Reservations for dinner at the Wakefield Inn (4 seating times)  
must be made in advance: \$42/pp with Tour.

**Tour Stops:**

**FIRST STOP: First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC**

Pick up your tickets and a tour brochure and enjoy some wonderful entertainment.

Then you are welcome meander the Village in whatever order feels right to you.

**Two historic homes in the village** will welcome you with volunteer docents  
who will share some stories from days gone by.

The **Wakefield Library** and the **Wakefield Inn** will also be open for tours and wonderful retelling  
of their past fame and present beauty.

A **“Yule Log” bonfire, hot cocoa** and a **Santa visit** (at 3 p.m.) are planned.

Caroling at the Yule Log bonfire is encouraged by all who feel so inclined -- whatever moves the spirit!

Performances by musicians, singers and a storyteller will take place at the Church.  
The FCCW Memorial Bell Choir will also be playing!

This event is a fundraiser for both First Congregational Church AND the Heritage Commission.

Deb Smiley is organizing volunteers – please contact her if you wish to help in any way:  
475-4347 or [Smiley.deborah@gmail.com](mailto:Smiley.deborah@gmail.com)

~ Parking ~

For safety, attendees are encouraged to park at the north end of Wakefield Road. A shuttle bus will be available, at no charge, to bring visitors from that area to Wakefield Corner and will operate frequently throughout the afternoon.

# DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>World Aids Day</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>2</b>  Bible Study 12 noon	<b>3</b>  Scrabble 10 a.m.  Deacons Meeting 4 p.m.	<b>4</b>  Calling and Discernment and Structure Team 4 p.m.  Community String Band 7 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Hanging of the Greens  11 a.m.
<b>7</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Advent Worship</b> <b>Church School 10 a.m.</b>  Bells—6 p.m.	<b>8</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>9</b>  Bible Study 12 noon	<b>10</b>  Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.	<b>11</b>  Parish Helpers Noon  Community String Band—7 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Pageant Rehearsal— 10 a.m. Tree of Memories— 11 a.m. <b>Christmas in Wakefield Corner</b> <b>2—7 p.m.</b>
<b>14</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> Coffee Hour Bells—6 p.m.	<b>15</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>16</b>  Scrabble 10 a.m.  Bible Study 12 noon	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Prayer Shawls 10 a.m.  Community String Band 7 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent Worship and Church School</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> <b>Pot Luck and Carolling</b>  Bells—6 p.m.	<b>22</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</b>  <b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>  	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>First Sunday of Christmas Worship and Church School</b> <b>10 a.m.</b>  Coffee Hour	<b>29</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

# Celebrations!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Rachel Yazinka     | 13 Carol Jeffery     |
| 1 Tom Stanley        | 16 Jeff Ballard      |
| 2 Shannon Mercer     | 16 Jay Tamilio       |
| 2 Lynn Watts         | 16 Barry Truhn       |
| 3 Robert Gehring Jr. | 20 George Harvey     |
| 3 Marie Hebb         | 26 Jessica St Pierre |
| 8 David Silcocks     | 30 Greg Crowell      |
| 9 Richard Zacher     | 30 Skip Theiling     |
| 11 Dorothy MacKenzie |                      |

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Arthur & Louise Wheeler
- 10 Eric & Amanda Boggs
- 27 Peter & Linda Foss
- 28 John & Persis Hildebrandt

## FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



We ask your continued prayers and support for those members of our church and wider community who are ill, or who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for their families

- |                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Paul T.            | Curt C.   |
| Dot R.             | Marcia    |
| Tom and Barbara T. | Marsha A. |
| George B.          | Jan F.    |
| Art W.             | Donald L. |
| Mackenzie M.       | George J. |
| Beth M.            |           |

### 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

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - 2014

Please use this form to order your Christmas Poinsettia plants.

Orders must be placed by **December 7th**. Checks should be made out to the First Congregational Church of Wakefield.

Order forms and payments may be left in the Visual and Decorative Arts mailbox, to the attention of Deborah Smiley, located in the church narthex or mailed to the church.

Name of Donor (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication (In Memory of/ in Honor of) \_\_\_\_\_

(number) \_\_\_\_\_ Red Plants @ \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (number) \_\_\_\_\_ Doubles @ \$20 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(number) \_\_\_\_\_ White Plants @ \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (number) \_\_\_\_\_ Doubles @ \$20 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plants may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service.



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



**CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
SERVICE  
6:30 p.m.**

## DECEMBER EVENTS

DECEMBER 6—HANGING OF THE GREENS—11 A.M.

DECEMBER 11—PARISH HELPERS LUNCHEON—12 NOON

DECEMBER 13—TREE OF MEMORIES—11 A.M.

DECEMBER 13 —CHRISTMAS IN WAKEFIELD CORNER—2 P.M.—7 P.M.

DECEMBER 14—CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 21—POTLUCK LUNCH AND CAROLING

DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE — 6:30 P.M.

