

# 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 LITTLE HUMOR TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY**

A Winter Hymn (to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

Snowing, snowing! We implore you  
God of glory, God of love;  
Can you stop these flakes from falling?  
Can you pull some strings above?  
Melt the tall and growing snowdrifts  
Drive the temperature high  
Let spring come or we will have fits  
Tell us the warm days are nigh!

We are smiling as we sing this  
For we know your love for each.  
Winter must precede the springtime,  
Miracles unfold beneath!  
Grateful for nature's great cycles  
We remain your faithful flock  
Guess we'll stay right by the woodstove  
And make soups with hearty stock.



As we make our Lenten journeys  
We are storm-tossed and wind-whipped!  
All our toes are very chilly  
And our noses are red-tipped.  
Help us keep our spirits strong  
And our neighbors' needs in mind!  
Meanwhile, any sunbeams you send  
Would be wonderfully kind.

Heartened by your word of hope,  
Inspired by your law of love.  
We will endure through this winter,  
Though more snow comes from above.  
As we face our limitations,  
All our challenges and sins,  
Give us in this time of Lent  
Grace to let love grow within!

Blessings and peace,  
Mary

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*  
Philippians 4:13

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Tuesday-Thursday: 1 pm-5 p.m.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Jack Canfield, the primary author of the Chicken Soup series, is also a motivational speaker and the founder of two centers that focus on personal development. He was born in 1944 in Texas and received his Master's Degree in Education in 1973. We have these books he authored in our church libraries:

Chicken Soup for the Cat & Dog Lover's Soul (J-R)

Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul (S-O)

Chicken Soup for the Soul at Work (J-R)

Chicken Soup for the Soul: A Book of Miracles (S-O)

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Tough Times, Tough People (S-M)

Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul (S-O)

Source: Wikipedia

*Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian*

## ON-LINE FUNDRAISING SALES

HELP! We could be doing so much better at this if more people were involved. A team, perhaps. We have great donations coming in, but the seller is overburdened. Do you think this is something you could help with? I would be happy to explain more. Please ask *Margie Galabrun*, 522-6647.

## PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET

The proposed Church budget for the 2015-2016 Church year is available! There is a copy on the bulletin board in the Narthex and extra copies on the back table in the Sanctuary. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with our Church's finances. An information session on this budget will be held in April - announcement coming soon.

*Frank Frazier*

For more information on articles you read in the Steeple Views, contact the editor at [steepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:steepleviews@gmail.com) or call the church office at 603-522-3189.



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

## HISTORY MOMENT: WAKEFIELD ACADEMY

From 1832 until 1889 our church housed the Wakefield Academy and was the only church in New Hampshire to have an academy. Our second pastor, Rev. Barker (1835-1875) was the school principal during its most active period and the teachers hired were college graduates. The school had male and female students from the elementary to the high school level. The students paid a small tuition fee and those who weren't local could board in area homes. This is yet another example of our church's innovative spirit and responsiveness to the needs of the community.

Source: Through the Open Doors of the First Congregational Church By Majorie G.H. Banks

*Linda Petkunas/Archivist*

## CHURCH SCHOOL

*I believe the children are our future  
Teach them well and let them lead the way.*

(Words written by Linda Creed & Michael Masser)

Children are our future. A future deacon, bell ringer, choir member, treasurer, clerk, moderator, ministry coordinator and the list goes on.

Please think about volunteering to be a Church School Teacher or helper. We need to have both to have church school available to the children of our church each week.

If you're interested and have never taught/or helped at Church school please contact Margie Galabrun and she'll be able to provide information on the curriculum and any other details needed.

If you've taught/helped and would like to again, please call/email Mary Beth Cook to be added to the Church School schedule. I am open to scheduling for April, May & June. Thank You.

*Mary Beth Cook*

## LENTEN MUSINGS

Those folk who have been reading the re-Lent daily devotions will have two opportunities to gather to muse and discuss the readings. The Parish Helpers room has been reserved for both March 1st and March 22nd, at 8:45 AM. If you haven't been reading and would still like to join us for conversation, all are sincerely welcome.

*Margie Galabrun*

## NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE

I keep hearing about all the NH snowstorms. You probably don't want to hear that the weather here is very, very warm, generally 85 and higher every day. Sometimes a breeze, sometimes humid, but always very comfortable at night.

I thought the kids might be a little detached when I came back, after all I DID leave them like everyone else, but not only did they come out whooping and hollering when they saw me (and of course I cried) but they have become even more attached and very affectionate with me. And while they slacked with studying while I was gone, they are DEFINITELY showing up for study hours now. I went to the home one night a little late and they were watching a Bible Stories DVD I brought them. I gave them "the look" and off went the tv and out came the books. They know that school work takes precedent M-F and they can watch DVDs over the weekend.

I introduced them to ice cream to go with the birthday cakes and that was a huge hit. Chocolate the overwhelming favorite. But Tinashe, a young guy in grade 5, reminds me that HE likes vanilla so I have to buy both flavors

I am in the midst of planning renovations to the home with a \$5,000 donation received from Keene UCC. I made sure the kids gave their input about what they would like to see done. The renovations will take much more than \$5 grand but I plan to encourage volunteer labor from the local folks and go to some of the business and solicit donations of material -- window panes, plumbing and electrical supplies, paint, etc. We shall see as that type of soliciting is a pretty new concept here. And of course, everything happens slowly . on Zimbabwe time . and I am already expecting that people will say they will show up-- and not appear in -- order to show respect and accommodate me. This is the Daisy Dube Home's 60th year of operation so I have a theme of "shining a light on Daisy Dube and reminding them that the care of these vulnerable children is everyone's responsibility.

And I still have that playground to coordinate and get built. (No doubt I am driving the headmaster, Mr. Magaa, crazy every time I ask if he has ordered the material.)

And the poultry project to implement . I will see the local agriculture extension officer to give me some advice on how to get started

I bought a stove last week. No more tying the children's oven door shut when I want to make a birthday

cake. It feels great to cook somewhat normally! I have had some great guys doing some rewiring for me at no cost. I feed them so I am not sure if it is my homemade spaghetti sauce or my banana bread that is making them so willing to do these odd jobs for me.

Great news! We received word from the drilling company that they are scheduling the new drilling rig for Dzika. Photos to come!

**Reminder:** The shipping container is tentatively planned for September 2015, coordinated by the Keene UCC. We need your help in providing those great donations of clothing (particularly for small boys grades 1 -4), PEANUT BUTTER, pens, pencils, sneakers (double kudos if they are black because then they can be worn as school shoes), black shoe polish, and reading books. Have you switched to an ipad or a tablet and have a good but used laptop gathering dust? Desktop or laptop computers are in high demand as everyone wants to get involved with technology. Because they have so few books for students, they are going to electronic online resources to teach kids. The local Chemistry teacher has one teacher's manual and NO textbooks for the 100+ students she sees every day.

Blessings to you all for your continued support of our Zimbabwe projects. They have a huge impact!

*Connie Littlefield*



This is Tapuwa, who will be 3 in May, licking the lid of the ice cream container. It was her first time tasting ice cream and she didn't want to miss a drop

## FROM YOUR CALLING AND DISCERNMENT MINISTRY: STRUCTURE Q & A

As most of us are aware, we are entering the sixth year of a new church structure which is based on the identifying and calling out of spiritual gifts, the building of ministry teams, and that allows for flexibility, creativity, and interdisciplinary sharing in carrying out ministries. Little by little, we are all catching on to making use of this thoughtfully crafted structure, but, as is the case with any big change, confusion still lingers as to how it is supposed to work! We are already making plans for this year's Ministry Fair, so mark your calendars for May 31st for an all-new Ministry Fair on Sunday morning during worship.

In the meantime, to assist with understanding the new structure, we will offer a brief "Q & A" on our church structure each month in Steeple Views. Here is this month's:

**Question:** I know our by-laws relating to structure have been in revision for some time now. When will they be finalized?

**Answer:** The new by-laws have been carefully worked on and will be coming before Annual Meeting (June 14th) for congregational approval. Margie Galabrun, Harriet Wilson, and Bill Goodwin spent much of last summer working through them, our Calling and Discernment Ministry and our Minister have had input, and the Leadership Council has reviewed the draft and made suggestions. You will be asked to review the final draft in preparation for voting on the new by-laws--those that describe the intent and general workings of our new structure--on June 14th.

*Rev. Mary*

## REMEMBER THE FOOD PANTRY

Occupied as we are with slogging through this high-impact winter, it is all too easy to forget that some of our neighbors have even more pressing challenges--that of having adequate food on the table. Let's be sure that when we dedicate the Food Pantry baskets on the next Communion Sunday, they are *overflowing!!!!*

Great items for the Food Pantry to give out are good high-quality and versatile basics such as cans of tuna fish, cans of stew or nice soups, pasta and sauces (sauces with meat are appreciated by many), as well as personal care items such as shampoo and toothpaste. Let's see if we can have those food baskets bursting by Easter Sunday! Please place your donation in the baskets under the long table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

## PUB GRUB AND SOUL FOOD: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ABOUT THE GREAT QUESTIONS



Please join us on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM - 7:30 PM, for our 2<sup>nd</sup> monthly faith formation discussion group.

While dining on delicious Pub Grub, we will feed our souls through a guided discussion of: **Where is God?**

All are welcome and will be invited to purchase their own drinks and/or dinner. Please join us.

## DINNER AND A MOVIE!

We are pleased to offer a joint program with our friends from the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist on Wednesday, March 25th, beginning at 4 p.m.

The event will be held at our church. Our time together will begin with the showing of the movie "I AM." This film is the work of film director Tim Shadyac, a director of a number of Hollywood comedies, who, after experiencing a serious accident, decided to make a film of great meaning engaging two great questions: *What is wrong with our world, and how can we make it better?* We will view the film together and then enjoy a potluck supper for discussion of the film and to enjoy the company of one another.

We hope all will take time to come and view this inspiring film and enjoy some great food and conversation! Bring a potluck dish to share. If you are interested in learning more about the film, you may read about it on line and view a trailer for it here:

<http://www.iamthedoc.com/thefilm/>

# Celebrations!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 John Shaffer	15 Gemma Golden
3 Linda Currin	17 Jean-Michel Galabrun
3 Ken Ellis	17 Jan Stanley
4 Charlie Bowen	18 Kayla Leyare
5 Deb Smiley	20 Leona Vittum
6 Angela Brown	21 Laura Jacobson
8 Nathan Fogg	24 Michelle Garland
8 Marlena Livingston	29 Elizabeth MacRury
9 Richard Peckham	29 Nathan Wilson
11 Andrew Hughes	31 Katy Hagy
14 Penny Cotreau	

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4 Stephen & Lauree Royle
25 Warren & Marjorie Berg (1944)

## VITAL PASSIONS, HOLY PRACTICES: EXPLORING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Our Calling & Discernment Ministry will offer a two meeting study of discerning spiritual gifts and passions. This program will include Bible study, conversation, a new spiritual gift inventory and a guided reflection of vital passions. Additional information about this curriculum can be found at: <http://www.brethren.org/congregationallife/spiritualgifts/>.

Two groups will be offered. Group 1 will meet 10-11:30am Wednesdays April 8, and April 29. Group 2 will meet 6:30-8:00pm Tuesdays April 14 and May 5. A donation of \$5 per person is requested to purchase the study guide. Jan Fairchild will facilitate these groups. Please contact her by March 22 to reserve your place in one of these study groups. This study will provide excellent preparation for participation in our annual Ministry Fair. Please consider attending!

*Jan Fairchild*

## 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

Dot R.	Marcia
Tom and Barbara T.	Marsha A.
George B.	Jan F.
Art W.	Donald L.
Mackenzie M.	George J.
Beth M.	Ginny S.
Curt C.	John H.

## 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

## SAVE THE DATE – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29TH FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND DEEP CONVERSATION

You are invited! Stewardship and Finance Ministries and Pastor Mary will host two opportunities to discuss the plans, hopes and dreams of the coming fiscal year. Lots of time dedicated to ask questions and offer ideas. At noontime, a nourishing soup and chowder luncheon will be served. For those who cannot come during the day, a õpot luckö dinner will be the fare beginning at 6 p.m. and the conversation continues.

Kindly RSVP to the Church Office by April 25th specifying which event you will attend. Do plan to come. We look forward to seeing you!

*Carol Lundgren*

# MARCH 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Lenten Musings 8:45 a.m. <b>Worship and Holy Communion</b> <b>Church School</b> 10 a.m.  <b>Ecclesiastical Council—3 p.m.*</b> Bells—6 p.m.	<b>2</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>3</b>  Bible Study 12 noon	<b>4</b>  Scrabble 10 a.m.  Deacons Meeting 4 p.m.	<b>5</b>  Community String Band 7 p.m.	<b>6</b>  <b>World Day of Prayer</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  <b>Family Worship</b> 10 a.m.  Coffee Hour  Bells—6 p.m.	<b>9</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>10</b>  Bible Study 12 noon  Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	<b>11</b>  Pairs and Spares 6 p.m.  Pub Grub and Soul Food PPP 6—7:30 p.m.	<b>12</b>  Bereavement Support Group 11 a.m.  Parish Helpers 1 p.m.  Community String Band- 7 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  <b>Traditional Irish Music For Morning Worship and Church School</b> 10 a.m.  Leadership Council—11 a.m. Bells—6 p.m.	<b>16</b>  Rev. Mary On Vacation This Week  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>17</b>  <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>    Scrabble 10 a.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  Community String Band 7 p.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  Lenten Musings 8:45 a.m. <b>Worship and Church School—</b> 10 a.m.  Coffee Hour Bells—6 p.m.	<b>23</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>24</b>  Bible Study 12 noon  Centering Prayer 4 p.m.	<b>25</b>  Film Showing "I Am"  4 p.m.	<b>26</b>  Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.  Community String Band 7 p.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>  <b>Worship and Church School—</b> 10 a.m.  Bells—6 p.m.	<b>30</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>31</b>  Bible Study 12 noon	*Ecclesiastical Council for Paula Norbert, candidate for ordination, Community Church of Durham			

## EASTER FLOWERS

Although the snow lies deep and the white stuff is coming down again as I write this article, there is the hope of Easter just a few weeks away. Please consider purchasing your choice of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and/or the ever beautiful lilies as part of your Easter celebration. The costs are as follows: single lilies, tulips, daffodils and hyacinths are \$10, double stem lilies are \$18 and 3-stem lilies are \$25. You may request colors for the hyacinths and tulips, but cannot guarantee the specific color you may request. These orders must be received with payment by Sunday, March 22nd.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [smiley.deborah@gmail.com](mailto:smiley.deborah@gmail.com) or call 569-2867. Thank you in advance for helping to make our sanctuary beautiful for our Easter service. Flowers are available to take home on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Yours in beauty and joy,

*Deborah Smiley*

### EASTER FLOWERS 2015 —DUE BY MARCH 22

Single Lilies @ \$10.00 each:	X	_____	=	\$ _____
Double Lilies @ \$18.00 each:	X	_____	=	\$ _____
Triple Lilies @ \$25.00 each:	X	_____	=	\$ _____
Tulips @ \$10.00 each:	X	_____	=	\$ _____
Daffodils @ \$10.00 each:	X	_____	=	\$ _____
Hyacinths @ \$10.00 each:	X	_____	=	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>				\$ _____*

Purchased by \_\_\_\_\_

**IN MEMORY OF/ IN HONOR OF:      (Please circle your choice)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Checks are to be written to the First Congregational Church of Wakefield and returned to Donna, Administrative Assistant, or placed in the Visual and Decorative Arts box in the narthex.

### PARISH HELPERS

Well, once again in February our monthly meeting had to be cancelled due to the weather! Luckily, our speaker, Lorrie Dobbins, will be able to present her jazz program for us in April.

Let's pray that all is well for our March meeting on Thursday, March 12, at 1 p.m. Our speaker will be our own, Rev. Mary James.

As always, the Parish Helpers welcome all women from the church and community to visit or join our group!

*Carol Jeffery*

### FEBRUARY SNOWS – COMPROMISING US IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

A winter reminder: As you know, for everyone's safety, we felt it necessary to cancel our Sunday worship service three times in February! We hope this won't be necessary again because we all miss our worship time! When this happens, please be aware that our congregation not only misses out on worship, but also loses the benefit of receiving the weekly offering. Your Stewardship Ministry invites you to help with making up for those lost opportunities for generous giving.

Thank you and bless you!

*Carol Lundgren*



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### **PLANNING AHEAD . . .**

April 26 Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae

April 30 Good Friday Service at St. John's

April 12 Team Synergy Meeting after church

April 29 Food, Fellowship and Deep Conversation

May 17 Leadership Council

May 31 Ministry Fair

June 14 Annual Meeting of the Congregation