

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 . . .

FAITH AND POLITICS

Are you getting tired of the relentless phone calls from pollsters and political campaigns?

Sometimes, I just want to leave my phone off the hook when the days leading up to a presidential primary in New Hampshire come around—but then, I remember the privileged position we New Hampshire voters occupy.

With it, comes a huge responsibility.

Relatives and friends who don't live in our state express envy of the level of access we have to the candidates. I try to remember this when the phone rings a dozen times a day with eager campaign workers calling to ask about how I will vote and whether I need a ride to the polls, or when a pollster asks for a few minutes of my time. I try to remember the way I have felt working on political campaigns, earnestly calling folks to urge them to exercise their sacred right to vote. I remind myself that this is democracy in action, and that as a New Hampshire resident, I have a responsibility to participate with integrity in this process if my state is going to continue to deserve the burden and the privilege of "FIRST."

As people of faith, we understand that our God calls us to care about the people and the resources in our communities, our country, and our world. While our churches in our democracy must honor the separation of church and state and refrain from *partisanship*, we know that to be immersed in the scriptures is to be immersed in a profoundly *political* narrative—one that again and again shows us that God has a deep and wide compassion for those shoved aside, the widow, the orphan, the refugee, the poor, the prisoner, the sick, the hungry, the naked. God calls us to have the same priorities.

Let us respond by bringing our faith to the ballot box, not in some "sound bite" way, or based on any one issue, but based on the exercise of our right to vote as well-informed people of faith with integrity. We in New Hampshire have a unique opportunity to be fully informed, to have conversations with candidates, to learn about each one of them, and to make a choice rooted in our own convictions—convictions that can and must include how we understand God's priorities.

We will come to a variety of conclusions; we are not likely to all agree on the same candidate. Yet, we can agree on the crucial importance of our informed vote, and of allowing our faith into the mix of our decision making.

Grace and peace,
Mary

Come...inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

Matthew 25: 34-36

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Our contemplative and reflective Ash Wednesday service has become a treasured time of spiritual exploration for a number of parishioners. We hope that many will join us on **Wednesday, February 10th at 7 p.m.** for a deeply moving and meaningful time of prayer.

Deborah Smiley always outdoes herself preparing our sanctuary for the creating and placing of tiny Lenten meditation "altars" and nooks. For an especially fruitful Lent to unfold, this is a wonderful way to start the journey.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY TO OFFER LENTEN CLASS

The study is called "24 Hours That Changed the World" and is 7 sessions. The class will start on Feb 9th - the Tuesday just before Ash Wednesday. It is a DVD-based Lenten study entitled "24 Hours That Changed the World". This study is presented by Adam Hamilton, a senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. In the DVD, Hamilton draws on insights from history, archaeology, geography, and the Bible and takes us to the Holy Land where he provides a deeper understanding of the most amazing day in history. We visit the sites where those earth-shaking events took place, and we walk where Jesus walked along the road that led to the pain and triumph of the cross. The study is comprised of 7 sessions including: The Last Supper; The Garden of Gethsemane; Condemned by the Righteous; Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate; The Torture and Humiliation of the King; The Crucifixion; and Christ the Victor.

Please let me know if interested in attending and/or want me to purchase the participant book (the cheapest I've found so far is around \$13). I would like to place an order in the next week so would appreciate a timely response.

Blessings, Julie Kessler

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

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



And on Twitter - @wakefieldnhucc
<https://twitter.com/wakefieldnhucc>

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S OLDEST CHURCH

The First Parish Church Congregational of Dover is the oldest parish in New Hampshire and is one of the oldest in the country. The Parish was gathered in 1633 and they built the first meetinghouse at Dover Point in 1634, not far from the Spaulding Turnpike exchange for Dover and Durham. This congregation is still thriving and belongs to the UCC.

Source: <http://www.firstparishdover.org>

NEW ADDITION TO OUR LIBRARY

Author Highlight: Henri J.M. Nouwen

Henri J.M. Nouwen was a Dutch Catholic priest, professor and theologian who taught at Notre Dame, Harvard and Yale Divinity schools and went on to work with mentally and physically handicapped people in Ontario, Canada. This is what is said of his writings:

“I wanted to know how we could integrate the life of Christ in our daily concerns. I was always trying to articulate what I was dealing with. I thought that if it was very deep, it might also be something other people were struggling with. It was based on the idea that what is most personal might be the more universal.” Our library has the following books he authored:

Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons (S-M)
Clowning in Rome: Solitude Celibacy, Prayer and Contemplation (S-M)
Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life (R-C)
Reaching Out: The Three Movements of Spiritual Life (J-G)

Source: Wikipedia

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER LAWN MOWING PERSON

The church lawn is mowed, on average, 10 times a growing season. We have a nice nearly new lawnmower donated by Dalton Ostrye. It takes less than an hour to mow the lawn. Could that person be you? Or you and someone else to share the effort? Please contact Carol Lundgren through the church office for more information!

THE COSTS BEHIND THE DONATE BUTTON

Donate Now

The addition of the Donate Now button to our website is a wonderful way to help our church to receive extra donations. However, there are some costs for this convenience of which we want you to be aware of.

When one uses a Credit Card to make a donation, there is a Transaction Fee and a Rate Fee. As an example, for a Credit Card donation of \$250, there is a Credit Card transaction fee is \$.22 and a Rate Fee is \$6.88. The donor can opt to Help Offset Processing by adding this suggested amount (\$6.88 in the case of a \$250 donation) to their original donation. However, fees are also taken out of this suggested fee as well so when all the fees are taken out of the donors \$256.88 (\$250 + \$6.88), the original \$250 donation falls short by \$.63.

When donations are made directly from one's bank, a 2% of donation is charged to us at the end of each month.

Also there is an end of month \$0.35 charge for each transaction per person. For example, \$10 pulled directly from the donor's bank, has a 2% fee plus a \$.35 transaction fee. So that \$10 donation resulted in a \$9.45 benefit to the church. That same \$10 when donated through a Credit Card, with the additional suggested \$0.28 to Help Offset Processing , results in a donation of \$9.55 less \$0.35 transaction fee, so the church's actual benefit is \$9.20. If the donor did not add the \$0.28 to Help Offset Processing, the \$10. Credit card donation would be \$9.15. Breaking this down: \$10 less \$0.22 (Credit Card Transaction Fee) less \$0.28 (Credit Card Rate Fee) less \$0.35 (Monthly Transaction fee)= \$9.15.

As with other charitable organizations, we intend to count the intended donation amount as the amount given to the church and the church will have to increase expenses to cover these fees.

For unexpected gifts to the church, the Donate button is great!! This is an unanticipated monetary windfall and the fees are a small portion of an unexpected donation.

But for pledges of money we count on to pay the bills of whether pulled directly from the donors bank or by using the donors credit card, will cause us to incur unexpected fees and an income shortfall.

A suggested solution is for those who pledge and don't want to write checks every week or month, using their bank's bill paying program is worth looking into. Almost

every Bank and Credit Union offers a bill paying system that is free of charge to their customers. We already get a number of Zimbabwe FOOT and pledge payment checks mailed to us every week from a number of banks. Please do look into this method of automatic payments especially for regularly promised donations. No fees to church or donor.

We hope this explains some of the questions the Treasury and Financial Ministries are dealing with. Please see me if you have further questions or concerns.

Pam Frazier, Assistant Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2015 – Dec 31, 2015

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Income: | \$ 87,819.12 |
| Expenditures: | \$ (79,024.81) |
| Net Income (Loss) | <u>\$ 8,794.31</u> |

**Checking Non-Restricted balance as of 12/31/15:
\$13,573.76**

Restricted Funds balance as of 12/31/2015: \$4412.78

December is always a special month with Advent and Christmas activities. This year it was a joyful one for the budget also. We received two very generous gifts. First, we received an anonymous donation for \$10,000! This is reflected in the income number given above and was deposited into the general checking account. Secondly, the Alden Young Trust gave us another year end donation of \$20,000. Currently, this money is in our savings account. Both of these gifts were designated for the general fund.

December is also a giving month for our congregation. The Christmas Eve Service collection, designated to support the UCC Christmas Fund, totaled \$1162.61. The annual Alternative Gifting program to benefit the Wakefield Food Pantry, Heifer, Zimbabwe FOOT program, and The Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund received over \$2800 this year.

December was also a month of challenges as the finance team continues to sort out the details behind the new donate online initiative. As with anything new, it takes some getting used to and lots of work behind the scenes. Hopefully, it will prove to be a useful tool for our church in the months and years ahead.

Please take a look at the monthly report that is posted in the narthex. Asking questions can be helpful not only to the asker, but to the ones being asked.

Janice Brejwo & Shannon Johnson, Co-Treasurers
fccwtreasurer@gmail.com



MEET THE HATCHES

Maurice and Ann Hatch remain just in love today as they were 58 years ago when they were married in the Durham Community Church after a 3 year romance that began when they met while working at UNH.

Maurice, born in Sanford Maine in 1933, had studied dairy husbandry at UNH and after receiving his Associate Degree began working at the UNH Agriculture Dairy Experiment Station doing nutrition work with their separate herd of dairy cattle.

Ann was born in Rochester in 1928 to the Paul family which is one of our town's historic families. She graduated from UNH in 1949 with a BS in Chemistry and began working in New York City at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons for a physician who summered in Brookfield. In 1952 she returned to New Hampshire to work in Dr. Howe's lab in Brookfield. In 1955 she moved back to Durham and enrolled in the UNH Master's Degree Program in Agricultural and Biological Chemistry.

That's where she met Maurice and a romance immediately kindled. They were married in Durham in 1958. They affectionately refer to this as a historic week where on a Sunday Ann received her "MS" and the following Saturday she became a "Mrs". Their first home was in Lee where they lived for 36 years. They began their family in 1960 when their first son Paul was born followed by son Warren two years later.

Ann retired from her job at UNH when their family began. Maurice had an interesting work career. He spent 11 years at UNH as a dairy herdsman with the nutrition research herd then left to become the parts manager at the

International Harvester Dealer JF Brown in Epping where he spent 16 years. When a job managing the police, fire and ambulance department dispatch at UNH opened up he hesitatingly applied; he got the job and really enjoyed it for 11 years before retiring from UNH in 1994 after working a total of 22 years for a great employer.

The Hatches moved back to Wakefield from Lee when Ann inherited her father's historic home on Wakefield Road where they have lived since. This home was originally built by Parson Barker from the FCCW who lived there with his wife who had taught Wakefield youngsters in the second floor classroom in the FCCW church that caught fire during the fateful lightning storm in 1956 and burned to the ground.

Ann has always been a Wakefield history buff active in the Wakefield/Brookfield Historical Society while Maurice has served multiple terms on the FCCW Prudential Committee and worked tirelessly on our building and grounds as well as maintaining their historic home. The Hatches, still in love today after all these years with Maurice dedicated to his sweetheart Ann.

Dave Schweitzer

CLEAN TEAM – INTERIM REPLACEMENTS NEEDED

Faithful church members and friends have been cleaning the sanctuary, halls and bathrooms for about 5 years now. They need/deserve to RETIRE from those duties. We are looking at options for regular cleaning in the future, but for the next 5 months we could use some new volunteers. Could that be you? Please call the church office if you would like to know more about being on this interim "Clean Team".

Ideally it will only be a commitment of about 90 minutes once a month. In the winter, as you can imagine, the sanctuary and entry areas need the most attention with snow and sand being tracked in. Thank you so much for considering offering a short term helping hand!

OUTREACH MINISTRY BRUNCH

Donna Ackerman and the Outreach Ministry Team will be holding a Continental Potluck Brunch on Saturday, February 6th. Please bring any of the following items: yogurt, cereal, milk, fruit, instant oatmeal, breads, muffins, hot chocolate, pastries, juice. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please RSVP to Donna Ackerman at 651-6349.

NEWS FROM ZIMBABWE

I went to Social Welfare Office today for one of my regular visits. The social worker I am closest too was complaining that they have no photocopier on the premises and are currently without "bond paper" (photocopy paper) and toner for their printers. When they want to do a visit to the home they have to find an agency to provide fuel for their vehicle. They need to do compliance checks but they are more than happy to turn over the documentation to me and have me complete their forms. So they have people within the organizations they are supposed to supervise, complete the observation and evaluation forms. Yikes!!

The drought is significant in Chipinge. People planted decent crops but with no rain since Dec. 19th, maize is withering and people are very, very worried. At Mt. Selinda, a bit of a higher elevation, we have received some rains so things are not quite so desperate.

Teachers who have been on leave this term have been called back to work because the government doesn't have money to pay their substitutes. (A benefit of school employment is that teachers get a contracted three month leave after a stated period of time).

Kids at Daisy Dube have started a new school term. Three of our cherubs started preschool. The teacher was complaining that the three would run away from school. Thomas, leader of Tatenda and Tapiwa, would tell the girls it was time to go home and so they just up and left. Easy to do when there are 60 kids for 2 teachers. I have attached a photo of lunch at the home. I can't get them to eat lunch sitting at the table. Eish!



EVERY SINGLE DAY I get a request for employment, to help a son or daughter find employment, to help a sick relative who has no money for medical care, or people who don't have enough food. Most of us, as Americans, simply have no idea of what it is like to live in a country without a safety net. I am learning new things everyday and I continue to be amazed at the resiliency of Zimbabweans who totally put their trust in God.

Connie Littlefield

PREPARED TO SERVE 2016 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Each year 300-350 members of the NH Conference & our friends & affiliates come together at Pembroke Academy for a one-day event, featuring 70-80 different workshops offered on a variety of fascinating topics, presented by 50-60 gifted presenters. The day includes an uplifting morning worship, breakfast, lunch, and refreshments, 30+ exhibitors, and ample opportunity for reconnecting with old friends and new alike! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come experience the joy and inspiration that Prepared to Serve offers. If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful event, please speak to Pastor Mary. The online registration deadline is February 16th at 11:59 pm at:



<http://www.nhcucc.org/ConferenceMinistries/>

PUB GRUB AND SOUL FOOD RETURNS!

Come out of winter hibernation and head to the Poor People's Pub for a fun night of gathering with friends and neighbors from 6 to 7:30 on **Wednesday, February 17th**. We'll simply catch up with one another, and compare notes on how we navigate the challenges of our long, cold winters! Hope to see you there. Come on in, turn left once inside, and go to the Pub's side room. We'll be there!

PARISH HELPERS PROGRAM

The next Parish Helpers meeting will be on **Thursday, February 11. at 1 p.m.** We will have a business meeting and see a demonstration on rug braiding by Catherine Britton. We will also start a discussion of possible craft workshops to create items for the Fair. And of course, they'll be plenty of time for socializing!

As always, all women of the church and community are welcome at the Parish Helpers! You do not need to be a member of the Church.

Hope you'll join us!

Carol Jeffery

NEWS FROM STEWARDSHIP

As we strive to enrich our faith, our church lives, and the betterment of our Church and community there are so many things we would like to do and accomplish!

There are many aspects and directions of Stewardship and this remains a vibrant, interesting and spiritual ministry. Here are just a few and we invite all who would like to participate! Would you happen to be interested in leading or helping with

A church /children's Garden or Town Garden participation
Spring Road Cleanup
Sing-alongs & evening vespers
Estate, Planned Giving & Endowment Awareness program

As you may prayerfully & joyfully consider these or other ways to share your blessed time & talents please reach out to me at Church or by phone or email.

Chris Feddern, Stewardship Ministry
cfeddern@myfairpoint.net, 603-973-6178

Philippians 2:13

MISSION MOMENT FROM DONNA ACKERMAN (PRESENTED DURING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 24TH)

What is Church and Why This Church

My search for God has been an ongoing thing since my adolescent years. I was raised Southern Baptist. With my desire to please my Mama, I was baptized at around 10 or 11 years old. As I got older I chose to participate again in this public display of faith at the age of 16. Now as you probably know a Baptist baptism is done through full body submersion in a pool of water wearing a white robe. This can be a little daunting for a teenage girl, but there was a strong feeling of the Holy Spirit in participating in this ritual. Unfortunately, as with many well intended human actions, the feeling did not last. I continued to search for understanding of what constitutes "faith".

As a senior in high school I took a class called Philosophy of Religion. Being this was a progressive yet still public setting the class provided an historical application of basic denominations and beliefs. A deeper search in understanding the essence of "what or who is God" was not available. I went on to college unfulfilled and stumbled upon the Bahai faith. This interested me because

we gathered in people's homes, sang songs supported by some denim clad, long haired guitar playing hippie, in a room infused with patchouli incense and other organic aromas. Ahh the 1970's.

I put my search for God on the back burner and plowed through a decade of marriage and the raising of my daughter. Towards the end of that marital relationship I discovered a denomination called "The Way Ministry". As a consummate researcher this belief interested me because it taught me to truly read and study the Bible. I learned how to use a concordance and apply the translations of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic to the King James version. Unfortunately, this denomination also had some rather restrictive practices like; if a family member were to say they were gay, I was to not have any connection with that person until they changed their ways. Well that didn't sound very Christian to me so I said goodbye to the Way Ministry.

My mama always taught me to find the good in any situation and I discovered that three wonderful things resulted in this relationship with The Way Ministry; one I found my "soul mate" George, two I learned to develop intensive research skills which later helped me in my passion to obtain my doctorates, and three I discovered the power of giving. You have probably heard me say this before, but you cannot out-give God. George and I live a more than abundant life on 90% of our income while giving 10% to God. This is done through our tithing/pledge to the church, as well as sponsorship to a child in Zimbabwe, contributions to the Food Pantry and other areas of needs as they arise. This church is my home. Here I have found Faith. Here I have found Love. Here I have found God. What home owner would not contribute their time, talents, and tithe to maintain their home? The Peace and Justice Ministries of the United Church of Christ fulfills my desire to be the hands, eyes, feet and heart of God. This ministry and this church in particular meet all of my needs. It allows me to give in so many ways, and every time I am allowed to serve whether it is time, talents or tithe, God blesses me back ten-fold.

In Sharing,
Donna V Ackerman

Horton Center is thrilled to announce
registration will open January 27.

For the 2016 Schedule, please go to
nhucc.org

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH MINISTRY ZIMBABWE UPDATE

George and I are sponsoring a little girl by the name of Munashe. She is in the 4th grade so roughly around 10 or 11 years old. Munashe lives with her mother and three other siblings on a farm. The father is not part of their lives so the mother takes on the role of Dad, while Munashe takes on the role of Mom. She is very responsible in looking after her siblings and helping her mom in other ways. The mother works in the maize field as seen in the pictures that Connie provided. If it weren't for our sponsorship to Munashe, this beautiful child would not be able to attend school. She might find herself doing no better than her mother enduring harsh labor conditions in the local maize farms.



Even the smallest contributions in supporting these children in Zimbabwe goes a very long way. Joseph Sibiya, through the Friends of Orphan Trust (FOOT) program, makes sure any monetary support goes to the daily needs of children like Munashe. Sponsorship provides not only school fees, books, and uniforms, but also money towards food. As a member of a nation that provides free education to our children, it breaks my heart to think of some deserving child not receiving this great opportunity to acquire an education because they lack the money to attend school. As history has shown an educated society leads to a stronger economy. An economy where the citizens can contribute simply because they received the education and skills to become self-sufficient. Your regular



contribution towards the FOOT program is very much needed. Children that were sponsored in the past are not receiving that sponsorship today. A monthly \$5.00 donation from you, and a monthly \$5.00 donation from the person in the pew next to you, and so-on could mean another child having the opportunity to rise above their extreme poverty riddled conditions.

In God's Love, Donna V Ackerman

TURNING POINT 230 – HAPPY BIRTHDAY FCCW

This is our birthday year of 230 years! It's worth celebrating ALL year and in that spirit the former "Circle" posters have been recreated AND moved to a new location



(at the top of the stairs from the side entry). Two circles of colorful birthday "candles" frame tags in the shape of gift boxes. Each bright green tag suggests a need of here are some examples: Volunteer to be a Shepherd Driver of Volunteer to host a coffee hour of Donate gift cards to Rite Aid, a grocery store, gas card, Home Depot, Lowes, Staples of Volunteer to Play with the Bell Choir or Sing with the Voice Choir of Volunteer to Visit Folks who cannot get out of Donate paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, etc.) of Volunteer to be a Lector of Volunteer to help out in a Ministry. And, if you see a need, feel free to "make your own" green gift card suggestion. Bless You!

PRESENTATION IN PETERBOROUGH —EUROPEAN REFUGEE CRISIS

The Syrian Refugee Mission Group recommends a February event in Peterborough that will offer an understanding of the human side of the refugee crisis. Becky Dennison Sakellariou will speak of her experiences in working with the Mid-Eastern refugees at the transit camps in Greece this past October and November. Ms. Sakellariou lives part of the year in Peterborough and part in Greece. She will share her knowledge and understanding of the region, its complex politics, the difficulties and challenges of the present wave of migration throughout Europe, and the very human side—both tragic and heroic—of these present events. Photographs will be shown and a discussion will follow the presentation on February 11 at 7 p.m. at the Union Congregational Church, 33 Concord Street, Peterborough. Light refreshments will be served. Contact: Ann Lessard (603) 924-3626.

**A BIG ADVENTURE. , ,
A STEP TOWARD GROWING VITALITY!**

Your Personnel Ministry, Christian Education Ministry, and Pastor have lead the way for something great: we will soon begin working with Paul Nickerson, a church coach with a national reputation. Paul coaches churches like ours all over the country, helping them to make and carry out action plans for church growth and vitality in this new cultural reality that is so challenging for our churches.

EVERYONE is invited to the important kick-off sessions. Yes, they are a big commitment, but the more people who participate, the better and more successful we will be!

Paul will be with us on Friday evening, March 18th, and Saturday, March 19th. The Friday session will run from 5 to 8 and the Saturdaysession will run from 9 to 3. We will arrange for simple meals (we'll need helpers) to be shared as we work together with exuberance and heart, with Paul's guidance, to explore ways to become an even more vital and relevant church in our community.

Paul will then consult on a monthly basis by email and video conference with Pastor Mary and some of the church leadership, coming alongside us to help us carry out the action plan he has helped us develop with further support, suggestions, and encouragement.

The funding for this comes from the monies we had set aside this year for the Advisor for Church Growth and Renewal position. We realized we would greatly benefit, prior to any hiring, from having an experienced church coach work with us. The cost will only use a portion of the funding--probably about half.

You can read about Paul Nickerson at www.nickersoncoaching.com . Many of us have read of his great work in the book Real Good Church. We are very excited to work with him!

ALL of our church members and friends are invited to these opening sessions. Please mark your calendars and plan to be together as a creative, loving, exuberant community of faith for this time .

Turning Point 230: March Gala, March 5

We hope you can join us for the **Turning Point: 230 March Gala** the evening of **March 5th at 5pm!** This will be an appreciation event for the supporters of FCCW and its missions and promises to be a festive evening celebrating our community of faith with friendship, laughter & music and featuring entertainment, appetizers & dessert. Music will be provided by Susie, Rob & Mary.

Please RSVP by calling the Church at 522-3189 or email fccwakefieldnh@gmail.com or there will be a RSVP list in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall. If you're able please bring an appetizer / hors d'œuvres / tapas to share.

We so look forward to your company!

Turning Point 230: **Working to Realize God's Good Purpose**

'For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.' Philippians 2:13

An introduction to our campaign of Stewardship as we plan for our upcoming year ahead!

Need a ride? Please let us know. We may be able to provide one.

SHARING NEIGHBORLY LOVE AND INTERFAITH GOODWILL

As we are all aware, in this presidential campaign, there has been a preponderance of prejudiced and heartless speech toward Muslims, along with the suggestion that a policy be enacted to bar all Muslims from entering the country. In light of this, Pastor Mary and the church leadership decided to send a letter of prayerful concern and support to the Islamic community nearest us, the Islamic Society of the Seacoast in Dover.

The letter you see here is the lovely and gratitude-filled response we received in response. We wanted to share it with all of you.

ISSA, P.O. BOX 684, DOVER, NH 03821

TEL: 603-750-4060



December 22, 2015

Rev. Mary A. James
First Congregational Church of Wakefield
United Church of Christ
2718 Wakefield Rd.
Wakefield, NH 03872

Dear Rev. Mary James and the Leadership Team,

We, at the Islamic Society of Seacoast Area, ISSA, wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for your kind letter of support. On behalf of our members, with whom we shared your letter, I convey to you that your comforting words and prayers, and your commitment to deplore hate-speech, are very much appreciated, and just in time for the women, men, and children in our community in the Seacoast. Thank you all, and our prayers and best wishes to you and your community for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Mohamed Ebrahim, Ph.D.
Imam and Director
Islamic Society of the Seacoast Area, ISSA
P.O. 684
Dover, NH 03821
Email: issa@issa-nh.org

Celebrations!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Barbara Cawlina | 19 | Lisa Robinson |
| 2 | Bob James | 23 | Alisa Eaton |
| 2 | Marilou MacLean | 24 | Curt Cook |
| 3 | Kenneth Crew | 24 | Barry Lockard |
| 3 | Maureen Steer | 25 | Cheyenne Boggs |
| 6 | Sue Lynn | 25 | Arlene Leyare |
| 10 | Peter Foss | 25 | Sid Silcocks |
| 11 | Rob Lundgren | 25 | Kristin Weeks |
| 12 | Peter Connell | 25 | Rose Zacher |
| 12 | David Haag | 26 | Martha Charnock |
| 12 | Ryan McCarthy | 26 | Evelyn Truhn |
| 13 | Susan Tamilio | 27 | Charlie Bilodeau |
| 14 | Marion Blomster | 27 | Tom Weeks. |
| 14 | Ann Gehring | 28 | David Fairchild |
| 15 | Nicky Mercer | 28 | Emma Royle |
| 16 | Chris Bozuwa | 28 | Stephen Silcocks |
| 17 | Ryan Dee | | |

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Paul & Agnes Carlson (1946)
- 10 Joe & Jan Brejwo (1973)
- 14 Lance & Marilou MacLean

IT'S A TEA SALE!

Actually it's a tea give-away. Much of the tea in our Fellowship Café cabinet is out of date. I called Equal Exchange to find out what the REAL shelf life was on tea. Tongue in cheek answer is, "Does tea really every get too old?"

So, if you are a tea drinker, please help yourself to the "Free Tea" displayed in the Fellowship Hall. If you feel so inclined, please make a free will donation which will be placed into our offering plate.

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. | Jan F. |
| Tom and Barbara T. | Donald L. |
| George B. | George J. |
| Art W. | Sid & Ginny S. |
| Mackenzie M. | Marcia H. |
| Marcia | Parker V. |
| Marsha A. | |

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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERIES

Are you a caregiver? No matter where and how you provide care for someone, you are a caregiver. Caring for another person is an amazing GIFT of self. We know it's a big responsibility, too. So, our church is offering a monthly "Self Care Support for the Care Giver" group on the first Monday of every month (except July 4 and Labor Day this year) from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Open to church members, friends and the public, we meet in the Parish Helpers Room. There is no charge. Simply come into the company of others who provide support to someone. Together we will share ideas on ways to take care of OURSELVES! Inquiries can be directed to Carol Lundgren. The next session is February 1st. Please share this information with folks you know who are caregivers.

Carol Lundgren

FEBRUARY 2016

| | <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>6</i> |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|--|
| | 12:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregiver Program 6 p.m. Choir Practice | Noon Bible Study | 10 a.m. Scrabble 4 p.m. Diaconate | 6:30 p.m. Community String Band | | 10 a.m. Outreach Ministry Meeting |
| <i>7</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>10</i> Ash Wednesday | <i>11</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>13</i> |
| 10 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion | 6 p.m. Choir Practice | Noon Bible Study Centering Prayer 4 p.m. | 6 p.m. Pairs & Spares 7 p.m. Worship Service | 1 p.m. Parish Helpers 6:30 p.m. Community String Band | | |
| <i>14</i> | <i>15</i> | <i>16</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>18</i> | <i>19</i> | <i>20</i> |
| 10 a.m. Worship Coffee Hour | 4:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Mtg. 6 p.m. Choir Practice | 10 a.m. Scrabble Noon Bible Study | 6 p.m. Pub Grub & Soul Food | 6:30 p.m. Community String Band | | Prepared to Serve NH UCC Pembroke |
| <i>21</i> | <i>22</i> | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>25</i> | <i>26</i> | <i>27</i> |
| 10 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Leadership Council 2 p.m. Bearded Wonders Variety Show | 6 p.m. Choir Practice | Noon Bible Study | | 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 p.m. Community String Band | | |
| <i>28</i> | <i>29</i> | | | | | |
| 10 a.m. Worship Coffee Hour | 6 p.m. Choir Practice | | | | | |



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

Please join us— Turning Point 230:

March Gala

March 5, 5pm

An Appreciation Event for Members & Supporters of FCCW

*A Winter's End Celebration of
Community & Faith*

Friendship, Laughter & Music



*Working to Realize God's
Good Purpose*

Hors d'oeuvres, Tapas & Dessert

Please RSVP to fccwakefieldnh@gmail.com , call 522-3189 or on RSVP guest list below.