

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 . . .

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Do you have an attitude of gratitude? The attitude we adopt is a very powerful tool we can use for living a life of grace and lovingkindness. One's attitude can be adaptive, caring, and positive—a tool put to good use. One's attitude can be rigid, self-absorbed, and bitter—an unfortunate weapon wielded for the purposes of isolating personal defense and pain-inflicting offense. We get to choose.

Life can deal us some blows that make it nearly impossible to hold on to a constructive outlook, but we are deeply blessed in that we do not have to go it alone. As beloved children of a God who knows the joys of our hearts and walks right with us through all those dark valleys, we are aware that God offers us solace, strength, and the capacity to renew our hope and joy again and again. As participants in a loving community of faith, we know that we are there for one another in times of hurt and in times of rejoicing. For these gifts of loving support, let us be grateful in this month of Thanksgiving.

This month, I invite us to intentionally engage the practice of giving thanks. Each morning of November, would you join me in taking a minute to list five things for which you are grateful each day?

Here is another invitation: one of the ways we express gratitude is to share of ourselves. At any given time as a church, we are working on a number of projects that involve sharing. In this month of November, I would like to lift up two in particular:

November 6th is **CEREAL SUNDAY!** Please bring one or more boxes of hot or cold cereal to be donated to the Food Pantry for our near neighbors who do not have enough to eat. Let's cover the chancel with our donations!

Many refugees are coming into New Hampshire. They are Burmese, Congolese, Iraqi, Iranian, and Syrian. They often come with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. While we are too rural a spot for re-settlement, we can help with collecting items needed for their new lives. We will now begin a **WINTER COAT** drive that will go until December 1, working with Ascentria (formerly Lutheran Social Services), the agency involved in re-settlement in New Hampshire. PLEASE bring coats (hats, scarves, mittens, gloves also welcome) in ANY size to the church. They must be clean and in good condition—please, no torn or stained items. Let us be grateful to act as one small link in welcoming these new Americans.

I look forward to all of us sharing our gratitude lists later this month! THANK YOU!

Grace and peace,
Mary

I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify God with thanksgiving.
Psalm 69:30

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2016 – Sept 30, 2016

Income:	\$ 43,693.00
Expenditures:	\$(43,754.37)
Net Loss	\$ <u>(61.37)</u>

Checking Non-Restricted balance:	\$ 3,311.95
Checking Restricted Funds balance:	\$ <u>1,865.04</u>
Total Checking Account balance: 9/30/16	\$ <u>5,176.99</u>

As you can see above, recorded income is keeping up with expenditures for the first quarter of the fiscal year. We have used the \$7500 unexpended funds that were included in the budget and, as of September 30th, we have a small loss.

This month we will continue the explanation of our Profile accounts by talking about the Zimbabwe Checking Account. This is the easiest Profile account for the treasurers, because The Zim Team maintains a breakdown spreadsheet to account for all the activity in the Zim account. They keep careful track of the money received and expended for all of their many projects. You have heard in church and read in many Steeple Viewsø articles about these worthwhile projects, including the FOOT program, medical clinic, container cost, and the list goes on.

The Zim Team generally writes their own checks, but always provides payment authorizations and backup to be kept in the treasurerø records so activity can be recorded on the church books. The Treasurers reconcile the Zim checking account each month. The Assistant Treasurer, Julie Kessler, deposits all Zim funds into the bank when they come in, which is often weekly. It can get quite complicated, but all the effort is worth it for such a wonderful ministry.

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

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.

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



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

WINTER COAT DRIVE

We are taking a collection to help with resettled refugees in NH. PLEASE bring coats (hats, scarves, mittens, gloves also welcome) in ANY size to the church by December 1. They must be clean and in good conditionø please, no torn or stained items. For more information, read the Pastorø Page.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND THE HANGING OF THE GREENS



Though we are still enjoying the last of the beautiful fall foliage and some unexpectedly warm weather, the holidays will soon be upon us. As always, we will be offering poinsettias to purchase for decorating the sanctuary during the Advent Season into

Christmas, which this year happens to be on a Sunday. November 27th is the first Sunday of Advent and anyone interested in purchasing flowers will need to do so by that Sunday. We will plan to display them by December 10th as part of our Christmas Bell Choir event and people may take them home after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th.

This year, Spider Web Gardens is offering Single poinsettias for \$12.50 and doubles for \$19.50 in red or white. Celebrating the advent season and Christmas with a display of these beautiful seasonal flowers is not only a tradition, but also a way to honor or celebrate our loved ones living and passed. There will be forms and other reminders over the next few weeks. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me through email or a phone call. Thank you for considering participating in helping to make our sanctuary beautiful.

Also, please join us for the øHanging of the Greensø on December 2nd or 3rd. Time and details to be determined and announced at a later date. This is an opportunity for any and all to help with putting up the greens, banners and other decorations in the church for the Advent and Christmas season. It only takes 2 ø 3 hours total to complete this work and as the saying goes, "many hands make light work.ø

Looking forward to the holiday season, but Iød rather not see much of the white stuff any time soon!!

Deborah Smiley, Coordinator
Visual and Decorative Arts Ministry
Email: smiley.deborah@gmail.com

SHAKING OFF THE WEEDS

Sometimes as I stand at the end of my driveway, I look right and I look left. I might see the neighbors drive by and wave. I may even remember their names. If I am really lucky, as I am out for a walk I might see them outside for a quick, polite "How are you today?"

Recently the folks of Wakefield Village held a potluck supper hosted at the Wakefield Inn. This was for folks of the neighborhood—friends and strangers, lifelong residents and new. Like a neighborhood block party built on common ground, they got to know each other better, shared stories and built stronger bonds. I imagine as winter draws near it is less daunting for them to know someone is there, someone they can reach out to, someone who may have their back.

As we know, standing in our driveway or front door and waiting for someone to drive by or stop in may simply mean we will soon need the weed-wacker to trim the long grass that will grow around our feet. As we start moving out and about there may be no chance for the weeds to choke and hold us back. Our legs can be free, our arms will be free, our voices loud and strong, our hearts open. As we let God's spirit enter so will it radiate out.

Try it. It's easier than you think. With practice it may become natural to you again. It's fun and it feels good. We as a Church have been very intentional with our open arms and God-filled Spirit. We are being the Church! We are getting out there, re-introducing ourselves to our neighbors, helping out, and it is right and it is good!

Lemonade Saturdays at the church. *Coffee hour every Sunday.* Pride Day parades and booths and face painting and inspirational rocks. *Children's Music Camp.* Rock Stars! *Sponsoring local sports.* Prayers for teachers, police and firemen. *Blessing of the Animals with the Methodist Church.* Shepherd Program. *Global awareness.* Z-Team, FOOT orphan sponsorship and the PKZ. *T-Ball sponsorship.* New faces in church, new members, and baptisms. *Christmas Bell Concert.* Bible study. *Local visioning.* Get Church! Shirts. *A Pastor who gets it and lives it!*

If you found someone was keeping something from you, you would be upset and sad, wouldn't you? If you know something good you want to share it, don't you? At this time in our lives and our nation's history--when people are confused, vulnerable, angry, lost and divided—we can open our arms, our hearts and show God's love. We can do it!

*With love,
Chris Feddern, Stewardship and The Vitality Team*

CHURCH PLEDGE AND TAX REPORTS – NEW PROCEDURE

Our Church works with two different Calendars – our Church Calendar from July to the end of June and the calendar year (Uncle Sam's Calendar for taxes) from January to December.

Our Assistant Treasurers have been sending out to all pledgers quarterly reports on pledges only. They also send out a report in January of all donations made the previous calendar year for our Givers for doing their taxes.

The Finance Ministry has gotten feedback that these can be confusing. Our Church is blessed with wonderful givers and we give money for many things – not just pledges. So keeping track of all donations and making sure that everything is properly accounted for can be a challenge. Getting a pledge only report without showing your total giving – picture – can be hard to reconcile.

In an effort to help make this accounting task easier for everyone we are going to start a new reporting procedure this year:

- In January and July of each year (the end of the calendar and Church Fiscal years) the Assistant Treasurer will send a complete report showing not only where we all are on our pledges (based on the Church Fiscal Year) but also provide us with our total giving (based on the calendar year). Our hope is that these combined reports – all in one package – will allow you to better reconcile what we have on our Church financial records with your own records of your giving to the Church.
- In April of each year the Assistant Treasurer will send out a pledge only report showing us all where we are on our pledging at the end of what is the 3rd quarter of our Church Fiscal year. The main purpose of this report will be to simply provide you with a reminder of your outstanding balance for pledging (if any) with 3 months to go in the Church Fiscal year. In the past folks have found this handy in case they need to catch up on pledging.
- We will no longer be sending out a pledge only report in October. This was after only one quarter of pledging (July-Aug-Sept) and we feel it did not provide a lot of value.

As always with new procedures we will keep a close eye on this one and we really would like everyone's feedback if this is working better (or not) for helping you keep track of your financial giving to our Church.

*Thanks,
Your Finance Ministry Team*

NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Scrabble 10 a.m. Diaconate Meeting 4 p.m.	3 6:30 pm Community String Band	4	5
6 ALL SAINTS DAY Cereal Sunday Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bells—6 p.m.	7 Caregivers' Support Group 12:30 - 1:30	8  Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 3:30 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	9 Vitality Team Video Conference with Paul Nickerson 4 p.m.	10 Parish Helpers 1 p.m. Community String Band 6:30 pm	11 Fair Set Up 3:30—8 p.m.	12  HARVEST FAIR 9—2
13 Family Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bells—6 p.m.	14	15 Scrabble—10 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	16	17 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. 6:30 pm Community String Band	18	19
20 Thanksgiving Sunday Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Leadership Council Bells—6 p.m.	21	22 Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 3:30 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	23	24  HAPPY THANKSGIVING	25 Office Closed	26
27 First Sunday of Advent Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Bells—6 p.m.	28	29 Bible Study 12 noon Choir Practice 6 p.m.	30			

Celebrations!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Mary Ann Fountain | 20 Mary Beth Cook |
| 2 Glenna Nelson | 21 Berit Johannessen |
| 3 Kim Cornell | 22 Hector Livingston |
| 4 Gail Feddern | 23 Ann Bilodeau |
| 4 Arthur Wheeler | 23 Bruce Levis |
| 5 Vincent Mangano | 25 Lauryn Robinson |
| 8 George Ackerman | 28 Tyler Domings |
| 14 Pam Wiggin | 28 Denine Foulks |
| 15 Lois Royle | 29 Catherine Britton |
| 15 Edna Wilson | 29 Mary James |
| 19 Doug MacKenzie | |

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Skip & Sharon Theiling
- 18 Bob & Ann Eaton
- 21 Hector & Marlena Livingston
- 26 Doug & Dorothy MacKenzie

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 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 at Rufumiso Church, Zimbabwe
Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement
Communities in our area



Harvest Fair



Saturday, November 12, 2016

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Crafts, Nearly New Shop, Cookie Gift Tins, Gift Baskets, Pies, Breads,
Jewelry, Children's Room, Books,
Christmas Shop, Penny Sale, Raffle

Lunch will be served starting at 11 a.m.

Choose from a variety of homemade soup, chili or chowder (with a vegetarian option)

Last chance to get tickets!

Parish Helpers' Quilt and Rug Raffle items will be on display and
the winners names drawn at the close of the Fair.

CHRISTMAS BELLS IN THE VILLAGE



'Christmas Bells in the Village' concert will be held at the Church on December 10 at 5:30. Please join us for this beautiful and uplifting hand bell concert as we usher in the Advent season. Jan Stanley and the Bell Choir have been preparing many months for this joyous event and we look forward to their gift of music so generously offered!

The doors will open early to the Fellowship Hall for a warming welcome as we showcase the missions of the Church and our many options for Alternative Giving.

The Wakefield Inn and Restaurant will be offering a special pre-concert dinner at 4pm. You may call them directly for reservations at 603-522-8272.

The suggested donation is \$10 and the proceeds will benefit the Wakefield Food Pantry and Ministries of the Church. Snow date is Dec. 17.

GIFT BASKETS

Our Harvest Fair will once again offer Gift Baskets for sale. Denine Foulks is organizing the preparation and collection of donations for the baskets.

There will be two sizes of baskets--Regular theme baskets containing 8 to 10 items and priced at \$15 to \$35; and Smart and Sharp Baskets containing 3 items and 1 utensil. Suggestions for **theme baskets** that sell well are ones that will be geared to pets, appetizers, happy hours soup and salad, pasta dinner, breakfast, children's, gift wrap station, movie night, gluten-free and diabetic. Suggestions for items geared toward men : Use a container which is a basic item - car wash (bucket) half-time snacks, painting (small paint can), fishing (tackle box), fitness (toiletry bag), DIY (box for nails, screws, etc.)

Ideas for **Smart and Sharp baskets** include whisk, mix, syrup; spatula, mix, sprinkles; measure cup, frosting, mix; corkscrew, bag, bottle of wine. Other useful donations: coasters, napkins, pens, pencils, kitchen towels, gift tags. Items can be dropped off at the church or at 2161 Wakefield Road (the porch is always open). For more information, call Denine at 603-387-0590.

Z TEAM NEWS

Welcome Home

Left Boston on July 25, 2016, at 11:55 AM Arrived in Dubai on July 26, the flight approximately 12 hrs. 15 min. At 8:10 AM off to Lusaka, Zambia at 9:25 AM, flight approximately 7 hrs. 10 min. Depart to Harare at 4:05 PM and arrive in Harare at 5:10 PM. Then of course we need to apply and pay for a visa, and go through customs. All the while there is a woman in the observation area waving like crazy. You guessed it, it was Connie.

Collecting our bags and getting them all into vehicles is a huge undertaking. We have 5 very large bags, backpacks, smaller carry-ons. But we are soon on our way to our first home away from home.

We are welcomed by Bertha Jambaya at the Jekesa Pfungwa Volingqondo. Greeted by Katherine, she will take care of us, cooking our meals and making sure we are comfortable. I truly feel that this is the beginning of so many wonderful moments when I feel I am being welcomed home.

The next morning we head to Birchenough Bridge. This is where our sister church Rufumiso is. We are here to paint the church, inside and out. A project and mission of love & support for our church family here. Seeing how the congregation has taken care of their beloved church is wonderful.

I stayed with Eddie and Esnath Bread. I am honored that Eddie calls me Mother. He refers to Charlie as his father and my three children as his sister and brothers (although he's never met them), I am now the grandmother or GoGo to MaSimba (13), Praisemore (12), Prominant (8), and Ephriam (3) as well as a few more children who come and go, nieces and nephews of Eddie. Then there is Kenny Mukonzvi (8). He has a sister Makudzi and a brother Ryan. Children of Ambassador & Bridget. Last but not least Tawanda and Tapuwanashe. Children of my daughter Sibongile & her husband Lovemore.

Visiting with families I've known since 2009 and meeting new one, working and worshipping together. Sharing a meal laughing, dancing, singing, praying or just sitting together all is good. So it is always a great joy to be in Zimbabwe and to feel that I am home. Wherever we go and to those we stay with, we are family.

Thanks be to God for this opportunity.

Blessings, Ann Bilodeau

NOVEMBER ROCK STAR HIGHLIGHTS



The Rock Stars start exploring more about symbols and their meaning. Expect to see a whole lot of Fish symbols starting November 6th. Many Rock Stars are beginning to memorize the Books of the Bible. What a task to undertake. Dig into your own memory bank. How many books in order can you recite?

On Family Sunday is November 13th, The Rock Stars Trick or Treat for UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) Collection Boxes will be presented to Rev. Mary. Donations will be then sent on to UNICEF Headquarters. Family Sunday as usual is designed for children of all ages!

Advent Wreath making is the Sunday, November 20th Project! Donations of small jelly jars (2 inches deep) or clear votive/tea light holders would be greatly appreciated. We are also in need of artificial greens to decorate the wreaths. Let Julie (office number: 522-3189) know if you can offer any help with these items.

You are cordially invited to either help with our littlest Rock Stars ages 3 and under in the infant-toddler room or to be with our youth ages 4 years and older as they learn a new lesson, do a craft or a project. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or simply give Julie a call. As always, all preparation and supplies are provided. Don't miss out on an opportunity to have fun learning and creating together.

LIBRARY NEWS

Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships by Bob Farr Where to find it: R-CL (Parish Helpers Room) or Check Mobile Shelving Unit in Fellowship Hall

Paul Nickerson's coaching work has revitalized our church. New people are coming through our doors every week but we can always explore more ideas. This book offers more approaches for changing our habits to encourage others to join our congregation. Farr is Director of Congregational Excellence with the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church and a frequent speaker and seminar leader. Why not get his take on this issue facing churches all over our country.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

CLUTTER CONTROL!

The November **Parish Helpers** meeting will be on Thursday, November 10, at 1 p.m. Our program is "Clutter Control - Several BIG Reasons Why We Buy Too Much STUFF" presented by David Downs. In this program, the emphasis is on stopping the flow of stuff entering our homes! We can't resist bargains, sales, yard sales; we buy and receive gifts we don't want, are just a few reasons why we consume twice as much as we did just forty years ago.

You will learn how advertisers use many techniques such as developing shopping habits, planned obsolescence, slogans, and the use of credit, to motivate people to purchase, purchase, purchase!

Dave uses humor with amusing stories during the talk to engage as well as inform the audience. The audience is challenged to finish product jingles and slogans, many of them decades old, to demonstrate the power advertising has over our purchases! Participants will leave the program recognizing that if they are thoughtful about what and why they acquire items, they will start to reverse the tendency to bury themselves in treasures!

Our hostesses for the meeting are Julie Kessler, Mary Bernier, and Rachel White. Devotions by Jan Stanley. Please feel free to bring a friend! Guests are welcome! See you there!

COMING SOON—ON NOVEMBER 12!

The **Harvest Fair** is coming soon! And you can help! Bake a pie, bread or cookies! Donate some good hard cover books you no longer read or DVDs you no longer watch. Got some jewelry you no longer wear? Donate it to the Jewelry table. Help set up on Friday any time between 3:30 to 8 p.m. or work for a few hours during the fair. Please speak with Ginny Schweitzer (522-9593) to let her know how you can help with this all-church fundraiser.

Please plan on attending the Fair and bring your friends and stay for lunch! This year's fair will be bigger and better than ever! Let's make this day a huge success!!

Don't forget we're also going to pick the winning tickets for the beautiful Parish Helpers Raffle Quilt and Hand-Braided Rug.

See you at the Fair!





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD
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**PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29
7 A.M. TO 11 A.M.**

Adults—\$7; Children \$5.

Kids under 12 wearing costumes eat FREE with a paying adult!

Proceeds benefit the Zimbabwe humanitarian missions.

**CEREAL SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 6**



We will celebrate All Saints Day on November 6. What better way to celebrate the feast of All Saints than to bring in one or more boxes of cereal for the Wakefield Food Pantry?