

# 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

MAY 2017

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

\*INSPIRE  
\*\*Time  
\*\*\*\*\*Enthusiasm  
\*\*\*\*\*Willingness  
ChArity  
\*\*\*\*\*cReativity  
INCLUDE\*\*\*\*\*  
compaSsion\*\*  
\*\*\*Heart  
INVITE\*  
IN SPIRIT

On Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the generosity of our community of faith, view the wonderful film made by our youth, and bless and dedicate all our annual pledges of giving for the coming fiscal year! Please join in.

*My cup overflows;  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life....  
Psalm 23: 5-6*

Blessings and peace,  
Mary

## “STANDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION”

Forty members of our Church and a few friends came together and shared a wonderful and inspiring lunch on Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We heard about Stewardship and Finance. We discussed the both the challenges and the wonderful opportunities we have for strengthening our Church's Foundation while at the same time extending our outreach into our community and beyond.

We received some detailed information on the finances of our Church including a 5 year history of both income and expenses in the form of some very easy to read graphs. If you would like a copy of these, along with a copy of the proposed budget for 2017-2018 they will be available in the Church or through Julie in the Church Office.

Please mark your calendar now for **Annual Meeting on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>** ó come join with us as we make several critical decisions about the future of our Church!

*Frank Frazier  
Finance Ministry*

## CHURCH FAMILY DINNER, MAY 12TH

Please come and enjoy the lasagna and salad dinner that is being prepared for you. (Vegetarian and gluten free options available.) The dinner is FREE and we invite you to join us for good food, good conversation and good fellowship. Just bring your appetite, and your own place setting of plate, cup and silverware. We're doing this old school.

Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM  
Fellowship Hall

Brought to you by Calling and Discernment, and your ministry coordinators.

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.



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

## MAY 14TH FAMILY SUNDAY

The "MUCC'ers," some of our talented youngsters, will show the video that they have made to our congregation. Annual pledges will also be dedicated and blessed. Please come to support our young film-makers!

## SCAMP IS BACK!

SCAMP's 40th Reunion Show on will be held on **May 5th and 6th at 7 p.m. and on May 7th at 4 p.m.** at the Wakefield Opera House. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.

This year's show will have highlights from past years, and special guest stars from previous shows. Several young folks affiliated with our church will be participating and with the talents of Martha Jo McCarthy, a photo montage of all 40 years! All we need is an audience, so bring your friends!

For reservations, please contact Julie Evenson at 793-1680

## THE PARISH HELPERS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Parish Helpers Luncheon meeting and installation of officers will be held on Thursday, May 11, at 12 noon at the Wakefield Inn and Restaurant. If you have not already signed up, please contact Rachel White at 520-2316 and she will add your name to the list. Look forward to seeing you there!

*Carol Jeffery*

## WAKEFIELD WONDERS

The Wakefield Wonders, Relay For Life team will be at Pride Day, sharing a space with the church and the Parish Helpers. We will have raffle tickets for two packages: 1) Concert Tickets-- 2 tickets to "FOUR VOICES". This concert is at Meadowbrook in Gilford, Friday, June 16th at 7 pm. Featuring JOAN BAEZ, MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER, and the INDIGO GIRLS!! Seats are Section C, value \$100.00. 1 ticket/\$10.00 or 3 tickets/\$20.00. 2) "Wakefield Eats, gift certificates for almost every place in Wakefield where you can get food! 1 ticket/\$1.00 or 6 tickets/\$5.00 Drawing will be held June 3 at the Relay. We will also have Luminaria Bags for sale. These can be decorated, and will be included with the Luminaria Ceremony at Relay. We will also have information on the American Cancer Society.  
[www.relayforlife.org/lakewinnipesaukeenh](http://www.relayforlife.org/lakewinnipesaukeenh)

*Nancy Dee*

## Z TEAM NEWS

The Z Team officially welcomes Clark Davis as the newest member of the Z Team! She was an enthusiastic and valued member of the recent Church Decathlon team. Welcome Clark!

Speaking of the Decathlon, thanks to my fun loving teammates: Deb Fogg, Raenya Morann, Julie and Luke Evenson, Robyn and Autumn Forest (who was dressed as Dorothy with her ruby slippers!), Max Gehring, Julia McCarthy, Clark Davis, Evelyn Truhne, and Chris Feddern. Special thanks to Donna Ackerman and Jillian Currier for their fantastic coordination of the event. Our deepest thanks and appreciation go to the fabulous members and friends of FCCW. Our generous sponsors we donated \$1,375 thus far. The competing high school teams raised another \$975! That's \$2350 for HippoRollers to ease the plight of women and girls in Zimbabwe who walks tremendous distances to fetch water. Fantastic, fabulous, social justice and love in action! Go FCCW!



Did you miss the Decathlon and wanted to get in on the fun? **The Z Team is organizing a 5K Relay Race for Pride Day on May 20th!** Yes, a *relay race!* Teams of a minimum of 2 people or a max of 5 can run, walk, hop, skip, dance or hoola hoop (Julia?) for any piece of the 5K course. With the theme "I love the 80s" one can just picture the leg warmers, head bands, track suits, and Richard Simmons type work out gear that might appear! 50% of the proceeds will go to our church's general fund and 50% will help us fund boxes for the next shipping container. So consider getting a team together or perhaps being one of our volunteers on the day of the relay. Pre registration is \$20 per team through May 13th and \$25 per team up to race day. Raffles and prizes will be part of the fun. Please spread the word! We hope some kind of 5K race will become an annual FCCW Pride Day event.

Spring cleaning? **The next humanitarian shipping container is tentatively scheduled for September.** Since I will be in Zimbabwe in Sept, we are looking to collect items from May 1 - June 15th. That will give us time to box the majority of what we will send and prepare the necessary shipping documents before I travel. Popular and needed items include infant, children and adult shoes and clothing in good condition, basic

medical supplies and pain relievers, reading books for children and adults, fabric for sewing, school supplies (pens, pencils, construction paper, crayons, scissors, tape), athletic equipment, tools, etc. When in doubt, ask a Z Team member! If anyone has an unused corner of a barn or garage, we would greatly appreciate a place to store boxes items from June - September!

Thank you all for all that you do to support the work of our partnership with our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe. As we distribute items I have witnessed men and women overcome with emotion at the love and generosity of the Wakefield Church. Never forget that what we do -- large or small -- has a profound impact on others!

*Blessings, Connie Littlefield*

## HOSPITALITY AND HOSTING OUR SISTER CHURCHES

On Sunday afternoon, May 21st, our congregation will host the spring meeting of the Carroll-Strafford Association of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. The thirteen UCC congregations that are our nearest New Hampshire neighbors will send their Pastors and Delegates to carry out the work of the Association, and to celebrate our unity as the wider church.

We will provide hospitality and refreshments beginning at 2:30. The meeting itself will start at 3 and will open with a very short, wonderfully musical opening worship time. Our very own Faith-Based Singers will share inspiring tunes with those gathered and Mary will lead some brief prayers.

We would welcome help with the hospitality and greeting portion of the service, and if you'd like to bake something or provide some cheese and crackers (or other finger food) we sure could use your help with that, too. Please contact Pastor Mary, Jo Szirbik, or Ginny Schweitzer if you can help us out with this or with serving our visitors

## ON OUR LIBRARY SHELVES

Jesus: The Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary by Marcus Borg

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study led by Julie Kessler studied this book and it is now available in the Parish Helpers Library under the subject heading "Jesus." Julie guided us through thought provoking discussions based on this book and now you can examine your ideas about our Savior.

*Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian*

## WELCOME ABOARD THE 2017 PRIDE DAY EXPRESS

Wakefield's Annual Pride Day Celebration is on Saturday, May 20. Don your FCCW yellow "Got Church" T-Shirts and join us for fun at our 3 Pride Day tables on High Street across from the Wakefield Town Hall to celebrate our ministries and community outreach. Setup is at 8:30 am and the parade kicks off from Paul School at 10:30 am. We will have a truck float with kids/adults holding signs featuring all of our community/area/world ministries and a happy group of members giving free hugs to onlookers during the parade.



There will be a 5K FCCW-sponsored relay race with Parks and Rec organized by Connie Littlefield and Deb Fogg. There will be teams of 2 to 5 with an 80¢ theme & proceeds to FCCW. (Read more about it in the Z Team News article!)

Calling all our wonderful youngsters to prepare posters featuring ALL our FCCW ministries for the FCCW Parade Float truck

FCCW will have two tables and Parish Helpers a third table under the tent featuring:

- Face Painting by Artist of the Month Sharon Lafond
- Free Lemonade/water, painted rocks, prayer squares, smiles, music camp information, prayer cork board and smiling welcomers
- Horton Center brochures to promote our wonderful UCC Camp in NH by George and Donna Ackerman
- FCCW T-Ball Team Welcome
- Sing-along by the FCCW oldies crooners
- Parish Helpers Quilt Raffle Tickets
- Sit-a-while card tables/chairs on grass behind tables next to Lino's Restaurant

Don your FCCW t-shirts and join the fun on May 20!!

*Dave Schweitzer*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2016 to Mar 31, 2017

General Income:	\$ 101,520.92
Additional Income Sources:	\$ 32,500.00
Expenditures:	<u>\$(130,468.84)</u>
Net Income over Expenses	\$ 3,552.08

Checking Non-Restricted balance:	\$ 6,978.13
Checking Restricted Funds balance:	<u>\$ 3,303.83</u>
Total Checking A/C balance: 3/31/17	\$ 10,281.96

The weather bounces up and down and so do the financial numbers of our church. In March we moved the remaining balance of the Alden Young gift, designated to be used for this fiscal year budget, to the checking account. We also transferred \$5000 from the Housing Allowance balance (invested with the United Church Funds) for the first time this year. Some of this money has already been used to cover large bills paid at the beginning of April such as the annual Umbrella insurance policy renewal.

An unexpected check for \$200 arrived in March referenced as Wakefield Settlement Funds from a Town of Wakefield Trust Fund. Apparently the town had a parsonage which was sold back in the 1800s and the proceeds of the sale have been sitting in a trust, collecting interest ever since. The trustees decided to close the trust. They divided the proceeds between the seven Wakefield churches. Each church received \$200. This money is being held in our restricted funds until it is determined exactly how it will be used. This is a small windfall, but happily received.

Hopefully you attended the "Standing on a Firm Foundation" luncheon and conversation on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This article is being written before the gathering so a report on it will have to wait until next month. All members and friends of our beloved church have a stake in the Vision for our coming Church year and beyond. Just as there is a time for serious discussion, there is time for fun like what is being planned for the Church Family Dinner on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars.

Janice Brejwo and Shannon Johnson, Co-Treasurers  
[fccwtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fccwtreasurer@gmail.com)

Our Monthly Food Item for the  
Wakefield Food Pantry is  
Canned Fruit!

## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION SESSION

We will soon offer an information session for all who are interested in becoming members of the church. All who are interested in exploring membership are welcome to attend the session, which will take place right after the worship service on **Sunday, June 4th**. We will load up our plates with snacks from coffee hour and meet together in the large classroom for 90 minutes. It's so fun for us all to get to know each other a bit more!

The advantages of becoming a church member are that members are able to take part in leadership positions, and all members are able to exercise a vote at our congregation's annual meeting and other special meetings (called when important decisions must be made). Membership is a sign of a desire for an increased threshold of participation in the vibrant, joyful, illuminating, and outreaching life of our church. There is never any pressure to join the church, ever. There is always a warm invitation to do so, though!

Please let Pastor Mary know if you'd like to take part in the new member information session. We hope to receive all those interested into church membership the following Sunday, June 11th, which is also the date of our congregation's annual meeting (held right after worship). **So, please save both dates: June 4th and June 11th!**

God bless us all as we look forward to new adventures in God's love with new members on board!

### HISTORY MOMENT:

#### CONGREGATIONALISM AND THE SOCIAL GOSPEL

öDuring the late-nineteenth century, many Congregationalists, most notably pastor and writer Washington Gladden, were leaders in the Social Gospel movement. This was an effort to change all of society for the better ö to establish the "kingdom of God on earth" ö by campaigning for workers' rights, education and health care for the poor, and clean and accessible cities.

Other Congregational theologians like Theodore Munger and Lyman Abbott pioneered the New Theology, a more optimistic and socially involved approach to Christianity. By the early twentieth century, these views were no longer those of the radical few but dominating the curriculum of most Congregational seminaries, and preached from church pulpits across the country.ö

Website of the Congregational Library/Boston

Linda Petkunas

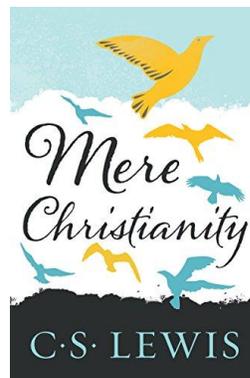
## PASTOR'S PROGRESS

Mary's recovery through Post-Concussion Syndrome is going quite well, but she is still in the process of gradual re-entry with limited hours. Her doctor has allowed her to return for ten hours a week until May 5th, at which time this status will be re-evaluated and (she hopes) adjusted upward.

Until Mary is back full-time, which will take some time, please be aware that she is prioritizing her areas of focus with care. She is not yet in a position to accommodate the full range of duties, as much as she would love to be!

Mary and Bob thank our congregation for their kindness, patience, and prayers in this time. They are also deeply appreciative of the kindness of the several ministers who have helped us in this time, and in particular extend deep gratitude to the Rev. Gayle Murphy for her unwavering kind and gentle presence!

## NEW BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN MAY 9



Come join us as we start a new Bible Study where we explore C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*, and learn how it still has relevance in our world today. The following is brief synopsis of how this powerful work came to be: "In 1943 Great Britain, when hope and the moral fabric of society were threatened by the relentless inhumanity of global war, an Oxford don was invited to give a series of radio lectures addressing

the central issues of Christianity. Over half a century after the original lectures, the topic retains its urgency. Expanded into book form, *Mere Christianity* never flinches as it sets out a rational basis for Christianity and builds an edifice of compassionate morality atop this foundation. As Mr. Lewis clearly demonstrates, Christianity is not a religion of flitting angels and blind faith, but of free will, an innate sense of justice and the grace of God."

In this 8-session video group study, Eric Metaxas and a variety of Christian leaders - including Philip Yancey, Alister McGrath, Devin Brown, Paul McCusker, and Douglas Gresham help us understand the timeless message of C.S. Lewis in fresh ways for a new generation.

The study begins on May 9th. We will meet at 12:00 in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Julie Kessler at [julielouisekessler@gmail.com](mailto:julielouisekessler@gmail.com) or by phone [603-871-8066](tel:603-871-8066).

## SPOTLIGHT ON NEW FCCW MEMBERS



**Linda Messer** and her husband Richard retired 7 years ago and moved into their 30 year old lake home on Pine River Pond from the Boston area near Malden where Linda grew up. She graduated from Bridgewater State College (MA) in elementary education and taught third grade in Malden's Public Schools. She met her husband

Richard, a transplant from Pittsburgh, PA, and 47 years ago. They have a daughter, Laurie Ann, who is married and presented them with three beautiful grandchildren.

Linda attended FCCW several times before moving here permanently. Although she had never been a member of any church or baptized, she was drawn to what she calls this amazing church 18 months ago. She felt so warmly welcomed by Pastor Mary and our church family in our beautiful sanctuary and experienced an overwhelming spiritual feeling every time she entered. She felt called in and knew this was where she belonged. She was baptized and joined FCCW last July.

Since joining the church, she has been exploring all the facets of our ministries and has enjoyed offering a hand to the building and grounds ministry, volunteering at the church yard sale, performing kitchen duties at coffee hour and, especially, working with kids at music camp. She says "I can't imagine a better place to be!"

**Tracey Kolb** (in her own words). "The first thing I would like to say is "thank you for making me feel so welcome in your church." Moving to a new town or state can be daunting and finding a warm, friendly and inclusive UCC First Congregational Church was a great relief.

My name is Tracey Kolb and my wonderful husband is Mark Kolb. We have three children Molly, Ryan and Jay. Molly graduated UNH last year with a degree in Zoology, Ryan is graduating this year from the UNH Paul Business School with a degree in finance and the youngest Jay recently finished Kingswood High School.



Mark and I married the summer of 2013 and I moved to Wakefield New Hampshire from Sherman Connecticut. I was a member of the New Milford Connecticut UCC First Congregational Church for many years. I used to sing with my mother in the Choir for the Christmas Concert. That is still one of my favorite memories.

I am a retired airline pilot from Northwest Airlines (Delta). Currently I stay very busy with my husband being involved with our children and extended families. We are also very active with a volunteer group we started with several friends, The Pride of Wakefield Volunteers. A group of residents trying to keep the spirit of Pride Day alive all year long.

*Dave Schweitzer*

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP SUNDAY, MAY 14

The organizational structure of our church is rooted in Calling and Discernment, recognition of spiritual gifts, the valuing of interdisciplinary ministry, and the claiming of all the church forms of work and play in the life of the Church as Ministries rather than tasks.

-- Rev. Mary James.

You are invited to study the scriptural basis of spiritual gifts, complete a spiritual gifts inventory, discern vital passions and develop holy practices. You will receive a booklet: *Vital Passions, Holy Practices: Exploring Spiritual Gifts.*

This one-hour workshop is being offered on Sunday, May 14, following worship. Please notify the church office or Jan Fairchild if you plan to participate.

***God, lead me to greater understanding of my unique spiritual gifts and lead me to sharing them within and beyond the church.***

***May I find new energy and passion in expressing myself through my gifts and in doing so – may I call forth the gifts of others. Amen.***

*Jan Fairchild*

# Celebrations!

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Sarah Connell	14 Scott Frothingham
5 Emma Dolbear	17 George Ackerman Jr.
7 Dalton Ostrye	17 Bridgette Gehring
8 Scott Mercer	18 Lance MacLean
9 Maurice Hatch	19 Cindy Eggleston
10 Sophia Moran	22 Peg Bridges
11 Sharon Baldwin	23 Marc Galabrun
11 Patricia Martin	23 Lynn Shaffer
11 Wayne Robinson	28 Luke Evenson
13 Nicholas Gatchell	29 Scott Twombly
13 Dot Roberts	31 Brittany Frothingham
14 Elizabeth Fogg	

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

3 Barry & Evelyn Truhn
13 Charlie & Ann Bilodeau
18 David & Gisela Haag
24 Chip & Karen Hagy
29 Rob & Kelly Druge
31 Dick & Harriet Wilson

## 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.
Mackenzie M.	Sid S.
Marcia	Marcia H.
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

## PAM'S GARDEN—A CELEBRATION OF LIFE Saturday June 3rd – 2 pm to 5 pm.



Come to Mooseview Farm, 103 Lyford Rd ó Brookfield, and help us celebrate the life of Pam Frazier. There will be food and drinks and music along with seedlings to plant in a special new óPam's Garden.

All the vegetables harvested from that garden will be donated to the Food Pantry in Pam's memory this year.

All of our wonderful Church Family are welcome.  
Please RSVP to Frank at [frank@mooseview.com](mailto:frank@mooseview.com)

*Frank Frazier*



The Johannessen family would like to thank the church for the outpouring of love and support given to our Mom during her recent hospitalization and illness.

We would especially like to thank Ginny Schweitzer for all of her effort and care in coordinating visitors from the church, as well as all those who brought yummy, healing soup! This church is a role model for how to care for one another, and help make people feel loved! We are all grateful for the prayers and care and genuine concern for Berit.

We are so happy Mom is feeling better! Again many many thanks to all of you.

*Sigrid Johannessen*

# MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Caregivers' Support Group 10 a.m.—11 a.m.  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Scrabble 10 a.m.  Diaconate Meeting 4 p.m.	<b>4</b> Bereavement Support Group 11 a.m.  Community String Band 6:30 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>4th Sunday of Easter</b> Worship with Holy Communion and Church School—10 a.m.  Coffee Hour Leadership Meeting ***Ecclesiastical Council— 3 p.m. 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 Luncheon 12 Noon  Community String Band 6:30 p.m.	<b>12</b>  Church Family Dinner Just for Fun!  6 p.m.	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>5th Sunday of Easter</b> Family Worship—10 a.m. Pledge Sunday Coffee Hour Spiritual Gifts Workshop 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>  Community String Band 6:30 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Pride Day
<b>21</b> <b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>  Worship—10 a.m.  Spring Meeting of Carroll—Strafford Association 2:30 at FCCW  Bells—6 p.m.	<b>22</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>23</b>  Bible Study 12 noon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Ascension Day</b>  Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Community String Band 6:30 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>7th Sunday of Easter</b>  Worship—10 a.m. Coffee Hour  Bells—6 p.m.	<b>29</b>  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>30</b>  Bible Study 12 noon	<b>31</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             **Ecclesiastical Council for Maureen Steer's candidacy for ordination, First Church Congregational, UCC, Rochester at 3 pm.           </div>		



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

### COMING EVENTS

S.C.A.M.P. ô May 6 and 7  
Church Family Dinner, May 12  
Family Sundayô Pledge Sundayô May 14  
Spiritual Gifts Workshopô May 14  
Wakefield's Annual Pride Day Celebrationô Saturday, May 20  
Relay for Lifeô June 3  
New Member Info Sessionô June 4  
Annual Meeting of the Congregationô June 11

Summer Music Camp for kids will be held the week of July 24 through the 28, 2017. This is a week of fun for school aged children- K through 6th grade. More information will follow in future editions of Steeple Views.

\*\*Read more about these events inside!\*\*