

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

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THE PASTOR'S PLACE

THE CALL TO THE CHURCH IN THIS TIME

We have all been deeply troubled by the recent displays of hatred on the part of white supremacists and neo-Nazis outfitted for violence marching, chanting hateful slogans, and carrying torches. There has been a rise in hate crimes and incidences of hate speech leading up to and since the last presidential election. While we as a majority white church are largely insulated from the direct effects of such incidents, our friends and neighbors of color and of other religious traditions correctly hasten to remind us that they are not surprised by these events, as they live day in and day out with the impact of racism and bigotry. These events have awakened us all to the depth and breadth of hate groups in our country. As the Body of Christ, we are called to denounce such groups, and to respond with words and actions of love, peace, healing, and justice-seeking, working for equality among all peoples. I invite us to reflect together as to how we may accomplish this.

A recent article from *Sojourners* provides a helpful guide. It is called "For Our White Friends Desiring to Be Allies" and is written by Courtney Ariel. Here is the link to the full article: <https://sojo.net/articles/our-white-friends-desiring-be-allies>

A brief synopsis of the main points of the piece will, I pray, lead us all to want to learn more. Here is a sampling of the author's suggestions:

1. Listen more; talk less. Listen to people whose experience is different from your own.
2. Refrain from "whitesplaining." Try to just sit and listen to someone's experience.
3. Educate yourself about racism in our country. (Great readings are suggested; check it out.)
4. Remember that your shock and outrage at the existence of racism in America echoes the fact that you have lived an entire life with the luxury of indifference about the lives of marginalized/ disenfranchised folks.
5. Ask when you don't know.
6. Stop talking about colorblindness. "It's not a thing."

It is easy for those of us who happen to be white to become defensive when we read such a list, but I have found that the more I open my heart to such input, the more deeply I feel connected to and understanding of the situation of people in marginalized groups. Ultimately, as civil rights activist Ruby Sales put it in an interview with Krista Tippett, "we've got to stop speaking about humanity as if it's monolithic. We've got to wrap our consciousness around a world where people bring to the world vastly different histories and experiences, but at the same time, a world where we experience grief and love in some of the same ways. So how do we develop theologies that weave together the 'I' with the 'We' and the 'We' with the 'I'?" Indeed, how? Let us work together on that.

Blessings and peace, Mary

*And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Micah 6: 8

PARISH HELPERS UPDATE

Thanks to all who helped make the Village Fair a big success! The day started off a bit dreary, but by 9 a.m. the sun was shining just in time for the opening of the Fair! We sold out of cookies, pies, and breads, and sold many crafts. Most importantly, we spread a lot of cheer and goodwill in community! The Treasure Shop had a banner day as well!

Our September meeting is on the 14th at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Once again we will welcome our favorite speaker, Carl Lindblade, of UNH who will give his talk, "New Hampshire, A State of Mind." Please join us for a very entertaining afternoon!

Carol Jeffery

HARRIET'S WALK FOR PKD

In the last issue of Steeple Views I asked you to consider donating to my 2017 Walk for PKD which raises money for research toward a treatment and ultimately a cure for Polycystic Kidney Disease. This is a cause near to my heart (since I have PKD), and I thank those of you who have already stepped up with a donation; so far, \$675 has come in! I would love to have a few more donations from my church family - and I have a hand made and personally designed card all ready for you! Thank you for your consideration.. Blessings.

Harriet Wilson

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping at a coffee hour this month. Volunteers are needed to set-up and serve, and to clean up. Sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

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>

THE TREASURE SHOP

The Treasure Shop is winding down for the season. The last day is Saturday, September 9. If you haven't stopped by recently, come on down! New merchandise is arriving every week!

LIBRARY NEWS

The Emperor's Guest: Coming of Age Behind Barbed Wire During WWII in Indonesia by Titia Bozuwa

Our church family recently celebrated the life of a wonderful man, Dr. Gijs Bozuwa. He and his wife, Titia, immigrated from the Netherlands in 1957 and settled in Wakefield taking up residence in the historic "Doctor's House," across from the church. He practiced medicine in the tradition of other country doctors who treated their patients as neighbors and friends.

In this book, Titia gives us a powerful account of her husband's WWII experiences as a teenager who was held captive for three years by the Japanese in a men's internment camp in the Dutch East Indies. Gijs and his fellow inmates endured beatings, hunger and illness but their resilient spirits kept them strong until their liberation following the dropping of the atomic bomb.

This book is shelved in the Biography section of the Parish Helpers Library. Source: Book cover

Linda Petkunas/Church Librarian

WE ARE DOING IT!

Rather than to thank everyone individually, we should thank everyone as a group collectively. What wonderful, encouraging news that we have exceeded the Pledge amount that was approved for this year's budget! The approved budget included \$109,352 in the expected pledge amount Line #4. Due to your generosity and insightful stewardship we have exceeded that amount by approx. 7%! What does that mean to all of us? It means that your faith and belief in the works and ministries of FCCW are alive and well and thriving. It means that we may be able to decrease our dependence upon other sources of income such as the Parsonage Fund.

Dear members and supporters of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC thank you for your love, support, faith, belief and generosity. You are the Church. With love and appreciation,

Chris Feddern, Stewardship

GO DOWN MOSES

During the last week of July we held another very successful Music Camp 2017. There were up to 25 delightful children participating throughout the week. Many children from our first Music Camp in 2016 returned happy and excited to be back. Our theme for the week was Moses, God's trusted prophet and servant. Each morning the children listened to a Bible story, read scriptures, sang songs and danced, learned simple music theory, ate snacks, played games and created crafts all related to the life and mission of Moses.

Heartfelt thanks go to our faithful volunteers who shared their time, talents, and loving spirit with the children: Margie Galabrun, Patricia Golden, Nancy Drew, Denine Foulks, Carol Lundgren, Mandy Boggs, Jo Szirbik, Evy Truhn, Linda Messer, Richard Messer, Buddy Dee, Max Ghering, Sharon LaFond, Mary Bernier, Libby Cochran, Mr. Daveö, Andrea Szirbik Groft, Ann Bilodeau and Serena Huckins.

On Sunday following Music Camp, some of our campers participated in the morning worship service offering some of what they learned in song and dance. It was a joyous and uplifting service. I think I can speak for the staff as well as myself when I say that the children blessed each of us richly.

Jan Stanley

FINANCE MINISTRY

Frank Frazier has faithfully and expertly fulfilled the duties of Coordinator of Finance Ministry and we are grateful for his time and devotion. He has notified us that he is stepping down from this position and will assist in the transition of responsibilities to a new Coordinator.

The Finance Coordinator works with the Co-Treasurers, the Assistant Treasurer and other Finance Ministry members to oversee the church's finances and investments and coordinate the annual budgeting process.

Are you interested in serving as either a member or leader of this Ministry? We are eager to speak with anyone who has an interest in learning more about this vital position in our church community. We will provide more details and explore whether your participation would satisfy the use of your gifts and talents. For additional information, please contact Frank Frazier or Jan Fairchild on behalf of the Calling and Discernment Ministry.

Jan Fairchild



TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2017 – July 31, 2017

General Income:	\$ 15,676.54
Expenditures:	<u>\$(14,598.62)</u>
Net Income over Expenses	\$ 1,077.92

Checking Non-Restricted balance:	\$ 12,836.58
Checking Restricted Funds balance:	<u>\$ 4,018.16</u>
Total Checking A/C balance: 7/31/17	\$ 16,854.74

Fiscal year 2017-18 is off to a good start. Pledges are robust. Income stayed ahead of expenses for July. Have you ever wondered what is behind those total numbers given above? You, too, can receive the Treasurers' Monthly Report just by sending a request to us at our email given below. We would be thrilled to add you to the monthly distribution list.

Once again, there is a housekeeping matter relating to those pesky payment authorizations. We are all volunteers here, trying to use our time wisely. Please, please, please put account numbers for the budget line affected on the authorization. We do not want to guess, nor spend extra time requesting the missing information. We appreciate your assistance with this little matter.

Finally, the Finance Ministry needs you. You do not need to be a lover of numbers, but it sure would help all of us if a few more people would attend our meetings. Your listening and input would be very welcome and you are bound to learn things about our church. Our next meeting is scheduled after church on September 24, 2017. Pick up a little snack at coffee hour and join us in the Parish Helper's room for a stimulating gathering.

*Janice Brejwo and Annie Gehring, Co-Treasurers
fccwtreasurer@gmail.com*

THANK YOU LETTER FROM ZIMBABWE

(Gift Dhilwayo is a Rufumiso church member and deputy headmaster of the local Goko High School.)

Rufumiso UCCZ
P O Box 65
Stand 84/85
Maunganidze Growth Point
Birchenough Bridge
Manicaland, Zimbabwe
24th September 2016

The Wakefield Church UCC
New Hampshire USA

Beloved Sons and Daughters of Christ Jesus

REF:GRATITUDES (Hebrews 13:16 Do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased)

We, Rufumiso UCCZ , write to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Wakefield church congregants in general and the Zim- team in particular for the Godly hand you extended to us at an appropriate time - painting of our newly built church house which now looks very magnificent. The team which paid us a visit in August 2016 comprised of Anne, Connie, Jillian, Max and Dalton, a specialist painter. We worked together for a week and the church house was adorned.

Our special thanks go to Rev Mary James for prayers , inspiration & unwavering spiritual guidance. May the Lord continue to richly bless her.

However, as the Zim - team proceeded to other parts of Chipinge District, one of our special visitors (Jillian) fell sick & had to be hospitalized in Harare before she was flown back to USA. We had to pray day & night for her quick recovery until we heard that she had boarded a plane back home. May the wonderful God give her abundant healthy life.

Our God is a living one. Connie Littlefield continued to spearhead charity work & to work tirelessly to improve particularly UCCZ communities

Our relationship shall forever be cherished. Finally, greetings in in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen

Yours
Dhliwayo Gift

(For Rufumiso UCCZ Secretary General)

ATTENTION PARISH HELPERS!

Parish Helpers, I need your help! If you have not signed up to be a Hostess or to do Devotions at one of our monthly meetings between October 2017& September 2018, I would love to hear from you. We need 3 hostesses per meeting and since I have 6 meetings open, you can have your choice of dates. I will have the list with me or you can call me at 603-387-4588. Thanks in advance.

Ann Bilodeau

CHURCH SCHOOL ROCK STARS

The Church School Rock Stars will start meeting September 17th. Church School will be the last two Sundays of every month. The first Sunday, Communion Sunday and the second Sunday, Family Service will then be open for kids of all ages to participate in and enjoy.

Biblical Numerology will highlight this year's lessons and crafts.

September 17: The Rock Stars lesson will take a look at the number of musical Bible Verses (63!). Of course, there are an additional **1150** verses that pertain to or talk about music. Making a musical instrument will be our project. We can then all "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord".

September 25: "There is One God". The lesson will examine and read passages that attest to there being only one God. The Rock Stars will work on creating a God's Eye.

Denine Foulks

PAINT CLASS—OCTOBER 1

Save the date! October 1st, 2017! Doodlin' Di is returning to the FCCW Fellowship Hall for another Paint Class. It will be something with Fall Colors, of course! As soon as I have the chosen painting, I will share it so you can sign up. No artistic talent is necessary, she will guide us through it to a beautiful masterpiece.

The cost is \$35.00, time is 1 p.m. to 3:30ish. Send or deliver payment to FCCW, 2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH 03872, by September 24, to save your spot. Please write "paint class" on the envelope. Refreshments will be provided. Proceeds to benefit the general fund of FCCW. Contact person for this is Nancy Dee.

Nancy Dee

SPIFF, POLISH, SHINE – SEPTEMBER 27TH

Time to roll up sleeves and get it done! Please join us if you can for an inside out clean up at our beloved church. We'll work from 9-2 and welcome helpers for all or part of that time.

Carol and Dalton (B&G Ministry)

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

An Interfaith Prayer Vigil will be held outside of the offices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the federal building in Manchester.

This vigil is co-sponsored by Hosted by American Friends Service Committee NH, the Granite State Organizing Project and the NH Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees.

We will be standing in prayer, songs and silence in solidarity with immigrants who have check-in appointments that day with ICE, and who face the threat of detention and deportation. Our message to immigrant families is "We stand with you." Our message to ICE is "Let them stay. Stop separating families."

We welcome people from all faith traditions to be with us, as well as those who do not identify with a faith tradition.

The vigil will last from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. We will stand in silent witness until 10 am as we await news of the outcomes of check-in appointments.

We will not be yelling; no handmade signs; this is not a rally. This event is peaceful, and is not designed to disrupt traffic or entry to the building.

In addition to this vigil, we are committed to holding smaller vigils on each of the days that people have to return to ICE with their plane tickets. We want to show each family that we stand heartbroken with them as they comply with this terrible demand. The dates for these vigils are as follows (all at 8:30 am unless we hear differently):

Friday, September 1
Tuesday, September 5 (check-in day)
Wednesday, September 6
Friday, September 8
Monday, September 11
Tuesday, September 19

CHURCH-WIDE TEAM SYNERGY

On Sunday, September 17th immediately after our worship service, we will gather down in Fellowship Hall to join as a team with the purpose of brainstorming new fundraising ideas. Our church comes together on a regular basis - working together to do wonderful things! Yes, we have some very successful fundraisers; but we think we can do more. We know we have a gap in our projected spending vs. income and increasing our fundraising is one way we can help close that gap. Be thinking of ideas - both for new fundraisers and ideas for possibly doing even more with existing fundraisers. Even if you don't think you have any ideas, come to participate ... because each one of us will combine to create something more than what we could collectively do as individuals! If you know you won't be able to attend but have some ideas, please send along to Julie Kessler - by email: julielouisekessler@gmail.com or by phone: [603-871-8066](tel:603-871-8066).

CHANGE IN CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In an effort to trim the budget for 2017-2018, Building and Grounds has re-contracted with our cleaning service, Pam's Professional Cleaning Co., to clean every other week instead of every week. We are looking for volunteer helpers to do some light duty work on the in-between weeks: empty waste baskets refill toilet paper and paper towels, and tidy up entry ways if needed. Nothing heavy. Can you help? Looking for 4 to 6 people. Each person would volunteer once a month for less than an hour. Email carollundgren@roadrunner.com if able/ interested. Thank you.

*Carol Lundgren,
Building and Grounds Ministry*

THE ZIMBABWE SHIPPING CONTAINER

The shipping container will be loaded on September 9 at 9 a.m. in Keene, NH. The address is:

Smiths Medical
10 Bowman Drive on RT 12
Keene, NH

We need folks to come on September 8th to load the trailer at Westlook / Vanderhoof's then take the trip to Keene to unload. This is a big job but with many hands it can be completed. Please let me know if you can help.

Ann Bilodeau [603-387-4588](tel:603-387-4588)

Celebrations!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Christine Feddern	16 Russell Baldwin
2 Ryan Hughes	16 MacKenzie Robinson
8 Susan Girardin	18 Sara Denver
8 Lora Stanley	18 Sarah Duplinsky
10 Meaghan Connell	18 Margie Galabrun
10 Rachel White	19 Eric Perkins
11 Mark Evenson	19 Sharon Theiling
11 Ken Jeffery	24 Connor Nelson
12 Cindy Denver	25 Joe Brejwo
12 Priscilla Frothingham	26 Rebecca Mooers
12 Donna Vanderhoof	28 Edie Garland
14 David Schweitzer	30 Janice Brejwo
15 Ethan Ball	30 Suzy Carter

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4 Joe & Barbara Cawlina
21 Scott & Kathy Frothingham



DR. GIJS (CHRIS) BOZUWA

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our long-time member and friend, Gerard Gijsbert (Chris) Bozuwa, M.D. who passed away on Wednesday, July 26, 2017, at Mountain View Community in Ossipee, NH, where he had been medical director for many years.

A memorial service was held for Dr. Bozuwa at our church on August 4. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time of sorrow. You can read the full obituary notice online at <http://www.lordfuneralhome.com/notices/Gerard-BozuwaMD>

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.	Donald L.
Tom and Barbara T.	George J.
George B.	Sid S.
Mackenzie M.	Marcia H.
Marsha A.	Jim P.
Jan F.	Barry and Barbara N.

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

THANK YOU!

On behalf of my son Paul and his family, I would like to express our deep-felt gratitude for the incredible outpouring of love and support at the unexpected passing of my husband, Dr. Gerard (Chris/Gijs) Bozuwa. To receive so many visits, calls, cards and other expressions of support has been overwhelming.

The many people who attended the memorial service for Gijs from outside our church community couldn't get over the love, care and commitment that was shown us at this time. They voiced that impression over and over to us, and it made me feel very grateful and proud to be a part of the Wakefield Congregational Church.

It is hard to lose the man I was so close to for 61 years, but I am reconciled with the knowledge that my church envelops me with compassion and love. Thank You.

Titia Bozuwa

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
3 13th Sunday after Pentecost Worship and Communion—10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bells Practice 6:30 p.m.	4 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	5	6 Treasure Shop Open -9 to noon Scrabble 10 a.m. Diaconate -4 p.m. Girl Scouts— 5:30—6:30 p.m.	7 Community String Band 6:30 p.m.	8	9 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
10 14th Sunday after Pentecost Family Sunday Worship —10 a.m. Coffee Hour Bells Practice 6:30 p.m.	11 Caregivers’ Support Group Choir Practice 6 p.m.	12 Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 3:30 p.m.	13 Girl Scouts— 5:30—6:30 p.m.	14 Bereavement Support—11 a.m. Parish Helpers 1 p.m. Community String Band 6:30 p.m.	15	16
17 15th Sunday after Pentecost Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour CHURCH-WIDE TEAM SYNERGY MEETING Bells Practice 6:30 p.m.	18 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	19 Bible Study 12 noon	20 Girl Scouts— 5:30—6:30 p.m.	21 Community String Band 6:30 p.m.	22 FCCW Anniversary 232 Years	23
24 16th Sunday after Pentecost Worship and Church School—10 a.m. Coffee Hour STEEPLE VIEWS DEADLINE Bells Practice 6:30 p.m.	25 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	26 Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 3:30 p.m.	27 Girl Scouts— 5:30—6:30 p.m.	28 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. Community String Band 6:30 p.m.	29	30



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

MONTHLY/ WEEKLY EVENTS AT FCCW

(Find details on our Website at www.fccwakefieldnh.org)

Scrabbleô First Wednesday and Second Tuesday

Bible Studyô Every Tuesday at noon

Caregiverø Support Groupô Every 1st Monday (except holidays)

Bereavement Support Groupô Every 3rd week on Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Parish Helpersø Meeting ô Every 2nd Thursday at 1 p.m.

Centering Prayerô 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Ministryô Every 4th Thursday at 10 a.m.

Community String Bandô Every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.