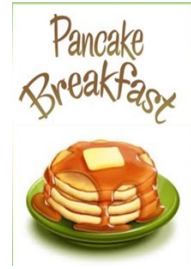


Happening NOW!

Saturday, February 1— Pancake Breakfast

7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Variety of pancakes with eggs, sausage, muffins and more! Proceeds benefit humanitarian efforts in Zimbabwe.



Sunday, February 2 — Souper Sunday

Order your soup now (See inside for how to) or pick some up at the Pancake Breakfast on Saturday or after worship on Sunday.



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



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



REVEREND DR. ALBERTA WALLACE, INTERIM PASTOR
REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS
FEBRUARY 2020

PHONE: 603-522-3189
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FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Beloveds of First Congregational Church Wakefield UCC,

In honor of Black History Month, I am sharing the reflection from our Conference Minister Rev. Gordon Rankin from the New Hampshire Conference Weekly News January 21st. It is titled, "Being Always Angry."

The New Hampshire Conference is the only Conference in the UCC that has voted to intentionally focus its efforts on educating lay and clergy on the continued effects of racial inequality. As a predominantly white conference, it is very fitting for our white Conference Minister to provide an example of how to start talking about the effects of racism when you live and work in a poorly diverse part of the country and your denomination (UCC) is over 90% white.

"Being Always Angry" By Rev. Gordon Rankin

[I have been working on this reflection for several weeks. It seems that, during the time when we remember the legacy of Dr. King, it is the right time to share it with the broader community. – Gordon]

There is a piece of dialogue in the original Avengers movie that long perplexed me. During the movie there is an ongoing wonderment about how Bruce Banner had learned to manage his anger and not uncontrollably turn into the raging Hulk. During the Battle of New York, the Avengers need the might of the Hulk and urge Banner to transform. In response, Banner says, "You want to know my secret? I am always angry."

For a long time, the idea of being "always angry" made no sense to me. If I am totally honest, I am not one who does anger a lot. Sure, I can get frustrated or upset. But as far as having that anger that just sits in your gut and churns, that's not me. Or at least it wasn't.

It was my time working with our Lakota siblings that taught me the gift of anger. As I mourned with the Lakota community in remembrance of the several hundred men, women and children who were slaughtered by the first automatic rifles at Wounded Knee for dancing, my anger would stir. (By the way, the United States gave out more Medals of Honor for Wounded Knee than any other single battle in history.) As I learned about the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery (a church decree in support of colonization that later became United States law) and how our government has never in its history honored a treaty made with the Lakota people, my anger grew. As I stood with Water Protectors at Standing Rock clearly seeing the snipers that the militarized police had in place on the hills around us, it became clear that the Doctrine of Discovery has a profound impact today and is not just a story from history. Anger became real to me in a new way.

It is always clear to me that my Lakota friends carried this sense of anger around with them all the time. And why wouldn't they? They have been slaughtered, dehumanized, lied to, betrayed, and relegated to some of the most inhospitable land there is. This happened not just throughout history but even during their lifetimes. How can there be a more appropriate response than anger?

I learned from my Lakota siblings that if I was to truly walk with them, to fully share human connection, to be an ally, that I needed to accept that the anger I felt would always be with me. And it is.

(Pastor's Page Continued)

In November, I joined many of my Conference Minister colleagues in visiting Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma, Alabama. I found my anger there as well. I was a college history major. I knew all the stories. But I hadn't connected with the anger before. I'd like to be able to say this was because I was trained to be historically analytical. But I know in the depth of my soul that the truth is that I was protected from such feelings by my whiteness. Yet during this journey with trusted colleagues, there were these pieces of what we experienced that pierced my protections.

I knew the stories of lynchings. I would have told you with conviction that such acts were reprehensible. But there was something about learning that lynchings were such public festivals that people would take photos to make them into postcards that pierced through and made me angry. During our visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, reading all the names of people who had been lynched broke my heart. But it wasn't until I read the names of those who were lynched in the county where I went to college that I really connected with my anger. I knew quite well of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church, but it was the small detail that the four girls who were killed were in the bathroom getting ready to lead a Youth Sunday worship service that freed my anger for good. Since my return from Alabama, I find myself always angry.

In our conversations about racism, too often reconciliation gets defined as working towards forgiving and moving on. Let me be clear: that's a fable of white privilege. Anger is the appropriate response to the destructive evil of racism. Privilege encourages us to ignore this truth. But faith, I have come to believe, asks us to join our siblings of color in their anger.

I now know the experience of being always angry. And I think it has made me a more faithful person.

Beloveds of FCCW, let our anger rise to shine the light of LOVE!

Pastor Alberta

Membership Meeting, February 9th

An important membership meeting is being called on February 9th to hear and discuss critical information about our search for a settled pastor. Pastor Alberta will be sending information out via e-mail for us to read in advance. ***If you don't receive e-mail, please ask the office for a copy.*** We will be hearing from our Finance Ministry regarding our projected financial preparedness for a 5-year contract. We will discuss a full-time vs part time pastorate. We will discuss the marks of ministry, or what we are looking for in our next settled pastor. It's an important meeting. Please plan on attending

Margie Galabrun, Moderator

FCCW—Every Voice Has Voice



HEART



**All Members Meeting
Sunday, February 9th— 11am**

A Gift of Self-Love

On February 14th, we celebrate love with gifts of candy and flowers. Yet for some, this day is a reminder of not just love but also loss. If you are struggling with grief from the loss of a loved one, I understand and encourage you to give yourself a gift - the gift of connection and support. Our next Grief Support group will meet in the Parish Helpers Room on **February 12, at 11 A.M. or 7 P.M.** We'd love to see you there.

Patti Schmoock

Netflix Series, The Messiah

I would love to discuss the Netflix series, The Messiah. There are 10 episodes. We could watch it together at church if Netflix isn't available to you, or we could watch it individually at home and then discuss it.

Pastor Alberta has offered to facilitate. If anyone is interested, please contact me so we can set a time frame that works. Margie 522-6647 or balchlaker@gmail.com.

Margie Galabrun

Time ~ Talent ~ Treasure ... and You!

Our church is so blessed with good people. I know you agree! We could not do all the good works without folks, like you, who are giving of their time, talent and treasure. Would you like to know more about the future? No crystal ball. No hocus pocus. It's all in the planning. Come and hear more about ways you may wish to use your T.T.T. Thursday, February 6, at 4 p.m. Parish Helpers Room. RSVP Carol 978 807-4041!

Carol Lundgren

Notes from Zimbabwe



Meet Courage Gwenzi and his family. Courage, sister Coleta, brother Maxwell and their mother, Murisei live in Malocheredze Village near Chipinge. Courage goes to Mbire School and is in Grade 2. His sister Coleta should be going to Grade 1 but there was no money for her school fees. Because there are no jobs in Zimbabwe, their father was working in South Africa to support the family. He died a year

ago in what was considered an illegal mine, a mine which did not meet safety standards. The whole family has been surviving on "piece jobs" doing whatever work they can, most recently selling charcoal. Making and selling charcoal is difficult and can damage a person's health. The family has to forage for specific types of wood and then burn it in such a way as to create charcoal. This very dirty charcoal is then bagged and carried door to door in hopes someone may pay a few Zim dollars, worth 50 cents in US currency. FOOT Director Joseph Sibiya recommended we consider Courage when two of our children were no longer eligible for sponsorship. When I suggested we take Courage AND Coleta, he responded, "I think the mother will touch the sky! My heart is pounding with joy that this family is receiving real help. Knowing how they were surviving, I am truly thankful."

Thank you to all who have made a donation to Alternative Giving or a year long commitment to sponsoring children. Look at the number of children and their families who can now 'touch the sky' because of your faithfulness and generosity.

We will do our darndest to make sure they get shoes, too.

Bless you, Connie Littlefield

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service for our beloved Berit Johannessen will be held here at FCCW on **Saturday, February 15th at 1pm.** Berit passed away on December 8. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall prepared by the Parish Helpers.

Zim Travel Update

To date, three people have booked to go to Zimbabwe from July 7th - July 27th and there is always room for more! Ann and Jillian will be joined by a former local woman, Jody Whiting. We are planning a nice blend of service opportunities along with cultural events, historical sites, a safari, and ending with a trip to Victoria Falls. Jody is an amazing photographer so you will see some stunning photos posted during this adventure. No "cheeking up" this trip as we aim to rent a combi. I know....I am taking all the fun out of it!

Cheers, Connie

Learning to Love Like God

Sunday School is underway for 2020! The first day of Sunday School went "excellently," and we are enthusiastic about next Sunday and the Sundays to come.

Our Sunday School schedule is the following:

February: 9th and 16th
March: 1st, 8th, and 22nd
April: 19th
May: 3rd and 17th
June: 7th and 14th

We need volunteers for February and beyond, not to mention having two assistant teachers for each class would be supremely beneficial! The Faith Formation Ministry is looking for passionate people to teach a new and simple curriculum. This curriculum is titled "Learning to Love like God" and only requires people who are willing to follow the curriculum - no previous knowledge is needed! Please consider signing up for a week or two and help make our Sunday School a success! Contact Max Gehring for more information. Max can be reached at 603-998-0349 or maxen3rgy@gmail.com

Library Corner

Subject Area: Spiritual Growth
Location: Fellowship Hall

Spiritual growth is a life-long challenge and every struggle we deal with has the potential to help us move closer to God. Here are a few books from this subject area in our library:

[Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go](#)
[Living Beyond Our Fears](#)
[Staying Happy in an Unhappy World](#)
[Under His Wings and Other Places of Refuge](#)

Linda Petkunas/Church Librarian

News from HMNS



In the month of January we had fun making snowmen. We used shaving cream and glue, they are hanging up on our bulletin board if you would like to check them out, along with our snow storm pictures. We also brought snow into our classroom and used paint to color the snow. The children along with the teachers just celebrated one of our favorite days; pajama day, the children also brought in their favorite stuffed toy. We lined them up by size and put them into different groups, black eyes/not black eyes, four legs/not four legs and other groups. We ended the day playing with the parachute and drinking hot chocolate. Our morning class has been focusing on tracing and identifying the letters in their names along with many different shape activities. The afternoon children focused this month on forming the letters in their name correctly and some beginning letter sounds along with counting and recording with tally marks. We ended the month making birdfeeders out of bagels, peanut butter and bird seed and learning about birds in the winter.

Shelly Daniels

Quick Note from your Co-Treasurer

At the halfway point in our budget year, I am happy to report that we have spent only 44% of the approved budget. Also, we have taken \$5,000 from the parsonage fund to meet expenses. This is only 10% of the projected \$51,000 needed for the year. Of course, this is due, in large part to the very successful fundraisers we have had this year. Thank YOU!

Nancy Dee., Co-Treasurer

Becoming a Racial Justice Church

What does that mean? In October of 2018 the NH Conference of the UCC adopted a resolution supporting Racial Justice. In fact, we became the first state conference who voted to become a Racial Justice Conference. I attended that gathering and the idea plucked at my social justice heart strings. As is my manner, I began researching. I read, and am now rereading, the book “Waking Up White” by Debbie Irving. It opened my eyes to a world that I believe most of us walk through wearing blinders.

Once again, I attended the 2019 NH Conference of the UCC, and once again there was a delegation, the Racial Justice Mission Group (RJMG), building upon the 2018 resolution. The RJMG have created a manual to follow for our church to become a Racial Justice Church. The First Congregational Church of Wakefield is one of the most hospitable and generous churches I have ever attended. We are Open and Affirming after all. Some say if we are O and A why do we have to become a Racial Justice church? Because welcoming all does not mean understanding all. Americans, and New Englanders in particular, have a view of the world that plays like a “Me TV” segment. I want you to consider that it was only 65 years ago that Ruby Bridges, a little girl of color, was the first African American to desegregate an all-white school in New Orleans, Louisiana. Only 65 years ago! I would say we have come a long way since then, but there is still economic and social inequality that suppresses growth, and racial profiling that renders fear in the hearts of people of color.

I will be starting a book group beginning in April. The book we will begin with is, “Waking Up White.” There is financial assistance in the Outreach budget for those who cannot afford the \$20 fee. I am sure the Gaffney Library and the UNH Library may be able to acquire a copy or two if you wish to go that way. In April we will select a weekly day and time to gather to discuss this reading, as well as, view video clips, address other books, and visit churches within New Hampshire and surrounding states. Please let me know if you are interested in joining this group. There are no restrictions as to attendance for each session. Because many of us are travelers, flexibility is the key.

Ignorance (the act of unknowing, not stupidity) breeds fear, which can breed hate, which can breed violence. Let’s work together in walking the walk of Jesus and learn more about becoming a Racial Justice Church, one where all are welcomed and understood.

In Christ,, Donna V Ackerman

PayPal Donations

You can now donate to our church through PayPal on our website. Look for the “Donate” button on the home page. Options are there to donate to our General Fund as well as the Endowment Fund and other ministries <https://www.fcwakefieldnh.org/>

May 2020 Shipping Container Wish List for Zimbabwe

Items in bold are priorities this year

FOOD

Peanut Butter (Please and thank you!)

MEDICAL:

Pain relievers - ibuprofen, aspirin
gauze bandages, antibiotic ointment
anti diarrhea medication
cough/cold medication,
Vaporub, petroleum jelly
wheelchairs & crutches
rubber caps for bottom of crutches

FOR THE SCHOOLS:

heavy wooden puzzles for preschool
preschool classroom toys
paper, rulers, chalk
pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners
reading books & novels for high school age
art supplies, musical instruments
tote bags for teachers
athletic equipment

TOOLS:

saws (hand saws or electric)
nails, any size or variety
planes for carpentry
sandpaper and blocks, clamps
basic tools (hammer, crowbar,
screwdrivers, etc.)
welding equipment; welding machinery
tools for electrical or plumbing

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS:

shovel, spades, rakes, hoes, etc
weed wackers and lawn mowers in great
condition (not electric)

CLOTHING: (Without pet hairs please!)

Gently worn clothing for children and infants
shoes and sneakers in great condition
soccer cleats
rain coats, windbreakers, fleece,
medium weight jackets
sweaters, jerseys
socks for males, females, kids
new underwear for children and adults
bras, new or gently worn
women's clothing, any style
men's clothing, including suits, shirts, ties

MISCELLANEOUS:

Laptops, purged and in good working order
Printers with ink
Linens - blankets, towels, sheets. (No white towels please.)
toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap
bicycles in good condition
basic portable sewing machine
sewing supplies - fabric, zippers, buttons, thread,
and sewing patterns for dresses, skirts (ladies,
girls) and shorts (boys)
adaptor plugs and voltage converters
fitness equipment

Please, please, please: All items should be in good condition. Please do not send anything you would not wear or would not use yourself.

Over the course of 13 containers we have seen some churches send yard sale type knickknacks, books on Benjamin Franklin and broken toys, tools, and bicycles. (A broken George Foreman grill anyone?) These become a burden to dispose of.

Our Endowment Fund



If you have a BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY in February, it's your moment to make a difference!

Create a Facebook Fundraiser to support our Endowment Fund. It's easy, just follow the directions in email that you received from Julie Margolis. Also, there will be printed copies in back of sanctuary.

AND remember we have a donor who will be matching the first \$25 you raise in your Facebook Fundraiser. So, don't leave money on the table — every little bit helps us secure our financial future.

JudyTrepal

The Parish Helpers

On Thursday, February 13, the Parish Helpers will host Claire Starnes who will give a presentation on her book, 'Women Vietnam Veterans: Our Untold Stories.' The book chronicles the participation of American military women (other than nurses) who were stationed in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. This little-known group of an estimated 1,000 women from the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy left its mark in Vietnam from 1962 to 1973, in myriad roles such as intelligence analysts, flight controllers, clerks, typists, translators, physical therapists, dietitians, communications specialists, photojournalists, finance clerks and couriers. "Today's military women are serving in fields never previously imagined," noted Starnes, "thanks to the service of these few who were in Vietnam."

In addition to her 31-year career of government service, Starnes co-founded the non-profit Vietnam Women Veterans, Inc. (VWV), which has worked to find all of the line and staff officers and enlisted women who had served in Vietnam. After 17 years of research, "Vietnam Veterans: Our Untold Stories" was published in 2015. Starnes has been touring with the book ever since. She is a resident of Wakefield.

Hope to see you there!

Carol Jeffery

Prepared to Serve

"I Planted, Others Watered, but God Gives the Growth."

Each year members of the NH Conference & our friends & affiliates come together at Pembroke Academy for a day-long event, featuring 50+ workshops offered on a variety of fascinating topics. 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. Online registration is now open. <https://www.nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve>

The fee is \$40 if you register by February 12. Scholarships are available for new attendees through the Outreach Ministry and carpooling is possible. If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful event, please contact Donna Ackerman, Outreach Ministry Coordinator. At 603-651-6349 or dvackerman@gmail.com

A Note From the Assistant Treasurer

2019 year-end donation reports have been sent. If you have not received yours yet or if you have any questions or concerns with your report, please contact Julie immediately either by phone (603-871-8066) or email (julielouisekessler@gmail.com).

FUNDraising News

It's a new year and we're off to a very busy start. We're starting off with another "Souper Sunday". For just \$5 a container, you can get your choice of a variety of soups, chilis and/or chowders. Our offerings can be pre-ordered from Connie Littlefield (just call her at 340-2116 or email connie.littlefield@yahoo.com) or you can do your soup shopping at the Zim Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Feb 1st or after church on Sunday, February 2nd.

And then on **Tuesday, February 11th** come vote and treat yourself to something sweet at our bake sale table! We'll be setting up in the connector area (by the elevators) - when you come to vote, you can't miss us! Try out our offerings of cider donuts, brownies, fudge, some special Valentine's cookies and lots more!

Start saving for **SAVERS!** We're in the planning stages now for exactly when we'll be doing the collection points and the drop-off, but we do know it will be sometime in April. It's never too early to start your spring cleaning! Remember that we like to focus on soft, bagged goods (bedding, clothing, purses, shoes, etc.)

Julie Kessler

Celebrations!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Barbara Cawlina	15 Nicky Mercer
1 Patricia Anderson	17 Ryan Dee
2 Bob James	19 Lisa Robinson
2 Marilou MacLean	23 Allisa Eaton
3 Kenneth Crew	24 Barry Lockard
3 Maureen Steer	25 Cheyanne Boggs
6 Sue Lynn	25 Arlene Leyare
10 Peter Foss	25 Kristin Weeks
11 Rob Lundgren	26 Evelyn Truhn
12 Peter Connell	27 Charlie Bilodeau
12 David Haag	27 Tom Weeks
12 Ryan McCarthy	28 David Fairchild
14 Marion Blomster	28 Emma Royle
14 Ann Gehring	28 Stephen Silcocks

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Paul & Agnes Carlson
10 Joe & Jan Brejwo
14 Lance & Marilou MacLean

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN



We are a community that believes that prayer is powerful! Please keep in your prayers all those who suffer in any way in mind, body and spirit, as well as those who by virtue of their service are far from home or in harm's way. We ask also your prayers for peace in our world, for the health and integrity of our democracy, and for the flourishing of the work of our community of faith.

Prayer Chain: Through phone calls, emails and text messages, we are able to increase our prayer power for "immediate intercessory prayer" for the concerns of our congregation and friends. If you would like to be a member of the prayer chain, or have a prayer request, please get in touch with Harriet Wilson (dhwilson39@gmail.com)

Thank You

Dear Parish Helpers,

It is hard to express how appreciative we are of your support—your support of the community, local organizations, individuals—the list goes on and on. We feel very blessed that you chose to support the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund (FDDF) with your generous donation. We appreciate that your donation is made with careful consideration and made possible by the dedication and hard work of all of your members.

FDDF will endeavor to put your donation to the best use by assisting local individuals and families who may have need of temporary emergency financial support to help get them over the hump of bad times whether it is to assist with their essential grocery, medical or utility needs.

In the spirit of the Season and on behalf of the Diaconate,

Gail Feddern

Thank You!

It looks like once again FCCW folks know how to share of their abundance. Your **Alternative Gifting** during the Holiday season added up to:

Heifer \$325

Feddern Discretionary Fund: \$1,225 (with the Parish helpers adding \$2,000) totally \$3,225

Zimbabwe:

\$490 Daisy Dube Food

\$275 Child Sponsorship (not including long-term sponsorships)

\$145 Sanitary Pad Projects

All-in-all it was a very good year! Thank you!

Donna V Ackerman Outreach

Conversation Group will meet at Patricia Golden's on Monday, February 10, at 1 p.m.

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

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 PANCAKE BREAKFAST 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Jr. Bells 9 a.m.
2 4th Sunday after Epiphany Worship And Holy Communion 10 a.m. SOUPER SUNDAY	3 Caregivers' Support Group 9:30 - 10:30 am Choir Practice 5 p.m.	4 Faith Formation Study -Noon	5 PH Quilting 10 a.m. Scrabble 10 a.m. Diaconate 4 p.m.	6 Community String Band 6:30 pm	7	8 Jr. Bells 9 a.m.
9 5th Sunday After Epiphany Worship and Church School 10 a.m. ALL MEMBER MEETING Following Worship	10 Conversation Group 1 p.m. Patricia Golden's Choir Practice 5 p.m.	11 Faith Formation Study -Noon	12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.	13 Parish Helpers 1 pm Community String Band 6:30 pm	14 	15 Jr. Bells 9 a.m. Memorial Service For Berit Johannessen 1 p.m.
16 6th Sunday After Epiphany Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Leadership Council Meeting	17 Caregivers' Support Group 9:30 - 10:30 am Choir Practice 5 p.m.	18 Scrabble 10 am Faith Formation Study -Noon	19	20 Community String Band 6:30 pm	21	22 PREPARED TO SERVE Pembroke NH
23 Last Sunday After Epiphany Worship 10 a.m.	24 Choir Practice 5 p.m.	25 Faith Formation Study -Noon	26 Ash Wednesday	27 Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Community String Band 6:30 pm	28	29 Jr. Bells 9 a.m.