

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

JUNR 2020

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FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

*See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'*
Luke 7: 27b NRSV

Intentional Interims are the messengers who come after the installed pastor's tenure has concluded. We come to help the church prepare to call the next installed pastor.

During this interim time the intentional interim facilitates the grief work, inviting people to acknowledge their anxiety, anger and even remorse; listening to as many voices as possible to discover the congregation's pulse beat and the unwritten agendas; hearing the nature and mission of the church-what makes this church stand out in the community?; ears open for the new voices waiting for the space to rise up, speak and even lead-identify new and emerging lay leaders; provide new options for ministry and worship-the priest and the prophet; lifting up unresolved conflict for reconciliation and a new understanding of roles and relationships; reacquainting the congregation on what it means to partner with your pastor for ministry.

The recommended duration for an interim is one month for every year of the installed pastor's tenure. My covenant agreement with FCCW was for at least 18 months. You partnered with me. You trusted me with your history and dreams; with your hearts and desires; with your anger and doubts; with your tears of joy and grief.

Your Profile Committee has completed their task and have been released from their duties. Your Search and Call Committee is receiving profiles and starting interviews.

I came to prepare the way before you to call your next long-term settled pastor. I have completed my call.

On May 16th I met with the Diaconate Ministry and announced I have received a call from a church in Vermont as their Intentional Interim. My covenant agreement indicates 60 days' notice is needed to terminate the call. I asked for the 60-day notice to be waived to allow FCCW to begin their new fiscal year budget without the pastoral costs of a fulltime intentional interim. My request was accepted and my last day with this Body of Christ will be June 30th.

I thank God for you because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world and for a little while, I was your pastoral partner during the "in-between" time and during the "great pause."

(Continued on next page)

Plans are being made to provide preaching and pastoral care while you remain in the search and call process. It is my plan to organize coverage for July and August. The Diaconate Ministry will be provided persons they can reach out to for "emergency" pastoral support and digital pulpit supply.

The Diaconate Ministry is planning to host a Zoom Exit Interview. This exit interview is not to evaluate my ministry practice. Our final time together is to allow you an opportunity to appreciate/ brag about how the interim period has allowed you to raise above limited potentials held (this is the meaning of R.A.L.P.H. Coaching Ventures LLC). It is our final appreciative inquiry session. It is not in homes as "Cottage Meetings," but together on Zoom. My hope is you will remind one another of the "new thing" you heard/realized God is doing in your midst.

In order to facilitate an orderly Zoom meeting, please send your responses to the statement: I saw myself raise above limited potentials held with/by/ in _____ during our interim period." Send these responses to Jo Szirbik @joszibik@gmail.com or Ginny Schweitzer @moon-river43@earthlink.net by June 12th. Expect an invitation from them for our final time together.

Being a "foster pastor" means I cry when I say hello and I cry when I say goodbye. I'm always excited to hear who God has prepared for my "foster church" to be your next settled pastor to join the ministry journey God has designed for you. You are a blessing First Congregational Church of Wakefield, New Hampshire! And you will continue to bless many in new and exciting ways!!

Your "foster pastor"
Rev. Dr. Alberta Wallace
Intentional Interim
January 2019 to June 2020

Worshipping Online

On viewing the worship service on Sunday, May 24, we found our church pews filled with stuffed animals. Since we ourselves cannot come to church in person, the idea emerged to send stand-ins (or rather, sit-ins) in our places. Would-be church goers brought their favorite stuffed friends to church ahead of time and they were matched with our name badges and placed in pews where we usually can be found on a Sunday morning. At the beginning of the worship service, Pastor Alberta greeted the little guests with a friendly word or two. How nice to look out into the congregation and see them filled with our beloved stuffed friends. They even enjoyed a little fellowship time together!



If you didn't get to watch this very special worship service, it's not too late. The YouTube video of our services are available on our website to view anytime. The most recent will be on our homepage <https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/> Previous services can be viewed by clicking on "Video/ YouTube" page on the site. Go to <https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/youtube/>

We also have a library of children's stories. They are on the "Video/ YouTube" page. No need to click on the YouTube channel.

Many thanks to the production team for putting these services together for us—Max Gehring, Wendy De-Croteau, Nate Fogg, Julie Margolis, Carol Jeffery, and of course, Pastor Alberta!

Music Camp Announcement

We are disappointed and saddened to inform our children and families that Music Camp 2020 will not be held due to the current viral pandemic. It was felt that because so many modifications and restrictions would need to be made in order to keep the children and staff safe, the program would lose its purpose and joy.

Jan Stanley

Birthday Gifting Through Facebook

Some of you on Facebook may have noticed my fundraiser that I did in May. You may recall, when the church created the Endowment Fund, it was suggested that church members might like to do a Facebook Fundraiser during the month of a birthday or anniversary. So, that's what I did for my birthday in May. These have a time frame of 2 weeks. I started with a goal of \$500.00, which was met within 4 days. I increased the goal to \$750.00, which was met on day 8. I then increased the goal to \$1,000! One of the things I learned during the years of my involvement with Relay For Life, was to constantly increase the goal to give people the incentive to give. If they go to your page and see that you've met your goal, they will often not bother to give. It's also important to note that of the ten or so people who gave, only three are members of this church. And two of the donors are people I do not know! They gave because of friends who shared the page. This amazes me. You just never know who you may touch with your appeal to help this church. I have written this, hoping to inspire some of you to try a Facebook fundraiser of your own, to benefit the Endowment Fund.

Nancy Dee

Ed. Note: Since the writing of this article, donations have reached the \$1,000 mark! Great job, Nancy!

The UCC's Impact on the Early Civil Rights Movement

Everett Parker of the United Church of Christ Office of Communication, at the request of Martin Luther King, Jr., organized UCC churches during 1959 against television stations in the Southern United States that were imposing news blackouts of information pertaining to the then growing Civil Rights Movement. The UCC later won a lawsuit that resulted in a federal court decision that the broadcast air waves are public, not private, property. That led toward the proliferation of people of color in television studios and newsrooms.

Source: Wikipedia

Linda Petkunas, Historian

Progress Report from your Search and Call Committee

(Ryan McCarthy, George Ackerman, Linda Messer, Julie Evenson, Chuck Hodsdon.)

Since the five of us were named to the, Search and Call Committee we have been meeting at least once a week to prepare to select a candidate to become our new Settled Pastor.

We started by meeting with Pastor Alberta to learn the essence of the procedure that we would follow. We have met with her several times and in addition we met with Reverend Slater from the UCC Office twice. The term meeting has changed considerably since the advent of the Covid 19 Pandemic and the word Zoom has taken on new meaning. We are moving as fast as health and the Holy Spirit will allow.

The Profile Team prepared a Profile of our Church. It was approved and it went live on April 24th. We began receiving profiles from prospective ministers during the first week in May, and we quickly received several. It is no doubt that the Profile Committee did an excellent job.

In the meanwhile we have had training for interviewing, tracking, and evaluating candidates. We have spent much time developing questions and techniques to use in the interview process.

We will soon begin interviewing candidates. This is a long prayerful process. We are in Covenant with the UCC to follow a certain process.

Chuck Hodsdon

Wakefield Food Pantry

Our Wakefield Food Pantry needs us! The Food Pantry is experiencing food shortages, during this difficult time. The following items would be greatly appreciated:

We had a recent request for shelf stable milk. When you do your next food shopping, please check to see if your preferred grocery store has this item. Hannaford usually carries it next to the soy and almond milk shelf (I believe it is in the same aisle as coffee and tea).

You can drop off your donations any day, by putting them in the outside drop box at the rear of the Food Pantry. You can also drop your donations off when the Food Pantry is open on Wednesdays, 10-1 and 5-7.

God bless you all for your ongoing generosity.

Jo Szirbik and the Diaconate

Zimbabwe News

Medical supplies (including three wheelchairs and a dozen crutches), school supplies, reading books, children's Bibles and boxes of theological books, clothing galore, more shoes than I can count, dozens of jars of peanut butter, 250 or more athletic uniforms of various sports, basketballs, soccer balls, nets, cleats, garden supplies including two lawn mowers, furniture, 750 dresses (Dress A Girl Program from three sewing groups), toys, hand crafted dolls, a sewing machine, linens, blankets, two welding machines and a free standing jig saw will begin the journey to Zimbabwe in the next few days. This is quite an undertaking. All of this is due to bountiful item donations and countless volunteers who helped sort, tightly pack and seal, invoice and ultimately transport and load these goods in a 40' shipping container in Rochester. Our items will join the donations of 16 other groups representing VT, NH, and MA and will take anywhere from 10-12 weeks to arrive in Zimbabwe.

Cold weather has brought an early start to winter there. Inflation is pegged at more than 750% and prices rise daily. The government instituted a price freeze to offset the rising prices thus mealie meal, the staple food to make sadza, could not be found in Chipinge and many, many other towns this week. Retailers can't afford to lose money on items so they are taken from the shelves and make their way to the "parallel market." The government received humanitarian aid and announced distribution of stipends to all citizens (an amount equivalent to \$6 US) yet weeks later distribution still hasn't taken place. Zimbabweans are in the 15th week of a stay at home order. People are starving and 80% of children are malnourished so people disobey the order and try to avoid police as they look for "piece jobs" to buy whatever they can find to feed themselves and their families. PKZ has people sewing masks using material and sewing machines from the last container. PKZ is also working on a food security program for the most disadvantaged but the absence of mealie meal is making that difficult.

Our gifts from the container show Zimbabweans that they are not forgotten, that they are not alone, that Christians 10,000 miles away care and extend the hand of love and friendship in their time of need. God bless you for your support and participation in this important endeavor.

Connie Littlefield



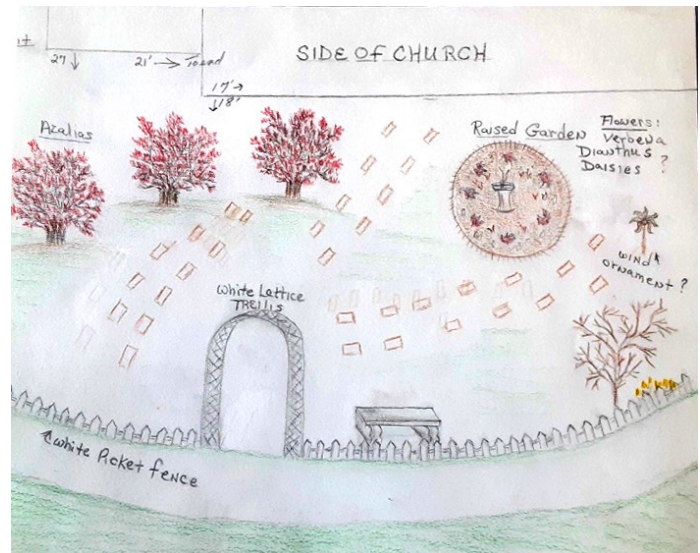
Connie and just some of the boxes packed up.

Memorial Garden

We are well underway on the creation of a Memorial Garden. It is Rachel White's vision so we know it will be a most special place! Soon you will be able to purchase a brick to engrave with 2-3 lines of copy of your choosing. The sketch below illustrates what this lovely space might look like.

Sometime in the near future the Men's Group will be rolling up their sleeves to build this lovely garden.

Judy Trepal



The Parish Helpers

The purpose of Parish Helpers is to cultivate the spirit of Christ in every area of human life beginning with our own lives and reaching out into our homes, our communities and the outermost parts of the world. We have been in existence for over 160 years!

We meet the second Thursday of the month to share in fellowship and enrichment of our minds and souls. We are a non-denominational group of women welcoming all women from the community.

We had a great summer of 2019 working our Treasure Shop and Village Fair. It is a great way for us to reach out to community and beyond. Unfortunately this summer will be different. Since the onset of Covid-19 virus, we have met only twice in 2020 and will most likely cancel our Treasure Shop as well as our Fair.

We still stay well connected through phone calls, drive-bys, prayers and knowing our loving hearts and spirits are all interconnected.

God Bless this beautiful group of women.

Ginny Schweitzer President

Celebrations!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4 Nicholas Legere	15 Adam Koukal
6 Sienna Canney	16 Frank Frazier
6 Julie Kessler	16 Cathy Koukal
6 Ron Kratt	16 Julie Leyare
7 David Coutreau	17 Janet Carr
7 Donna McDougal	19 Lorrie Hughes
8 Chuck Dolbear Jr.	20 Cameron Currier
9 Kevin Connell	21 Connie Littlefield
9 Carol Lundgren	21 Dorothy Smith
9 Colleen Nicastro	22 Jean Ball
11 Steve Michalsky	25 Kaylee Fogg
13 Joseph Cawlina	25 Ron White
14 Jason Johnson	27 Morgan Haag
14 Erin Perkins	28 Louise Wheeler
15 Gina Golden	30 Seth Fogg

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

2 Mary & Bob James
5 Ryan & Martha Jo McCarthy
12 Jack & Marie Hebb
15 Phil & Connie Twombly
17 Walter & Laura Frye
20 George & Donna Ackerman
21 Wayne & Lisa Robinson
23 George & Marion Blomster
26 Sid & Susan Girardin
26 Ken & Carol Jeffery
28 John & Sarah Duplinsky
29 David & Jan Fairchild

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)

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Will be held on Sunday, June 21, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. Since we are not current gathering at the church due to the coronavirus pandemic, this meeting will be held via Zoom. Check your email prior to the meeting for the link to join the meeting.

Facebook Birthday/ Anniversary Fundraiser

Do you have June Birthday or Anniversary?

Look at what one person can contribute just by setting up a Facebook Fundraiser! Nancy Dee raised \$1,000 WOW WOW WOW. Happy Birthday and THANK YOU, Nancy!

You can make your Birthday/Anniversary special this year! Support our endowment and set up your own birthday and/or anniversary Facebook Fundraiser. It is quick and you will be doing your part to help Enrich our Community and reach our \$235K goal by our 235th Anniversary! You can find easy-to-follow directions on our website at <https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/fundraising/>



It is with sad hearts that we share with you that **Persis Hildebrandt** has left her earthly life on April 29th. Persis was a dear friend to many of you in the Parish Helpers. Please pray for Persis and her family for comfort during this difficult time.

We also ask for prayers for the family of **Cecil Wentworth** who passed away recently. Memorial service will be held at Lovell Lake Cemetery on May 30 at 11 a.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/](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC)
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JUNE 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Caregivers' Support Group 9:30 - 10:30 am Facebook Live With Pastor Alberta 7 p.m.	2 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon Evening Faith Formation via Zoom - 5:30 p.m.	3	4 Racial Justice Discussion Group Via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm Facebook Live - 7 p.m.	5	6
7 First Sunday After Pentecost Worship Online Via YouTube video on our Website 10 a.m. Dedication of Pledges	8 Facebook Live With Pastor Alberta 7 p.m.	9 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon Evening Faith Formation via Zoom - 5:30 p.m.	10 Finance Ministry Meet Via Zoom 2 p.m.	11 Racial Justice Discussion Group Via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm Facebook Live - 7 p.m.	12	13
14 Second Sunday After Pentecost Worship Online Via YouTube video on our Website 10 a.m.	15 Caregivers' Support Group 9:30 - 10:30 am Facebook Live With Pastor Alberta 7 p.m.	16 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon Evening Faith Formation via Zoom - 5:30 p.m.	17	18 Racial Justice Discussion Group Via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm Facebook Live - 7 p.m.	19	20
21 Third Sunday After Pentecost Worship Online Via YouTube video on our Website 10 a.m. Annual Meeting Via Zoom 11:30	22 Facebook Live With Pastor Alberta 7 p.m.	23 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon	24	25 Racial Justice Discussion Group Via Zoom 4:30 Facebook Live - 7 p.m.	26	27
28 Fourth Sunday After Pentecost Worship Online Via YouTube video on our Website 10 a.m.	29 Facebook Live With Pastor Alberta 7 p.m.	30 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon				

It's Pledge Season!

Hi Church Family!

As you know, we are right in the middle of our annual pledge drive and it is going great this year. A little over half of our Church folks have made their pledges for the 2020-2021 Church year. Thanks so much to all who have pledged already. And thanks to all of you who have not pledged yet because -- you are helping to keep our Stewardship Team on its toes! ;}

We will bless and dedicate our Pledges on June 7th so **now** would be a great time to get your pledge in if you have not done so yet. If you need another pledge card or have not received one yet, you are welcome to use the one below.

Pledging is important every year, of course. However, this year, with its current uncertainty, it is in a league of its own. We are hoping to have all the pledges received by early to mid-June. Knowing the financial support from members and friends will give the Church a clear and firm financial picture ready and waiting for our new settled Pastor.

Thank you all so much – Your Stewardship team – Carol & Frank & Pastor Alberta



For your safety, please mail your pledge card to:

FCCW — Attention: Assistant Treasurer
2718 Wakefield Road
Sanbornville, NH 03872

On Sunday, June 7th, we will bless and dedicate our combined pledge commitment. In this way we are "Hearing God's Call. Growing in Love and Care."

FCCW acknowledges our denominational covenant with the United Church of Christ:

PURPOSE: To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

— Matthew 22

VISION: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

MISSION: United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.



First Congregational Church
of Wakefield, NH UCC

2020-2021 Annual Giving Pledge

Dedication and blessings of all pledges: Sunday, June 7th.

Yes! I/we support this church with a pledge of: \$ _____

This gift will be fulfilled as follows: ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email(s): _____

Preferred Phone(s): _____



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



ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE CONGREGATION

JUNE 21 AT 11:30
VIA ZOOM