

STEEPLE VIEWS



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS
AUGUST 2020

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FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC

Words from the Moderator

In her July 9th devotion, the Rev. Martha Spong referred to Exodus 3:5 in which God tells Moses to take off his sandals because he is standing on holy ground. She writes,

“I have stood in church and felt the presence of God, and I have slipped off my shoes there because I knew we stood on holy ground. I have experienced the charge of the Spirit in a sanctuary full of singers, in the testimony of another, in shared confessions of sin, in vows of commitment, in stirring proclamation, in profound and potent silence.”

She goes on to lament our mutual inability to experience these things during this time of Pandemic.

“Of course, I know God speaks in places that are not church, and when [we] set aside [our] longing for what [we] cannot have right now... we might tend to go, to open ourselves up to go where God might be.”

I, too, lament not being able to sense the Holy surrounded by my church family. I miss touch and the sense of inclusion. I miss singing! But I am ever impressed with how we, as a congregation, have been able to care for each other in other ways. I love to see our church family members during our virtual worship services. Although the singing isn't quite the same when I'm alone, it's still lifting voice to God and it still feels good to do so.

The Leadership Council met on July 15th to consider the re-opening of church and will do so again every 2 months during this Pandemic. Following are our decisions:

We agreed that we are not ready to open our building for worship services.

We agreed that we are safest offering virtual services at this time.

We agreed to continue allowing the use of our building to small groups such as Care Givers and Grief Support with certain restrictions and safety procedures.

We agreed to open the building to Hazel MacBrien Nursery School with restrictions and safety procedures.

We charged our Safe Church Team to ensure that each group understands and agrees to our restrictions and procedures.

Restrictions will apply to *everyone* entering the building, and there will be signs posted in various locations to help us all remember. Please, everyone, follow the guidelines without exception. Our mutual well-being is at stake. [Please refer to the Safe Church report in this Steeple Views edition.](#)

I am simply in awe over how FCCW members have come together, lifted their gifts and carry on, relying on each other to do the same. Surely, we are finding Holy Ground.

May the Holy Spirit continue to move through our congregation, and may we continue to live and love through the Grace of God. Amen.

Margie Galabrun, Moderator

2020 Birthday Party and Farewell Gathering

On Saturday, July 11th, there was a gathering like no other. While wearing masks and toting swimming noodles, 24+ church members and friends gathered under the shade of three majestic cherry, apple and maple trees just behind the Tripp house. The day began with an ominous weather report, partly sunny with a chance of showers and even thunderstorms. A light rain appeared in the morning, but that did not deter those who were setting up for the festivities. We had a sign in table to establish a contact list in case someone learned they had been with anyone who was positive for Covid, as well as masks and hand sanitizer for those who needed it. Wendy and Alberta established a table where guest could put cards and obtain a fun “clapping hand” noise maker. I, of course, was thrilled to apply my cat-like attention span in producing as much clapping sound as possible. By the time the guest arrived, anywhere from 12:30 to 2:30, the rain was nowhere to be seen. There were huge, dark, rumbling clouds building in the west, to which I pointed my finger to the sky and told them “NO”. Then I silently thanked God for fulfilling my gesture.

It was so delightful to see friends that we had not seen in person for such a long time. Zoom is nice, but it cannot replace a face-to-face visit. There was laughter, and shouts of joy as Connie Littlefield made sure everyone’s birthday month was reported. That woman has a memory that puts the best computer to shame. Parting gifts from the FCCW congregation were given to Wendy and Alberta. A plate displaying a picture of the church, along with a stand to hold it, and a wooden door topper silhouette of the church. Wendy was not the only one who was clueless concerning what a “door topper” was. I will admit to my ignorance concerning this decorative artwork. Additional gifts were a handmade wooden cross and stand that George Ackerman designed from cherry wood, and a loon photograph from the Diaconate that I took while kayaking on Pine River Pond and Ginny Schweitzer had placed in a lovely and tasteful matting and frame.

Great fun was had by all as each ventured home carrying with them memories and shared stories of past, present, and future events. I hope that we can do this again for no other reason than to say “hello, I am well, and I miss you”. Until then may God’s Blessings be upon you all.

Donna V Ackerman, Outreach

(Ed. Note: More photos of this and other events can be found on our Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC/>)



Our Church Anniversary

On September 22nd of this year we will celebrate our 235th Anniversary. What we are honoring is the ordination day of our first settled pastor, Rev. Asa Piper. After preaching at our church on the 19 previous sabbaths, he accepted the invitation to lead our church on a permanent basis.

Rev. Piper was born in Acton and graduated from Harvard College in 1778. He served our church for nearly fifty years and was described as a man of much force, character, and deep piety. He was beloved by church members and the community.

The grandfather clock in the Parish Helpers Room belonged to Rev. Piper and was donated to our church by his family. This clock was recently repaired by Nils Johannessen, Berit's son, after fifteen years of not working. Thanks, Nils!

Source: Through the Open Doors of the First Congregational Church by M. Banks

Linda Petkunas, Church Historian

Search and Call

Search and Call has not gone on vacation. We're still here, at least by ZOOM when we're not!! We have had very qualified Pastors submit their profiles to FCCW. We have been prayerfully assessing applicants by reading profiles, conducting multiple level interviews, and even observing YouTube videos of sermons. But this is only half of what has to be accomplished. Evaluation is a two-way street. The Pastor also has to feel that our church is the right fit for her/him. This means he/she wants to know more detail about the community, commute times, compensation and housing possibilities. So, our conversations have been an interesting exchange of ministry insight as well as getting to know personalities that are also an important part of the harmony of church and Pastor.

Yes, there has been disappointment for the S&C Committee when what seemed like the perfect Pastor would accept another call. And, yes, the Committee has had to send the difficult letter that we know would be received with great disappointment. BUT, YES, we continue to make progress even though the search and the wait for our Final Candidate seem endless.

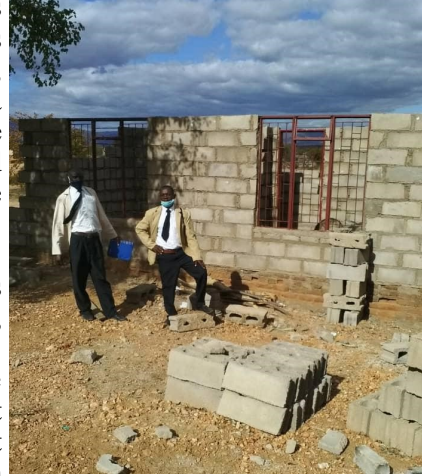
So, YES, we ask that you continue to hold us in prayer. God has a plan. Let us trust in that plan. That candidate may already be on our doorstep or may appear when we least expect it.

Linda Messer

Zimbabwe News

This week I received a message from Nicholas Sithole, High Deacon (head deacon) at the Rufumiso Church. ' We have started constructing superstructure (walls) for the parsonage at Rufumiso Church. Hope God will make us realize our dream. May the Wakefield Church stay blessed and protected from this pandemic. God bless you. Sithole Nicholas"

Nicholas enclosed this picture of the progress shown with his father, Mr. F Sithole also a deacon, and Eddie Bread, our good friend who is overseeing the construction.



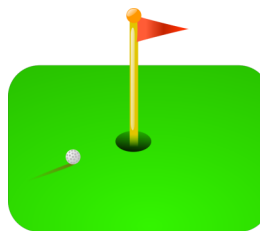
Rufumiso members must be happy indeed, particularly Rev. Gwayagwaya, to have made this significant progress in the last year! Our mission teams picked through rocks and mixed cement for the foundation in 2012 and 2014.

More good news! Our shipping container landed in Singapore this week and is now on its way to the next port of call. The container is expected to arrive in Beira, Mozambique on the 9th of September. We have a handy dandy marine tracking site that lets us see the travel, the speed, map location, and next ports of call. GPS satellite technology is amazing!

Continued prayers are needed for the members of Rufumiso UCCZ and the people of Zimbabwe as they struggle with food insecurity, rising inflation, and increasing cases of coronavirus.

*God bless,
Connie Littlefield*

Calling all Golfers!



Have a great day on the course for a great cause! Come one, come all on September 14 at 1 p.m. at Province Lake Golf Course. Ask your friends and create a foursome for some golfing fun! The registration form can be downloaded from our website at the link below.

[Tournament Registration](#)

Endowment News

\$120,000. We are more than ½ way to our goal of \$235 by our 235th Anniversary!!!!

And we have a lot going on so keep spreading the word on all the ways folks can help contribute:

Online sales: Got stuff to get rid of? Connect Connie or Margie. (Proceeds split between endowment and general fund): Got an item worth \$500 or more? We will post for you and send any leads to you for final transaction....all we ask is for you to contribute 10% (or more) to our endowment fund.

Memorial Garden: Purchase a \$150 engraved brick. See included brochure for more details or go to our website to download at <https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Brochure.pdf>

Golf Tournament: September 14, 2020 at 1:00 pm \$90 per player, includes 18 holes of golf, cart and refreshments at 19th hole.

Bike-a-thon: September 12th (rain date September 13th) on the Rails to Trails Cottonwood bike path. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks. And we hope all our Rock Stars will participate!

Set up a Facebook Fundraiser! We have raised over \$2500 with only a handful of folks participating....think about what we could raise if more of us set up a FB Fundraiser! (See how on our website!)

Contribute online @ [235by235.org](https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org) any amount will help us reach our goal! And now you can set up a reoccurring donation...so you can set it and forget it

If we all do our little part by participating in any of these efforts our goal can be reached. And we thank all those who have helped with this effort....so many of you have given in many different ways.

Judy Trepal and George Ackerman

Online Sales

Online sales have been progressing! We had a great sales week last week; other weeks are very slow. Thank you so much for your response for good, clean, no longer used items. Seasonal items, i.e. air conditioners, outdoor equipment, go quickly.

If you have something to donate, please contact Margie, George or me. Kindly do not leave things at the church unless prior arrangements have been made. We are still developing a process for posting accepted items, storage, and sales. We could use some additional team members to process donated items and to post to various sites. (Easy, friendly training provided!) You get to meet some very interesting people through this fundraising venture!

4 *Connie 603-340-2116, Margie 603-522-6647, and George 603-651-6331*

Peaceful Racial Justice Demonstration Event = Success!

What do 44 people, including former Interim minister Rev. Peter Foss, one dog, and three police officers have in common?



All were present on the streets of downtown Sanbornville for the recently held Peaceful Racism Justice Demonstration. Julia McCarthy had the passion to recognize that something needed to be done right here in Wakefield. She braved some contentious comments on social media, and with the support of Town officials, local police and her amazing family, organized an event that drew people

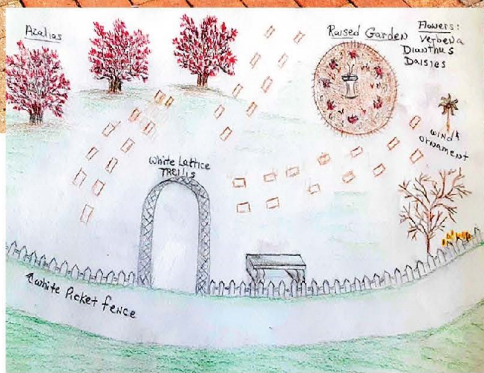
from FCCW, local residents, Rochester, Acton and South Berwick, Maine and summer residents who otherwise reside in Florida and Virginia. (Julia noted the ages ranged from 10-80+.) Julia had an organized check in routine, masks, hand sanitizers, and lots of water on hand. Four members of a safety team were available to remind participants not to engage in a negative way if people passing by displayed a different point of view. Gratefully, all went extremely well and the cheers and honks of support and encouragement far outweighed opposing opinions.

All who took part, and many who couldn't be there that day but were there in spirit, expressed such deep admiration for Julia. She displayed wisdom, leadership, tenacity, and respect. Julia, and teens like Julia, are not only our future but our present.

"...And a child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)

Connie Littlefield





Sketch of 2021 Memorial Garden. Which will be nestled between the Sanctuary and Annex.

Order Form

Your \$150 per brick donation is fully tax deductible and a receipt will be sent to you.

Note that FCCW cannot guarantee exact location of brick/s.

Donor information:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone : _____

When ordering, please indicate what you would like engraved on your brick. Bricks can have up to 3 lines, with 15 characters max per line (spaces count).

Donation Amount: \$ _____ *(\$150 per brick)*

Make check payable to FCCW and mail to:

Memorial Brick
2718 Wakefield Road
Sanbornville, NH 03872

Download brochure or order online:

235by235.org

Memorial Garden

Would you like to recognize someone with a gift that will last a lifetime? Help us complete the pathway in our beautiful Memorial Garden at First Congregational Church, Wakefield, NH (FCCW).

Purchase a \$150 engraved brick in honor of your family, memory of a loved one, a community volunteer, birthday, wedding, graduation, anniversary, or any special person or event.

All proceeds go toward the FCCW Endowment Fund — helping to enrich our community for years to come. And will help us in raising \$235K by our 235th Birthday.

Order your brick today!

**FCCW BUILDING USE REGULATIONS DURING PANDEMIC
CREATED AND APPROVED BY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ON
JULY 26, 2020**

ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY BE CHANGED AT ANYTIME DEPENDING ON THE PROGRESS OF THIS PANDEMIC AND CHANGES IN CDC RECOMMENDATION AND /OR STATE AND COUNTY REGULATIONS.

BUILDING USE REGULATIONS

- A. Sign-in sheets will be placed at each entrance of the Church building. All who enter will sign in and complete with phone number, name, date and time in. This is to allow a means of tracking and contacting anyone who might be at risk if someone does come down with COVID.
- B. Signs will be placed at all entrances stating that masks **MUST** be worn in the building at all times. See “Room Usage B” below. Also, hand sanitizer must be used before entering the common areas of the Church such as stairways, hallways, elevator, sanctuary, kitchens and restrooms.
- C. All entrances will be set up with sign-in sheets, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and wipes and covered foot activated trash baskets.
- D. The CLA Office and Pastor’s Study are not to be entered without express permission of the CLA until further notice. A hand sanitizing small table will be placed outside of those offices for people with permission to enter.

ROOM USAGE REGULATIONS

- A. Coordinators of the groups and ministries will have sign-in sheets for the persons that are attending the meeting. These forms should be turned in daily to the CLA mailbox.
- B. Group leaders and Ministry Coordinators will require all persons to wear a mask in the common areas of the Church. Once in the designated area, masks may be removed if social distancing can be maintained.
- C. Group leaders and Ministry Coordinators must clean (or designate someone) to clean and sanitize rooms used and bathrooms used.

Please wipe down doors, door handles, tables and surfaces that were touched during the meeting. Cleaning materials will be available on a small table in each room. If supplies run low, please send an email to Building and Grounds Coordinator.
- D. Groups and Ministries should only be using the Sanctuary level restroom. The two restrooms at the back of the Fellowship Hall are designated **EXCLUSIVELY** for HMNS and only when HMNS is in session. HMNS will leave those restrooms sanitized each day.
- E. Restroom should be cleaned and wiped down after each group uses the Church. Procedures to be posted. Cleaning supplies will be in a clearly marked container.
- F. Masks are not required to be worn in the Sanctuary during the taping of online services. Please maintain social distancing.

Buddy Dee for the Safe Church Team

Parish Helpers Annual Picnic— A Big Success!



Eighteen members of Parish Helpers enjoyed a picnic lakeside at Carol Lundgren's home on Pine River Pond on July 9. Due to an abundance of caution regarding the COVID virus, they sat at a safe distance from each other in a large circle.

Visiting was great fun and spontaneous games were shared that required nothing but imagination and good natured humor. Connie Littlefield introduced a surprise game which will never be forgotten: Boogah Boogah! A few stories were shared about most embarrassing moments and it is safe to say that Marie Hebb's story was the all-time winner!

It was a relief to be together again in a safe and respectful way--sharing laughs and shining God's love once again--together!

Carol Lundgren



Ed. Note: More photos of this and other events can be found on our Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC/>

Three Ways to Contribute

Though we are not holding in-Church worship at this time, the bills still need to be paid. You can keep up with your pledges or make donations to the church by mailing your check to the church, dropping it off in the white mailbox **attached to the church**, or pay online through PayPal on our Website homepage.

<https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/>

\$2,445 Raised Through On-line Sales in July Alone

Our FUNdraising and Endowment Teams have joined efforts to address our very serious intention of not only raising the \$9000 needed for our projected church budget, but also to meet our Endowment Fund goals as rapidly as possible. This is a challenging year in many ways. Our summer Yard Sale is usually one of our biggest fund raisers. (It is also one of the most physically demanding.) But because we are now living with Covid restrictions, we decided to increase our on-line sales making a virtual yard sale that would continue throughout the year. The donations have been very generous!

People have been cleaning houses and garages. Some more profitable donations have been offered with a percentage given to the church. One \$2600 item was tithed. Others high end items have been offered at 50/50. Most are coming in with full donation going to the church.

I have to say this has been fun! Infused with new energy and more folk willing to help, we have been able to represent our church with a much larger reach. And just like yard sales, when someone finds something they love at a good price, they leave with smiles upon their faces. Connie just reported that a young woman who bought a large (and very nice) rug was so appreciative that she messaged TWICE with words of thanks and good thoughts.

More good news! There's room for you to join the teams.

Margie Galabrun

Racial Justice Mission Group

The Racial Justice Mission group is moving our Zoom meetings to every other week beginning on **Thursday August 6th at 4:30**. We are reading the book *Stamped*, By Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. In the last few weeks we have had enlightening discussions concerning Racial Justice and White Privilege. Please join us on Thursday August 6th at 4:30 via Zoom even if you don't read the book. Contact Donna V Ackerman at dvackerman@gmail.com or call / text 603-651-6349 so we can put you on the group email list.

Donna Ackerman

Celebrations!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Phillip Twombly | 15 Amanda Crew |
| 4 Chris James | 15 Shannon Johnson |
| 4 Madeline Johnson | 17 Nancy Jacobson |
| 5 Douglas Ball | 19 Stephanie Ballard |
| 5 Richard Messer | 23 George Blomster |
| 6 Shane Caplette | 23 Matthew Boggs |
| 8 Rebecca Ellis | 24 Dick Wilson |
| 8 Julie Evenson | 28 Debbie (Caplette) |
| 9 Harriet Wilson | Soucey |
| 11 Cassandra Ball | 29 Anastasia St Pierre |
| 14 Dan James | |
| 14 Matt Mooers | |

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Donald & Janie Silcocks
- 15 Steve Michalsky & Pat Golden
- 19 Bob & Denine Faulks
- 20 David & Sharon Tinkham
- 21 George & Jo Szirbik
- 22 Royal & Carole Doughty

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 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)

Facebook Birthday/ Anniversary Fundraiser

Do you have a birthday/ anniversary in August? If so, you can promote a Facebook Fundraiser to raise money for our Endowment Fund!

Easy instructions on setting up your fundraiser can be found on our website. Follow this link: <https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/fundraising/>

The Deacons Need Your Help

As we plan our virtual Sunday services for the rest of the summer and into September, we need lectors to read scripture on camera!

It's done the same as when we physically gathered. The only difference is you will be taped on the altar at the church and Max will add it to our service by magic!

He tapes, edits and puts it all together for a comprehensive online service.

Please contact Deacon Evy Truhn by text or phone at 516-967-7168 if you can help us out.

Tapings are done on Saturdays or Tuesdays at the church with Max and Ashley filming.

Blessings to all!

Evy Truhn

YouTube

Reminder to all that previous Virtual Worship Services are available at all times on our YouTube channel. You can access the channel from our Website under “Video/ YouTube”. There you will also find all the Children’s Stories for your convenience.

Link: <https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/youtube/>

Thank you to Max Gehring and his crew for providing for our weekly worship!

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

AUGUST 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m.	3 Caregivers' Support Group 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 am	4 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon	5 Diaconate Meeting Via Zoom	6 Racial Justice Discussion Group Via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	7	8
9 11th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. NH Conference UCC	10	11 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon	12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	13 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	14	15
16 12th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. Rev. Peter Preble	17 Caregivers' Support Group 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 am	18 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon	19	20 Finance Team Meeting 1:30 Racial Justice Discussion Group Via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	21	22
23 13th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. NH Conference UCC	24	25 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon	26 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	27	28	29
30 14th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. Rev. Peter Preble	31					




\$235^K BY 235TH

GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 14, 2020 at 1:00 pm

\$90 per player, includes 18 holes of golf, cart and refreshments at the 19th hole.

To register your group please contact
Dana Margolis at 978-423-6973 or dmargo1981@aol.com



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

