# STEEPLE VIEWS

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

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS SEPTEMBER 2020

Phone: 603-522-3189 Website: fccwakefieldnh.org Email: fccwakefieldnh@gmail.com www.facebook.com/ firstcongregationalchurchofwakefielducc

# FCCW, UCC Is Alive and Well ...

Do you remember the US tour of "Jacque Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris"? It was a 70s thing. Well, I want to report that First Congregation Church of Wakefield, United Church of Christ is Alive and Well (and living in Wakefield)! While our building may be closed to congregational worship, much is happening, and here are some examples just to name a few: Our Building & Grounds crew have spiffed up the entire church, including carpet cleaning, grounds maintenance, front stair repair, new mailbox, etc. etc. There really are too many things to name them all here.

Calling & Discernment has a new coordinator AND a new member. They will be gathering soon for a reorganization via ZOOM. Yea, this is exciting.

Our Christian Outreach continues to make Shepherd rides and grocery runs available to people in need. The Fellowship Café, which supports small, independent farmers through our sales of coffee and tea, is still operating. K cups available. You are reading this, so you know our Ministry of Communications is still working well and keeping us up to date with the latest news.

Our Deacons are making calls and checking on everyone periodically. They are also ensuring that virtual worship is happening. [This is where we must give a huge shout out to Max who really is the force behind those services. Thank you, Max, for offering your time and creative talent!]

Tuesday Bible study continues to faithfully meet via ZOOM.

Our Finance ministry never stops! They meet regularly to oversee and care for our finances and make themselves available to Search and Call when necessary.

I think our Historian/Archivist likes the calm and quiet in the building. Her work continues faithfully. She also re-organizes the children's library after the story tellers borrow books and can't remember where they found them.

Personnel is actively overseeing the work of our Congregational Life Administrator, Julie Margolis. Julie is working from home during this pandemic but comes into the church office whenever necessary. (She also has a new puppy.) Stewardship has successfully finished the pledge campaign and is now ready to switch their energy to the other side of Stewardship – that of being stewards of our world.

The Ministry of The Arts continues to decorate our building and grounds making it a pleasing place both in video and for those who drive by or who have reason to enter. Music is being chosen and provided for our virtual service by this ministry. Ginny reports that the Parish Helpers JUST ROCK. They have met with social distancing, they care for one another, and they have even managed to open the Treasure Shop with limited access.

And then there is the work of Safe Church. A recent example (more recent than the traffic calming devices that are FINALLY in place), is that of creating the guidelines for those who enter the church, including hand sanitizing, mask wearing, signing in with date, time and telephone number for tracking if necessary.

Small groups such as Grief Support and Care Givers are meeting while maintaining safe social distancing.

(Continued on next page.)

Hazel MacBrien Nursery School is ready to re-open following state guidelines. Space has been made available exclusively for their use.

FUNdraising is moving ahead at full speed. (More later.)

Then, of course, there is SEARCH AND CALL!

I am absolutely certain that I've forgotten to mention things and I apologize because the work that we all do is so important. But now you can see why I can say with great confidence that First Congregation Church of Wakefield, United Church of Christ is Alive and Well (and living in Wakefield)!

Margie Galabrun, Moderator

# **Online Sales to Benefit FCCW**

Thanks so much to the many, many people who have donated items for our online sales. We have sold furniture galore, carpets, fitness equipment, an air conditioner, kitchen appliances, cookware and household goods, a sewing machine, a karaoke machine, agricultural equipment, a ROW BOAT, an old fashioned wood stove, toys and more! What did they have in common? All were in good condition and all were donated to benefit FCCW!

We have much more to sell and we are grateful to Carol Jeffrey for posting on the FCCW website and for our various sellers -- Margie Galabrun, Carol Lundgren, Carol Jeffery, Julie Kessler, George Ackerman, Paul Allen, Julie Evenson, Buddy and Nancy Dee, and Jan Brewjo. (I hope I didn't miss anyone!) You get to meet such nice people while raising money for our general budget and for the Endowment Fund! Want to join the fun? Speak to Margie, George or me! Thank you!

Connie Littlefield

# 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/

It's never too late to pledge if you have not yet made your decision. When you do decide, simply send a note to church to the attention of our Assistant Treasurer. Our fiscal year is already underway (July 1, 2020 -June 30, 2021) and new pledges are ALWAYS welcome. You can pledge weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually -- whatever is most convenient for you! Thank you for your prayerful consideration to support your church.

# News from Calling & Discernment

C & D welcomes Linda Messer as part of the Ministry Team! Welcome, Linda!

Our team's ministry is to help members of the congregation share their gifts for active, joyful participation in the life of our church. We ask people to prayerfully discern if they have a calling in one area or even two! Members of C & D are available to talk with you and prayerfully discern, recognize and encourage the expression of your interests and to connect you in the best way possible. We know that interests and activities are ever changing, thus the form of our ministries are fluid.

Currently, we are looking for people interested in Faith Formation (working in teams with our children and youth) and with Outreach (a wonderfully all encompassing expression of Christian love both locally and globally). Delegates are sought to represent FCCW at Carroll Strafford Association Meeting and to the NH Conference Annual Meeting. In addition to our pastor, we are allocated five positions, including a youth delegate. Many of our current members have been delegates and can share the excitement of learning about the wider church through participation at this level. Does this sound like something that would be of interest?

The Carroll Strafford Association is also looking for representation on their structural team as well. They seek a scribe, a treasurer, and a lay member of Council on Church and Ministry (COCM). COCM works with seminarians seeking a ordination through an in-care process and they relate to the 13 UCC churches in our area. George Ackerman, Bob James, and Elizabeth Fogg are some who formerly did this important work.

I look forward to hearing from you and how we can joyfully carry out the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in the areas mentioned or possibly in another one!

*Connie 340-2116* 

# 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!

# I Love and Miss This Church

I love this church, and as we all do, I miss this church. I love and miss the sounds of joyful laughter as you enter the Narthex. I love and miss the sincere greetings of welcome. I love and miss how we are so excited about seeing, hugging, and sharing responses to; "how have you been?" or "its so great to see you again!" that we want to linger in each other's presence. I love and miss how Cindy begins playing music and the pastor tries to quiet the congregation so we can start church, just to have it do it all again following the Passing of the Peace. Herding Cats Syndrome, I think. I love and miss the sounds of choir and the look on Cindy's face when we finish an introit or anthem, always positive even when we make mistakes. I love and miss the bold and compassionate sharing of celebrations and concerns. I love and miss seeing the children running up and down the aisles, or fidgeting in the back pews with their bags of story books, coloring pages and other items given to them in a challenging effort to keep them quiet as they wait for church school to begin. I love and miss the sound of infants singing cooing chords as they accompany the Pastor in the sharing of the sermon. I love and miss coffee hour where we continue the discussions that began in the Narthex. I love and miss Brian's baking, as well as many others who share their culinary skills. I love and miss this church.

I know someday we will be together and can only pray it will be soon. I know we are stronger because of the challenges that have been laid before us. I know that when that day comes, when we can all be together again, it will be as the coming of Christ and the joys and celebrations will be abundant. I envision that first Sunday morning when we see and hold each other, no one will complain that the service took longer than normal. We won't care about missing a sporting event on TV, or some other superficial tug on our time. We will want to linger a little bit more. We may even stay together in each other's closeness longer than a Zimbabwean service. Until that time, never doubt that you are always in someone's prayers. You may experience this by receiving a "thinking of you" card, or a brief call from a Deacon. I know virtual church is not what we want but enjoy that which is available until we once again can laugh, sing, hug, and shine in the stained-glass light of our beloved sanctuary. I love and miss this church.

Until Then, Be Well My Friends Donna V. Ackerman, Deacon

#### Mark Your Calendars

Next SAVERS collection date is October 5! Time to clean out those closets!!

# What's All the Fundraising For?

Elizabeth recently asked me where all the fund-raising money was going? What was it benefiting? Those are such great questions. At the beginning of this physical year, FUNdraising and Endowment joined efforts and began working together on on-line sales. The money raised would be equally divided between the budget needs for this current year, and Endowment. While dividing the money, after the budget line requirement of \$9000 is met (did you notice the positive language there?) all profits after that point will be placed into the Endowment Fund 100%. They also agreed to NOT divide other things such as Fairs, food sales, brick sales, golf tournaments. I hope this chart helps.

Church Budget	Endowment Fund		
2020-2021			
On line sales 50%	On line sales 50%, and		
up to \$9000	100% after \$9000		
Harvest Fair	Golf Tounament		
Food Sales	Brick Sales		
Other	Other		

Remember, donations are needed and welcomed.

#### Margie Galabrun

#### **Social Media**

Stay connected! Not only through our church Facebook page, but also with our Wakefield Wonder and Grace page. Join our Church on the Web and enjoy uplifting spiritual affirmations by Donna Ackerman & Ann Bilodeau and stay connected with your hearts to our church family https://

www.facebook.com/groups/ WakefieldWonderandGrace/

### **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 down-



loaded from our website at the link below. <u>Tournament</u> <u>Registration</u>

# **Finance Ministry Invitation**

You are cordially invited to join the Finance Ministry members at one or more of our monthly meetings. We encourage participation from anyone in the congregation. The only qualification is an interest in learning what we do and how we work with other ministries to help run our beloved church. This means you do not need to be a number-oriented person!

Currently, we meet by Zoom. Our next meeting is September 22 at 1:30. If you would like to attend this or any future meeting please contact me, and you will be added to the Zoom invitation. We hope you will join us.

> Janice Brejwo jbrejwo@roadrunner.com Home phone: 522-6617

# Harvest Fair Penny Sale



I'm sure you all know how this year's Penny Sale will be different from prior years. I am asking for members and friends of FCCW to please purchase a gift certificate, in any amount you choose, from any of the merchants you

patronize in the area. I'm hoping for a wide variety of shopping opportunities! They have started to come in, and right now I have gift certs from Market Basket, Mary Macs, Ira Miller's Store, Exxon Mobil, Hannaford, Poor People's Pub, 110 Grill and a manicure at Sharper Image. When you purchase yours, you can shoot me an email or just leave it for me in the Treasurer's box in the Narthex at church, or drop it in the white lockbox. Here's hoping for another super successful Penny Sale.

> Nancy Dee Nancy.dee2018@gmail.com

#### **Zoom Coffee Hour**

A Zoom Coffee Hour is being planned for September 20th. This Coffee Hour will happen at 11 AM and will take place over the video conferencing software 'Zoom.' Please gather with your friends and family at FCCW at this Zoom Coffee Hour with your own coffee hour drinks and snacks! The invite will be sent out by email, and there will be a phone number made available to call on a phone.

Max Gehring, Deacon

# Peace I Leave With You

(This piece was written and spoken by Carol Lundgren for Sunday, August 22, 2020 to accompany the Wakefield Memorial Bell Choir playing Peace – a Virtual Service – arranged by Max Gehring.)

Peace I leave with you ..." (John 14:27) Doesn't that bit of Scripture make you pause and feel bathed in the love of Christ? "Peace I leave with you ..."

Oh to be able to hold Christ's peace right in front of me - every day and in every stress-filled moment - and every moment of joy as well! How different would my reactions have been in the past - had I only held on to Christ's peace? Yes, the highs and lows of life are part of life -- inevitable -- but how we respond to the highs and lows -- as Christians -- surely must be a measure of our faith - my faith. Guilty. Oh dear. Guilty of falling short of the promise to pick up and own the gift of Christ's peace. It was given. Did I pick it up?

I talk a lot lately to others about "choice". I talk to myself about choices also. The choice(s) to stay calm, to be forgiving, to NOT be reactive when something would have been upsetting ... but I CHOOSE not to. I choose NOT to judge. I have to keep reminding myself that as a human and as a Christian, I should not/must not judge a person or a situation -- rather, I should resist that human emotion and search instead for His peace. It's there for the taking. Right in front of me. Is it right in front of you?

Have you ever held a grudge? Were you wronged? Thankfully, that emotion of outrage and dismay has softened over time. I still remember it, but it does me no good at all to relive it or conjure the scene once again. I choose not to. I choose peace.

All that sounds pretty good, pretty healthy - doesn't it? But my world (small as it is) and probably yours too, is currently upside down: upside down with Covid, upside down with school opening decisions, church opening thoughts, to vote in person or by mail, ... or not; upside down with an election process that is sure to have unprecedented controversy, upside down with back and forth unkind comments between the candidates. And then, I sometimes feel upside down without a minister ... waiting from our dear Search and Call team to find and present the perfect candidate.

Ah, please God, stop me from thinking I am upside down when you have given me everything I need to be right side up! I promise to play my part in staying right side up, to encourage others to embrace the promises we have been given by our faith. I promise to look at our lay Leadership, our Deacons, Officers and celebrate they are Christ-filled loving, hardworking and hard-praying women and men who are the glue of this Church.

Let laughter be ever present, and music lift us. May we embrace - virtually - often. Praise our loving Christ who said:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

# SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon	<b>2</b> Diaconate Meeting Via Zoom	<b>3</b> Racial Justice Discussion Group Via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom– 6:30 pm	4	5 Treasure Shop Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
6 14th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. Titia Bozuwa	7 Labor day	8 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon	9 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	10 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	11	<b>12</b> Treasure Shop Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
<b>13</b> 15th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. George Ackerman	14	<b>15</b> Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon	16	17 Racial Justice Discussion Group Via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	18	19 Treasure Shop Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
20 16th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. Max Gehring Zoom Coffee Hour Bells Choir	<b>21</b> Caregivers' Support Group 9:30 a.m 10:30 am	<b>22</b> FCCW 235th ANNIVERSARY Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon Finance Team Via Zoom 1:30 p.m.	<b>23</b> Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	24 Community String Band Via Zoom– 6:30 pm	25	26 HARVEST FAIR Treasure Shop Open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
<b>27</b> 17th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. Harriet Wilson	28	29 Faith Formation Study via Zoom 12 Noon	30			



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

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!

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.* 

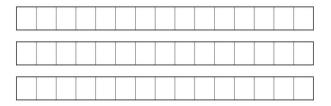
Donor information:

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

#### 235th Anniversary of FCCW

September 20th is FCCW's 235th Anniversary of being church in Wakefield, NH! Throughout the month of September, FCCW will be raising up what makes this church community great -- we will learn about the church's history, share stories, and appreciate this church and its community. Thank you all for making FCCW the church that it is today!

Max Gehring, Worship Team Lead

#### "All are Welcome" Bike-a-thon

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A Bike-a-thon is being planned for September 12, with a rain date of September 13! This event will be a fundraising event where groups will register for and traverse the Cotton Valley Rail Trail and gain pledges

for the Endowment Fund! Any and all are welcome to participate, and there is no age requirement! More details coming soon.

Endowment Team

#### News of Zimbabwe

Our Zimbabwe PKZ Team recently distributed masks and 20 kg of mealie meal (22 lbs) to 74 elderly women as part of the food security program made possible by the churches of McCormick, S.C. and the Kensington, NH UCC. The team looked for the most vulnerable among the elderly, including some with significant disabilities, as recipients. The Team described the emotion at seeing these respected elders wait 4+ hours to get something to feed the children left in their care. Other elderly women heard of the distribution and there were approx. 40 who came late and did not receive anything. We are hopeful we will be able to provide for those who missed out.

We were pleased to receive videos from Blessing Sithole (one of our sponsored students), Sarah Mahlupeko, and Grace Chatema to include in the Peace Sunday service coordinated by Margie and Max. Since school was closed in March due to Covid 19, our PKZ home/office turned its outdoor veranda into an informal classroom. Two teachers from Chipinge High School are being paid to provide lessons for 13 students in math and English as Form 4 and Form 6 students are expected to take the national exams this year. These hardworking students attend extra lessons for an hour in each subject each day. Blessing, as the Head Boy of Chipinge High and all around great guy, noted that there are four students who can not contribute money toward the extra lessons so he tutors them on his own. When I posted this on Facebook, I had to remove the teachers names so they would not be questioned and get into trouble with the government. Imagine! Schools are tentatively planning on reopening in mid September for students taking exams.

Zimbabwe has had close to 6,000 known cases of Covid resulting in 156 deaths. Blessing and Vrante report they are now down to 923 official cases. We know Zim lacks testing and therefore numbers are not accurate. Most people are pretty vigilant about wearing masks when in groups.

Human rights abuses continue amidst the deteriorating economy. Four well known journalists/activists were recently jailed without bail because they dared to criticize the government. These are four in a long line of human rights violations. Seven brave Catholic Bishops are making news for taking a vocal stand against the government calling for an urgent resolution to the economic collapse, the human rights abuses and the growing poverty and food insecurity in the country. Zimbabwe's President Manangagwa blames opposition parties working with "westerners" who are trying to de-stabilize the country and says he will "flush" them out.

Our friends continue to benefit from our prayers!

God bless, Connie Littlefield



For more photos and updates on PKZ—Zimbabwe Missions, go to the PKZ Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/PROJECTKZ2015



Gift Baskets, Pet-themed Gifts, Bake Sale, Jewelry Table, Penny Sale (all gift cards!), Treasure Shop Table and much more!

Harvest Fair helpers and basket items wanted! We will need lots of help setting up for, running and cleaning up from Harvest Fair activities. Let us know if you're interested in helping in any way. Also, could use items for the jewelry table and gift and pet-themed baskets - including (but not limited to) pet toys, pet treats, chocolates, nuts, fall-themed food and other items (e.g., pumpkin-related or cranberry-related foods or knickknacks, etc.), any type of jewelry, and new stuffed animals (with tags on). Please contact Julie Kessler at <u>julielouisekessler@gmail.com</u> or call 603-871-8066.

# **Parish Helpers News**

On a sunny Saturday afternoon recently, a few Parish Helpers experimented with opening the Treasure Shop on a limited scale, following Covid-19 precautions, such as masks, sanitizer, and limited contact. Only 5 people were allowed in the shop at a time.

Carole D., Rachel, Ginny, and Elizabeth Fogg were running the shop. It was a big success! People who stopped in were full of excitement and joy to have the shop opened. We never realized how much our "public" appreciates the T.S! They took in close to \$500.

Since this was such a successful undertaking, they have decided to open the shop on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through the end of September. On September 26, the FUNdraising team is planning an outdoor only Harvest Fair. The Treasure Shop will be open that day.

# **Back-to-school Drive for Paul School**

I'm encouraging FCCW to start a back-to-school fundraising drive this year, as the Paul School community has faced a lot of challenges lately and is currently preparing to re-open classrooms for class after closing them back in March. This drive won't conflict with the drive organized by Wakefield's Profile Bank, nor the work that the Wakefield Food Pantry does to support Paul School. I'm currently in communication with the Paul School about requests and needs, and I'm just waiting for some final details before going public with our back-to-school drive. More details soon!

Max Gehring, Deacon

# **Interviews of FCCW Members and Friends**

Over the next few weeks, you might receive an offer to be interviewed by a fellow church member or friend! These interviews are being done to increase our connections between each other and FCCW, as well as to share some of our stories and anecdotes through our September worship services and FCCW's social media channels. My goal is to interview as many people as possible, eventually including all people closely associated with FCCW, but that won't be possible in only a few weeks.

Max Gehring, Deacon

# **Racial Justice Discussion Group**

The group continues book discussions via Zoom twice a month on Thursdays. Beginning on September 3, they will be reading "White Too Long". All are welcome. To join in the group, contact Donna Ackerman at dvackerman@gmail.com or 603-651-6349.

# **Faith Formation Bible Study**

Bible study continues to meet via Zoom on Tuesdays at 12 noon. All are welcome. Contact Julie Kessler for Zoom invite at julielouisekessler@gmail.com or 603-871-8066.

# **Support Groups**

The Caregivers' support group will not meet on Labor Day, but on August 31 and September 21 at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Contact Carol Lundgren for more information.

The Grief Support group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Parish Helpers Room

# Hazel MacBrien Nursery School Opening

Hazel MacBrien Nursery School will open on September 9th in our building. They are complying with all state Covid regulations and they have agreed to the procedures recommended by our Church safety team as well as our insurance company. They only impact on our limited use of the Church while they are in session is that we request anyone who might be in the building to not use the restrooms in fellowship hall. Likewise anyone associated with the school will not come upstairs. All visitors inside the building must sign in and record their visit. We look forward to supporting this critical need for our community in a safe way.



#### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Christine Feddern
- 2 Rvan Hughes
- Susan Girardin 8
- 8 Lora Stanley
- 10 Meaghan Connell
- 10 Rachel White
- 11 Mark Evenson
- 11 Ken Jeffery
- 12 Cindy Denver
- 12 Priscilla Frothingham
- 12 Donna Vanderhoof
- 14 David Schweitzer
- 15 Ethan Ball
- 16 Russell Baldwin

- 16 MacKenzie Robinson
- 18 Sara Denver
- 18 Sarah Duplinsky
- 18 Margie Galabrun
- 19 Eric Perkins
- 19 Sharon Theiling
- 24 Connor Nelson
- 24 Dorothy Letellier
- 25 Joe Brejwo
- 26 Rebecca Mooers
- 28 Edie Garland
- 30 Janice Brejwo
- 30 Eleanor (Suzy) Carter

#### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Joe & Barbara Cawlina 4
- 21 Scott & Kathy Frothingham

# **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 (<u>dhwilson39@gmail.com</u>)



With great sadness we share with you that Marjorie Berg's son Peter Berg has passed into God's eternal care last week. Please keep Marjorie and her family her your prayers during this difficult

time. Cards of love and support can be sent to:

Marjorie Berg Scandinavian Living Center 206 Waltham Street #215 Newton, MA 02465

# **Celebrating Openness**

As we celebrate our church's 235<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, let us consider the creed our church had in 1785:

"We profess a serious and full belief that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are given by inspiration; that they teach us the doctrines of man's apostasy from God, and the only means of recovery is by faith in Jesus Christ as the only Savior of lost sinners."

This creed was described as a simple one that gave our church a broad foundation. Today people from various Christian traditions feel comfortable in our church because of its open-minded respect for other worship practices.

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

Linda Petkunas, Historian

# Facebook Birthday/Anniversary Fundraiser

Do you have a birthday/ anniversary in September? 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/

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.





Saturday, September 26 – 9:00 to 1:00 Rain Date: Saturday, October 3 – 9:00 to 1:00

Gift Baskets, Pet-themed Gifts, Bake Sale, Jewelry Table, Penny Sale (all gift cards!), Treasure Shop Table and much more!



First Congregational Church Of Wakefield United Church Of Christ 2718 Wakefield Road Sanbornville, NH 03872