

STEEPLE VIEWS



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

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS
OCTOBER 2020

PHONE: 603-522-3189
WEBSITE: FCCWAKEFIELDNH.ORG
EMAIL: FCCWAKEFIELDNH@GMAIL.COM
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC)

Seasons Change

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1.

As our beautiful New Hampshire countryside provides the multichromatic foliage of this Autumn season, we as a church have learned to change as well. We have adjusted to Sunday services on live Zoom or YouTube. We have acquiesced to the temporary separation from our traditional services. We have, although reluctantly, agreed to not physically gather in song or prayer so that we may all be safe to return to our beloved sanctuary when the time comes. What a hearty and faithful church community. We can, like the willow, bend with the changes that are set before us. We are so blessed to live in an environment with four seasons. We are wrapped in a blanket of white in winter, surprised in anticipation of growth in spring, showered in an array of life in summer, and amazed by the russets, cranberries, and golds of autumn. Have heart my friends for before we know it, we will have a new pastor. Before we know it, we will be signing boldly the old familiar and new hymns of the day. Before we know it, we will succumb to a new season. Consider this time of separation as a time to focus on our own spiritual faith. Pause and reflect on what is important in our lives. Not necessarily the physical connections that we knew, but the spiritual insights that we may ponder. God is still speaking. For everything there is a season. Let us relish in the joy that each season brings.

With Love,
Donna V Ackerman



Harvest Fair and Antiques Sale -- Beautiful Day of Fun and Fellowship

And so many good people to thank! Oh, and pretty successful too!

Well done! The women and men of FCCW were out in force doing all things necessary to have a safe and FUN FUNdraising event (two separate simultaneous events actually) on Saturday, Sept. 26. It was a perfect day -- sun, blue skies, mild temperature and many, many neighbors, friends and area foliage visitors enjoyed our first-ever ALL OUTDOOR fair. Wakefield Road was decked out with pop up tents, tables and a variety of offerings. From Margie's FOUR tables of "stuff you must have" yard sale items, Patricia's toys and gifts with the helpers Cece and Cora, and then on to Linda's All About FCCW and opportunity to pre-purchase a Memorial Brick for the garden which is in development, to the FCCW Bakery ... ably organized by Evy and overseen with Pat's help -- a complete sell-out of every delicious box of cookies, fudge, pies and bread. Wow! Then it was on to Nancy's "Penny Sale" consisting of a plethora of gift cards members purchased and donated from area businesses (keeping it local). Across the street, the Fair continued with fabulous gift baskets created by our awesome Fair Organizer, Julie K. Baskets are perfect choices for early holiday shopping and included special new-this-year "Pet Boutique" baskets overfilled with treats and fun "stuff" for favorite pets. A special shout out to Ashley and her Mom for creative and beautiful mask making! Still further down the street our friends from the Gafney Library were set up to pre-sell Christmas wreaths, and after that ... the Treasure Shop (Parish Helpers) was open with Rachel's skills at beautiful Christmas décor displayed outside. High spirits were evident as people, though masked, were genuinely happy to see each other and enjoy the day. The Men's Fellowship group was awesome with set up and break down and their general camaraderie is so supportive and welcome. Behind the scenes, but critical to any FUNdraising event are two FCCW women who have skills in communication -- in media, print and poster development. Carol J. and our CLA (Congregational Life Administrator) Julie M. are always creating and telling the FCCW story in media and in print. Their work is the foundation of bringing people to this event and others past and future. Thank you dear women. It all came together for a successful day earning the church over \$2800! Thanks to all!

Member Lois Royle donated many of her hand knitted items which fit American Girl Dolls, Barbie Dolls and even Ginny Dolls. Great for Christmas gifts and masterfully made, please contact Carol Lundgren if you would like to "shop" between now and Christmas! Thank you Lois!



Antiques and What-Not Sale at the Hickory Limb -- this was also a great event for the church, thanks to the generosity of both the former owner of the Hickory Limb, Cindy, and our own Elizabeth F. Cindy retired, moved away and gifted the contents of the building to Elizabeth. In turn, Elizabeth welcomed FCCW to open it to the public for a one-day-only sale. Connie and Ann were so good at welcoming, greeting, arranging, setting and resetting the many historic items that were available. They were assisted by Carol L and Gina. Thanks to Nate and Brian for their assistance too. And special thanks to friends of FCCW, Peter and Ann Margaret. Their expertise with antiques and how to "price to sell" was a huge help!

Carol Lundgren



Nancy Dee and the Penny Sale.



Pat Anderson at the Bake Sale Table.



The men from the Men's Fellowship Group

The Process . . .

A little less than a year ago eight people were designated as the Search and Call Committee for FCCW. We were tasked with identifying our beloved church's strengths, weaknesses, aspirations, and desires and then to search for the Minister who best fits those descriptions.

Three people on S&C were responsible for creating a document that we called the "FCCW Profile" and the remaining 5 people were identified as the ones who would 'Search and Call' a pastor to be settled.

The Covenant was signed. The work began.

After much research, meetings, writing and editing the FCCW Profile was posted on the NH UCC website in mid-spring 2020. Ministers who were in search of a ministerial position could access all of the NH church's profiles as well as search throughout all UCC conferences in the U.S. for any of the hundreds of church profiles posted.

We, the 'Searchers' do not actually 'search'. After training for 'the Search,' we wait. We wait for Ministers' profiles to be 'dropped' into our Dropbox, an online platform that allows all 5 of us to access the Ministers' profiles. It is the NH UCC conference who first receives a Pastor's profile and then it is passed on to our Dropbox. We read the profiles, interview the applicants, negotiate terms of a call and eventually bring our choice to you for approval as the new settled pastor for our Church.

So here's what we want you, the wonderful people of FCCW, to consider.

There are Ministers from all around the country who are seeking Pastoral positions. Each can choose to submit his/her Ministerial profile to any church in transition anywhere in the United States that has posted its own church profile on its UCC Conference's website.

But we patiently wait for the 'ONE' minister who is meant to Pastor First Congregational Church of Wakefield NH.

So how do we 'KNOW' he/she is the 'one' we are waiting for when we meet him/her? We do what is expected of us..... We discern. We pray. Eventually, we will feel excitement and joy. There will be no question. We will know the Holy Spirit has guided the 'one' Minister to us that God has chosen. It is YOU who have prayed for that one.

Please keep praying and it will happen!

*Linda Messer
Search and Call*

Hazel MacBrien News

The children and staff could not be happier to be back at school! The first couple of days were a little trying, with taking temperatures and having parents dropping off outside and not entering the building. With a few tweaks and a couple of days of the new routine the children are doing a great job! McKenzie's Farm found a safe way for us to hold our Apple Picking fieldtrip. It was great to be outside with the children. We then brought our apples into the classroom sorting and grouping them. We found similarities and differences, along with apple print art. Our Wakefield community has really supported us and made this reopening possible. With their donations to our families and school it has allowed us to buy the equipment and supplies we needed to open up safely. HMNS wants to give a special thanks to **George Ackerman**, our liaison, for getting us a doorbell, along with a peephole and mailbox; all things that allow us to have less people in the church. We are praying and hoping for a long and healthy school year and seeing our FCCW family in the building again.

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/>

From Your Co-Treasurer

Every month the prior month's Treasurer's Report goes out to the Leadership Council. We used to post a copy on the Narthex Bulletin Board. If any of our members would like a copy emailed to them, please request one by email: Nancy.dee2018@gmail.com

Nancy Dee

Calling and Discernment

The NH Conference Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 21st via ZOOM. Attend the meeting, listen to the work of the gathered churches of The NH Conference, hear the resolutions, and enjoy the keynote, moments of worship and celebrations from the comfort of your home! Online registration ends October 7th. (The registration fee is covered by FCCW.) Here's the link to check it out. If interested, please contact me or Margie Galabrun. <http://nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/2020-annual-meeting>

Connie Littlefield

News From Zimbabwe

The 2020 shipping container is in the books! The container arrived easily, went through the inspection process, was cleared and off loaded at a UCCZ church in Mutare. Excited chaos reigned as they tried to stack boxes -- by recipients -- at night to work around the 106 degree daytime temperature on Saturday, the day we were enjoying the Harvest Fair. Very emotional messages of deep thanks and appreciation flooded my phone. And messages still flood my phone, now two days later, as hundreds of boxes landed at the place where I stay in Chipinge as they cross reference numbers on boxes where the invoices detached. My hope is that all will be sorted out by the time I arrive in Harare on October 9th!

Yes, Zimbabwe borders reopen on October 1st! I will be carrying a second, amazing gift of \$10,000.00 awarded to Friends of PKZ by the Haas Foundation in Portsmouth. We will be drilling another borehole in a vulnerable area and using any remaining funds for the sanitation project (toilets). I will be carrying your precious donations for all of our sponsored children (40 and growing!), for completion of the ECD classroom, for the Daisy Dube Food program, for the food security program for the elderly women, and a suitcase of washable, reusable sanitary pads. After completing a quarantine period, I will be working on distribution of the many, many amazing things you provided via the container. Aren't I the luckiest? The team is looking forward to setting up the sewing machines and the welding and other tools for a vocational training program. The boys who live with me don't know I am coming. Can you just picture that scene?

Thank you for your love and care, Connie Littlefield



Mark Your Calendars

Next SAVERS collection date is October 5!
Bags of used clothing and other acceptable items can
be dropped off at the church at 3 p.m.
Time to clean out those closets!!

A Prayerful Send Off



Connie Littlefield will travel to Zimbabwe once again on October 8 and plans to return on March 12. A small group gathered with masks and social distancing to “lay hands” on Connie and send her off with our prayers on behalf of our entire congregation. Thank you to Rev. Gayle Murphy for her inspirational prayer. The laying of hands will be part of the worship service on Sunday, October 3. We hope you’ll be there in spirit to wish Connie well!

Thank You Faithful and Faith-filled Stewards of FCCW!

Time – Talent – Treasure – those are the three tenants of **Stewardship**. And there is no shortage of folks here who put forth time, effort and their monetary gifts to the good works of their church! We can talk about a lot of things that have the world in a stir right now ... but we stay steady, we stay in touch, we work – every day – at staying connected and helping others. We could choose to worry, to fret and to stop all the good things that matter to FCCW, but we press on. Stewardship is as simple as looking in on a friend (or calling on the phone) or as grand and bold as increasing a pledge or making a significant gift to the Endowment Fund. God clearly “has this church” securely in her hands. It is easy to see that these last six months have been both daunting and empowering. The Stewardship Ministry is humbled by the on-going good deeds, good works, good and faithful financial support. We are 235 years strong ... and getting stronger. Bless us all as we continue to be good stewards.

Environmentally speaking: Here at FCCW we like to do what we can to help our planet. These are just a few of the things we focus on to be sensitive to the needs of the earth:

- Recycling glass, paper, plastic, cans.
- Recycling ink cartridges from computers and copiers
- Lowering thermostats in winter
- Lights out when areas are not in use
- Using dishes and silverware instead of paper and plastic-ware
- Banning use of Styrofoam

Surely these things are also good to do in our homes – and no doubt we do many of them. If you have other ideas to help your church be even MORE environmentally savvy, please let Stewardship know!

Carol Lundgren and Frank Frazier, Stewardship Ministry

Self-Soothing Practices in Times of Physical Distancing



Visualize God's healing light entering into the crown of your head and flowing and moving through your whole body and out your toes.



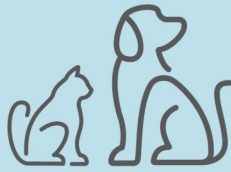
Take a hot bath with a fragrance you enjoy.



Wrap a blanket around you and visualize/meditate about God giving you a hug and nurturing touch.



Spend some time safely outside, breathing in fresh air.



If you have a pet, cuddle.



Enjoy a cup of hot tea or cocoa, sipping it slowly, savoring the flavor.



Read Psalm 121 and be aware of God's loving presence



FaceTime or skype with loved ones and friends.



Listen to your favorite relaxing music.



Text or call a friend or loved one.

Psalm 121—Song of Ascents

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. 3 He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand; 6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; 8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Virtual Worship

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!

News from the Diaconate

We are blessed to have Reverend Peter Preble with us on October 11, 18, 25 and November 1.

Rev. Preble “preaches and teaches in relevant ways with emphasis on current events, spirituality, and how to just make it through the day and meet people where they are to offer a beacon of light.”

God Bless Max! We can’t thank you enough for your many gifts and blessings you have shared with your church family. You endless hours of filming, editing and making us feel united as a church family is a forever blessing.

God Bless Us All as we continue being safe and happy as we share our many blessings as a truly united church family.

*Love, hugs, and prayers,
Ginny Schweitzer, Diaconate*



Celebrations!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Michael Frothingham | 21 Clara Clark |
| 11 Gisela Haag | 21 Ellen Lankhorst |
| 12 Sally Kratt | 24 Cameron Cook |
| 13 Debbie Fogg | 25 Benjamin Boggs |
| 13 Caren Kachoris | 26 Laura Frye |
| 13 Eric Mercer | 26 Larry Koukal |
| 15 Maureen Bridgett | 26 Connie Twombly |
| 15 JoAnn Owen | 28 Alfred Canney |
| 19 Austin Dolbear | 29 James Connell |
| 19 Brian Shipley | 29 Diana Peckham |
| 20 Bill Goodwin | 30 George Frothingham |

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Jeff & Stephanie Ballard
- 7 Tom & Jan Stanley
- 8 George & Priscilla Frothingham
- 8 Tom & Lynn Weeks
- 9 Mark and Julie Evenson
- 9 Dick & Glenna Nelson (1948)
- 10 Russell & Sharon Baldwin
- 13 Chuck & Joanne Dolbear
- 17 Alfred & Tammy Canney
- 20 Richard & Rose Zacher
- 20 John & Lynn Shaffer

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)

Thank You

I would like to send out a big THANK YOU to everyone who purchased a gift certificate or two or three for the Penny Sale at the Harvest Fair. I ended up with 43, plus the terrific door prize!! The entire process worked better than I could have ever imagined. Distribution after the close of the sale was relatively easy, with only three of them being mailed out. Just the fact that I COULD mail them out, was a huge help. So, my final thought on all of this is that it IS possible for some good stuff to come out of this COVID-19 era!

Nancy Dee

Parish Helpers News

We are practicing new and different ways of being Parish Helpers. Even though apart, we are zooming, calling, and mailing cards to each other.

We have been able to open the Treasure Shop under very strict guidelines. Its wonderful seeing all the happy folks coming to shop. So far, we've taken in over \$3000 with two Saturdays to go!!

The Board met in our church parking lot to discuss opportunities to perpetuate our church and its legacy. We voted to give the Church Endowment Fund \$2235 in honor of its 235th Anniversary. We are also donating eight bricks to our Memorial Garden. How will we ever get all of our amazing history on 8 bricks!??

So, to all of our dear Parish Helpers friends-- Stay Safe, happy and remember God is always with us. Until we meet again,

Ginny Schweitzer, President

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.



www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC

OCTOBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	2	3 Treasure Shop Open 9 to 1 p.m.
4 18th Sunday After Pentecost World Communion Sunday Online Worship via Zoom 10 a.m.	5 Caregivers' Support Group 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 am SAVERS Collection 3 p.m.	6	7 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	8 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	9	10 Treasure Shop Open 9 to 1 p.m.
11 19th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m.	12	13	14 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Leadership Council via Zoom—3 pm	15 Racial Justice Discussion Group Via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	16	17
18 20th Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. Bell Choir practice	19 Caregivers' Support Group 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 am	20	21 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Finance Team Meeting via Zoom 1:30	22 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	23	24
25 21st Sunday After Pentecost Online Worship 10 a.m. Bell Choir practice	26	27	28 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	29 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	30	31

Clothing FUNDrive

Keep It Green When You Clean

**Last Call for Bags
Monday, October 5th at 3:00
Church Parking Lot**

Every donation of gently used clothing you make helps raise funds for the First Congregational Church of Wakefield. We collect, they fund, easy and done!

Soft Acceptable Items

Clothing
Bedding
Shoes
Accessories

Give!

Give!

ChurchArtGive_139212



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



OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST