

STEEPLE VIEWS



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

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS
DECEMBER 2020

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FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC

From Search and Call

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Tere Krueger as our new pastor!

The bookends of this year-long process was the formation of the Pastoral Search Committee in early November 2019 and ending with the Congregational Meeting which affirmed the call of our candidate as pastor on November 22, 2020. We cannot be happier!

Many thanks go to Carol Lundgren, Harriet Wilson, and Judy Trepal for the detailed, professional and comprehensive FCCW profile which was posted on the UCC.org website available for all searching ministers to view. It was extremely helpful to the Search and Call committee as they worked to match the ministers' qualifications and experience to those desired for a new settled pastor by the FCCW congregate as a whole.

Patience and commitment to the process came to fruition when the Holy Spirit brought Dr. Tere to our attention. Almost immediately connections were discovered, bonds were formed and the five Search members were excited! Dr. Terrilyn Krueger was our candidate. After she accepted our offer of a call, within 3 to 4 weeks we presented 'Doc' to the congregation where she was overwhelmingly approved as the next settled Minister of FCCW.

Special thanks go to the 'ZOOM Team' who helped coordinate the technology that allowed us to virtually hold a Candidating Weekend and Worship Service to conclude the search. Julie Margolis, Margie Galabrun, Max Gehring, Julie Kessler, Alan Bernier and Nate Fogg combined talents to make it happen. It was important that the limited number of people who were not comfortable with the ZOOM platform had an opportunity to 'meet' Tere in a Covid compliant gathering at the church while the rest safely participated from home. George Ackerman was the perfect host for the 'Meet and Greet' on Saturday.

And, last, and MOST IMPORTANTLY, we would like to thank Dr. Tere (Terrilyn, 'Doc') Krueger. The members of the Search and Call team do not have a doubt that she was the one and only minister the Holy Spirit has intended to pastor us. She is congenial, talented, witty, creative, understanding and FILLED with energy and eagerness. She will move and inspire our church to do even greater things for our community as we enrich our own faith and worship. Tere prepared the prayers for our worship service on Sunday and she and Max created the bulletin with Julie Margolis' added expertise. And, if you have not yet had the opportunity to witness the Gospels actually 'come alive' with Tere's unique presentation by memory, you are in for a treat.

Please be ready to welcome Pastor Tere to First Congregational Church in January, 2021.

*Linda Messer
Search and Call*

Treasurer's Note

Just a reminder, when you order from Amazon (and you know you will!) go to smile.amazon.com. All you do is enter your email and a password, and then you can choose a charity. Of course, we hope you will choose First Congregational Church of Wakefield, but other local organizations are also registered—Wakefield Food Pantry, Gafney Library, Habitat for Humanity, and I'm sure they're many more.

And, if you're considering an Alternative Gift for those people you have difficulty buying for, this would be a great year to do it. I have decided to make a donation to PKZ Trust, to honor a young family who truly don't need a thing. I'm hoping this will resonate with them. Connie has agreed to allow me to print off some of her messages about the daily life in Zimbabwe, which I will include in a Christmas Card to the family. I really think they will love it, and learn a little bit about life in Zimbabwe. You could do the same! Merry Christmas,

Nancy Dee

The Food Pantry

The Food Pantry has asked for a very specific item to be donated by FCCW. They are in need of brown and serve dinner rolls. I believe that there are 12 in each package. They are asking for 50 packages. These rolls will be part of the Christmas dinner that will be provided to FP recipients. Please deliver the rolls to the Food Pantry any Wednesday, between 8:30 and 1:00, and no later than Dec. 19th. We thank you in advance, for your continuous generosity and support. God bless you, dear ones. You are greatly missed!

Jo Szirbik and Deacons

Stewardship Moment

Time - Talent – Treasure

Those are the three Ts of Stewardship - but you probably know that!

Many of the faithful here at FCCW can tick off all three Ts - all the time. That's why this is such a vibrant community of faith.

So feel the warmth, feel the joy knowing that what you do, what gifts you offer and what treasure you give ... strengthens the reach of this church and its compassion for all peoples.

Bless you all !!

Carol Lundgren and Frank Frazier

Faith Formation

Our four-week Advent Study will begin the first Tuesday in December (December 1st). This Advent we will use the devotional by John Pavlovitz entitled "Low: An Honest Advent Devotional". The devotional is available on Amazon for around \$5 .

A summary of the devotional:

Amidst the bright lights and wrappings of a sentimentally saturated Christmas season, we tend to forget about the gritty, messy reality of the Advent story as it was experienced 2,000 years ago. In this honest Advent devotional, best-selling progressive Christian author John Pavlovitz reminds us that God came to meet us in the low places of our lives -- and that Jesus continues to come low this Advent season. When we plant our feet firmly in the dirt of everyday life, we see Jesus meeting us in the low places: when we live humbly, when we seek forgiveness, in our grief and suffering, when we act on behalf of someone else, when we pray. As we walk the road of Advent, Jesus reminds us the invitation is not to escape this world to an elevated Heaven somewhere else, but to bring Heaven down. "God with us" is Jesus, getting low. Each devotional includes a scripture and Advent reflection on Jesus meeting us on the ground.

And come the new year, we will pick up where we left off with our study of Peter Gomes: *The Good Book: Reading the Bible With Mind and Heart*. (Note: Amazon has the book for 13.99/Kindle version for 7.99).

Our class will restart on Tuesday, January 5th with chapter 6. If you weren't with us in November for the start of this study, it's not too late to join! We're one chapter into the 2nd part of the book which delves into how to view the "hot" topics of today against what the Bible has to say. The first three January classes will focus on:

January 5 - The Bible and Anti-Semitism

January 12 - The Bible and Women: The Conflicts of Inclusion

January 19 - The Bible and Homosexuality: The Last Prejudice

Please contact Julie Kessler

(julielouisekessler@gmail.com or 603-871-8066) if you're interested in joining either of these studies. We meet on Tuesdays at 12:00 - and until further notice, we meet via Zoom.

Julie Kessler

News from Zimbabwe

"It's a different kind of a life when you don't have to worry if you will eat."

This powerful statement was made in deep gratitude by Samuel Khumbula as we sat around the dining room table preparing to give thanks for the food in front of us.

And Sam knows of what he speaks. When he was 11 his mother left in the night and Sam had to step up and take care of his two younger brothers, Joshua and Tanaka, who were 8 and 4. For the next three years Sam had to figure out how to provide food for the three of them. The younger boys didn't want to go to school because they didn't have "buns" like the other kids did. Sam would say, "Do I go to school with buns? No, so you have to do as I do." "But other kids have a lunch box with buns." Sam would say, "But we are different from them. Maybe tomorrow we will have buns like they do today." Sam said he didn't know if they would have the mealie-meal to make improvised buns but he wanted to give them hope. He continued in this way for the next three years tending a garden, and doing odd jobs in his rural village in exchange for food, until he moved on to high school -- an eight hour walk from his home village -- and placed the younger brothers in the care of relatives. Sam would live in one of the high school's storage rooms, work for bits of food, and wouldn't return to see his brothers for the next four years. (Sam would complete high school #1 in his class. He came to Chipinge to go to honors level for Form 5 & now Form 6. He has been under PKZ sponsorship since January 2020 and still remains #1 in his class.)

A UN report names Zimbabwe as one of the world's top global food crises, facing the worst hunger crisis in a decade, with 5.5 million people food insecure. Even those who are receiving supplemental food aid have huge gaps. This week when PKZ brought the monthly supply of food to the Daisy Dube Children's Home (primarily protein and vegetables) it was disheartening to open the refrigerator and the freezer and find both empty. I don't know how many days these kids existed on sadza only.

Samuel has been impressed by the love and care shown by FCCW and he has enjoyed sitting in on the ZOOM meetings and recognizing faces which are now familiar to him. He felt moved to write the following:

"It is a blessing for me to have an opportunity to say words that can reach you. I would like to thank you for the love that you give us. Regardless of the good life that you are living, you find it worthy to help the people of Zimbabwe. It was hard for me and my brothers to avail food at the table. Some families are even worse than mine. Your help has been fruitful. So many Zimbabweans are grateful for your love! I assure you that your wells will never run dry. Your intercessions are not in vain; this allows new ways to be made open! Please keep praying for us. God bless you all!"

I thank you deeply for the love and care you continue to show through your support of the children and the various mission projects. Your Alternative Giving gifts at Christmas provide hope and love and light. You are a blessing to the people of Zimbabwe and to me.

Connie Littlefield



These women along with dozens of others stay at Jopa Marketplace around the clock in the hopes of selling fruits and vegetables to people traveling by. If lucky, they will earn a few dollars each day

Advent Worship

The Diaconate and Virtual Worship Team are working on finding the best way to provide virtual worship services online for the church membership and community. We may see some changes in the coming weeks as we try to find the best for the most.



We are excited that for our Advent services we are very fortunate to welcome Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi to lead our worship. Maren C. Tirabassi is the author or editor of 21 books and is former Portsmouth, New Hampshire Poet Laureate. An ordained United Church of Christ pastor, Maren has served UCC churches in Massachusetts and New Hampshire over the last thirty years and is now retired. She now focuses on encouraging other writers, and uses writing to support justice action. She serves as a guest preacher most Sundays and enjoy visiting different churches (now virtually).

Her newest book is *Christmas Eve at the Epsom Circle McDonald's and Other Poems*, a seasonal opportunity to celebrate the ways the holy arrives in the midst of the ordinary. Welcome, Rev. Tirabassi!

Changes in Community Events Due to Covid

Two annual community events continue this year—but a little differently. The **Wakefield Secret Santa** will go on, but rather than buying presents ourselves for children, we are encouraged to make monetary donations. Deadline is Dec. 7. See cover page for more information. The **Annual Tree of Memories** will be virtual event this year. Please see the poster inserted in this newsletter for more details. Deadline is Dec. 8.

DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Faith Formation Via Zoom Noon	2 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Diaconate Mtg Via Zoom 2 p.m.	3 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	4	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent Virtual Worship and Holy Communion With Maren Tirabassi 10 a.m.	7	8 Faith Formation Via Zoom Noon	9 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Leadership Council via Zoom 3 p.m.	10 Racial Justice Book Discussion Via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	11	12 TREE OF MEMORIES https://www.centralvna.org/treeofmemories/
13 Third Sunday of Advent Virtual Worship with Rev. Maren Tirabassi 10 a.m.	14	15 Faith Formation Via Zoom Noon	16 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	17 Finance Ministry Zoom Meeting 1:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent Virtual Worship with Rev. Maren Tirabassi 10 a.m.	21	22 Faith Formation Via Zoom Noon	23 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Virtual Worship with Rev. Maren Tirabassi	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27 First Sunday After Christmas Virtual Worship with Rev. Maren Tirabassi 10 a.m.	28	29 Faith Formation Via Zoom Noon	30 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	31		

Annual Hospice Tree of Memories

Virtual Celebration of Life

*Honor Someone Special
Remember a Loved One*

*Inscribe a Porcelain Dove
with his or her name to be
placed on a lit Evergreen Tree
by one of our volunteers*



Doves will be placed at the location of your choosing below on Saturday, December 12, 2020. You may visit your doves anytime after December 12th.

Huggins Hospital Main Entrance
Wolfeboro, NH

Pearson Road Community Center
Alton, NH

Wakefield Town Hall
Wakefield, NH

Moulton Farm, 18 Quarry Road
Meredith, NH

For more information regarding our **Virtual Celebration of life** or to have a porcelain dove inscribed to memorialize a loved one, please inquire at 800-244-8549 or visit www.centralvna.org by December 8th. Dove/s may be picked up any time after January 9th.



To purchase a Dove, go to:
<https://www.centralvna.org/treeofmemories/>

Dawn's Gathering

As I ease into the 100-degree bubbling water of our hot tub, I reach for the cup of coffee that I carried with me. Settling into the swirling waters I sip and listen to the soft awakening of the day. There is no wind this morning. The chimes and flags that encompass the tree branches are motionless waiting for the first soft breeze to release them from their slumber. The grey haze of dawn lifts as the images of the trees start to take form. A squirrel nimbly leaps from tree to tree via the highway of branches that connect a canopy of leafless arteries. Suspended on a cable among the cluster of trees is an assortment of bird feeders; tube and platform feeders filled with black oil sunflower seeds, and a suet feeder containing two blocks of compressed morsels of grains. I challenge myself to a contest of selecting which kind of bird will arrive first. The gentle chick-a-dee lands on one of the platforms and chooses a seed, then returns to a branch and begins the negotiation of prying open the shell to get to the prize within. This will provide the energy it needs to combat against today's freezing temperatures. Next, as if answering an invitation, several blue jays with their azure plumage, drop onto the platform feeders. Their noisy entrance is announced as they flutter from the upper branches landing with a thud creating a carousel effect spinning but not dislodging their passengers. These birds don't crack open the shell, they select a seed, toss back their heads, and swallow it whole. Their almost manic attack creates a cascade of the treasured items to fall to the ground where a small but stalwart collection of juncos receive the shower the blue jays have provided. Their slate and charcoal backs are resting in their cup of white bellies. If there was snow on the ground it would appear as if they acquired their contrasting colors by swiping their bellies through the wintry flakes.

I rest quietly allowing the healing water to caress the muscles and joints that have recently caused me to wake with stiffness and an almost humorous snap, crackle, pop cacophony of sounds. Resting my head on the edge of the tub I hear the rustling of leaves as an army of turkey race through the woods descending upon the ground below the feeders. These awkward fowl shuffle and swirl in a competitive dance as they gather their cherished morsels. I watch over the edge of the hot tub as they cock their heads and return my gaze in a comical almost eyebrow raising manner. They appear to be saying, "I'm watching you too". More birds come and go, the nut hatch, doves, and an array of woodpeckers. Each vying for the life sustaining reward. Each entrenched in the symbiotic relationship of survival.

As we move through the season of Advent we await not just the arrival of the Christ child, but also the scientific discoveries of a vaccine that will release us from the stifling restrictions which keep us from being close with our family and friends. Let us rest in the knowledge that

this contagion will not concur us. Let us breath-in the love and joy that the Holy Spirit provides during this time of anticipation. Let us share, like the birds, the life sustaining morsels of song, prayer, and hope. Be well my friends and stay calm with the notion that someday soon we will rejoin our Congregational flock within our beloved sanctuary. Until then, peace be with you.

Donna Ackerman

Alternate Gifting Reminder

Thanksgiving has come and gone. Many of us changed our traditional gatherings and cancelled travel plans to make sure those we love would stay safe. Yes, that stinks, but think how spectacular next year's holiday times will be. Even in these trying times most of us are still blessed with an incredible abundance of health, home, and food. With all the material wealth that we enjoy it is in the blessing of giving that the Holiday Spirit is all about. Outreach is providing the opportunity to share our abundance by sponsoring the following Alternate Gifting programs:

- ◇ The Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund, supports people in need within the church and Wakefield community
- ◇ The FCCW Endowment Fund, supports the long-term financial investments of the church
- ◇ The Christmas Eve Pension Board, supports retired UCC pastors
- ◇ The PKZ, provides the people of Zimbabwe with food for the Daisy Dube Children's Home, washable sanitary napkins, and Child sponsorship

Simply write a check payable to the FCCW in support of any or all of these worthy programs. Place in the memo line of the check which program you wish to contribute. If you are writing one check, but wish to spread the money to multiple programs, attach a note designating which programs and how much for each sponsorship. Let's not allow the health situations of today sour our **JOY** of giving to others. I am sad in that I won't be able to share with my friends and family those beautiful handmade cards that are associated with the alternate gifting ideas, but I will include in the card that I do send that a donation in their name has been made to a worthy cause. Our God Daughter, who is now a lovely married woman, finds great joy in knowing that for most of her life a donation to one or more of these programs is made in her name.

*Peace to All,
Donna V Ackerman, Outreach*

Celebrations!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Tom Stanley | 13 Carol Jeffery |
| 2 Shannon Mercer | 16 Jeff Ballard |
| 2 Lynn Watts | 16 Coralena Meroski |
| 3 Robert Gehring Jr. | 16 Barry Truhn |
| 3 Marie Hebb | 20 Rev. George Harvey |
| 8 David Silcocks | 26 Jessica St Pierre |
| 9 Richard Zacher | 30 Skip Theiling |
| 11 Dorothy MacKenzie | |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Eric & Amanda Boggs
27 Peter & Linda Foss

Birthday/ Anniversary FB Fundraiser

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

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 democ-

racy, 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)

Looking Ahead to 2021

By a unanimous vote at the congregational meeting on November 22, Dr. Tere Krueger was called to become our settled Pastor. A huge THANK YOU to the Search and Call Team—Ryan McCarthy, Julie Evenson, Linda Messer, Chuck Hodsdon, and George Akerman for all their hard work over the past year. No easy accomplishment in this time of Covid. Dr. Tere, who currently lives in Michigan, has begun packing and even her cat, Gabby, is getting ready to go!



If you haven't had the opportunity to see/ hear Dr. Tere via video, you can find videos here:

A Walk in the Woods

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1791HRKnWFOEinn8aUWekRNMW33pE_ed/view?ts=5f735b99

Dr. Tere Krueger Preaching

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18TLLcrLSDk>

Scripture Reading

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqSjB2aHFL0>

Need a Little Extra Help?

During this time of Covid19 and winter approaching, you may find that you are facing unexpected financial hardship. Through no fault of your own (job loss, reduction of hours, illness), The Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund may be beneficial for basic needs like heat, electricity, etc. If you or someone you know could use a little extra help, call the church office and ask for more information. (603-522-3189).

This fund is supported by donations from church members, friends, and family. One way this is accomplished is through Alternative Gift-Giving during our Christmas season. The Diaconate administers this Fund.

Thank you for your gift that will provide a LITTLE EXTRA HELP for a worthy person or family at this time.

Gail Feddern, Diaconate

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



PLEASE HELP US BRING ANOTHER
SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF GIVING, LOVE
AND JOY TO THE CHILDREN OF
WAKEFIELD!

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

GREATER WAKEFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SECRET SANTA PROGRAM

****GIFTS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED****

DUE TO COVID 19 THE PROGRAM HAS CHANGED FOR THIS YEAR.
MONETARY DONATIONS-CASH OR CHECKS MAY BE TAKEN TO PROFILE
BANK, 65 MEADOW ST, SANBORNVILLE, NH OR YOU MAY MAIL
DONATION TO:

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PO BOX 11
SANBORNVILLE, NH 03872

CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO SECRET SANTA PROGRAM

FROM YOUR DONATIONS LOCAL FAMILIES WILL BE PROVIDED A GIFT CARD
THAT THE PARENT(S) CAN USE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS!!

DEADLINE DECEMBER 7TH.

OUR GIFTS OF GIVING AND LOVE WILL PROVIDE A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS
MORNING FOR MANY WAKEFIELD BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 2 THROUGH 16!



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

