

STEEPLE VIEWS



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

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APRIL 2021

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Holy Week Prayer

Jesus. I was surprised to read that you were “troubled”* as you anticipated your time of heart-break. And, then, it hurt my heart to know you struggled. When I was a girl, I thought, “*The pain was no big deal cuz Jesus is God*”. But, now, I realize you DID experience pain, shame and agony--deep in your being--knowing you would be beaten, spit upon, laughed at. I find it amazing to know that with your Godly knowing you saw it all coming--AND humanly dreaded it, profoundly troubled.

Knowing you suffered all alone for hours in that long, dark, night of anguish and prayer in Gethsemane makes me wish I could have been with you. Yes.

I'm dreaming now--and seeing the child in me could have done it, could have stayed with you. Yes, I wiped your brow and leaned gently against your precious body while you prayed and cried.

Oh my, Jesus, what a prayer that was. You went over your life and thanked Abba for all the good things, like the wisdom and truth you were able to teach eager listeners like me! You gave thanks for the healings--of people you instantly loved. I was so happy you included even little ones like me...and Molly Rose in your prayers of gratitude.

You scared me Jesus when I heard you tell the disciples, *My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me*** You loved it here, Jesus. You loved telling us all the good news that Abba cherishes us all so much. Oh, how I cried with you, Jesus, until I fell asleep in your arms.

When I woke up, you were gone. But you must have torn a bit of your cloak and covered me with it. I found your comforting note, Jesus. “*Abba answered my prayers and has made me strong and sure now. Abba wants me to surrender to all that the mean men want and to love and forgive them. Since He will help me--I am so willing to do all He wants of me. Abba filled my soul to overflowing. I am well and oh, so loved. Just like We love you, little one. Shalom.*”.

I had another dream 3 days later. You whispered softly in my ear, Jesus. “*I Am RISEN, Terri. Go now. Take care of my little lambs. I will Love them through you. And, remember, I am with you always.*” I awakened. I awakened and said, *Yes, Jesus, I will go to Wakefield.*

Hallelujah! He Is Risen!

*John 12:27 **12:39

Palm Sunday

March 28 is Palm Sunday. Since we won't be worshipping in person, we are distributing palms by curbside pick-up! You can have your palms ahead of our virtual worship by dropping by the church on Friday or Saturday and taking them from the container on the front entrance of the church. You can even make a cross from the palms by following the directions which will be available along with the palms. Or go to: [How to Make a Palm Cross](#).

Hazel MacBrien Nursery School News

This St. Patrick's day seemed a little more special this year, since it was about the time we went into quarantine and not able to have our celebration last year. The leprechaun came into our class and caused lots of mischief. The children built some traps trying to catch him, but he was too clever. He did leave gold treats. You can see the video on the Hazel MacBrien Facebook page, be sure to like and follow us to see more fun activities that happen at our school.

We want to thank George for the bird feeder he placed outside our window, we are greeted by Cardinals and Blue jays every day, the children get very excited. HMNS is now enrolling for the Fall, spread the word!

Online Donation Options

Did you know that you can make a donation online through PayPal or Debit or Credit Card? Click here to make an online donation. [Donate Online](#). You will be given the option to pay by PayPal or Credit or Debit card. There you can pay your pledge, make a donation to the Endowment Fund, to One Great Hour of Sharing, or any of our Missions.

Spring Cleaning for Fun and Profit!

Spring is a great time to go through your drawers and closets and weed out those clothing items in sellable condition that you no longer have use for. In addition to satisfaction of purging, we get the added bonus of having helped raise funds for our church! Items we can accept include — Clothing & Shoes, Men's, Women's, Children's, Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Ties, Nylons, Socks, Underwear. Soft household items such as Bedding, Towels, etc. regardless of condition are also acceptable. **Please bag your items in plastic bags and securely tie them.** (13-gallon kitchen bags work very well.)

If you have **children's or teen's clothing**, please **bag and label them separately** as there is critical need for these in Zimbabwe and we will put them aside for the next shipping container. Date to drop all donations will be early in May. Stay tuned for more info in next issue.

Earth Day – April 22, 2021



My how time flies! Some of us remember the first Earth Day in 1970 – wow! Some people might be asking if Earth Day will be cancelled this year – absolutely not. They expect over a billion (yes with a B) people to join in virtually at <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>

for on-line seminars and events starting on April 20. The focus this year is on Climate Change and the imperatives to all of us on the earth to become engaged and aware of the issues and the solutions. Another website worth looking at is: www.greenamerica.org.

Here in NH there are many events planned – just google them. There are Several Run/Walks (with masks and socially distance). There are a lot of places you can just get out and walk. Who is up for Mount Major this year?

Best of all there is your own back yard! Do you have your bird houses clean and ready for this year's guests? Maybe time to build/buy a couple more and put them up. Do you have spring fever, and you are itching to get out and plant new things in your garden – Go Native! Do a little research, visit one of our local nurseries (most open in April) who specialize in Native plants.

Most of all, pause a moment – look at the resources you are consuming at home – find ways to cut back on plastic – etc. If we all do even just a little it can have an enormous impact on Mother Earth.

Frank Frazier, Stewardship Ministry

ROOTED IN JOY !
YOU HAVE MAIL COMING SOON FROM THE
STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT AFTER EASTER.

Children's Books Dealing with Grief

Do you want to help a child struggling with the issue of death? Carol Lundgren and I researched and purchased these books for our children's library which may help with this issue. They are presently located on the mobile shelving unit in Fellowship Hall.—God Gave Us Heaven; The Goodbye Book; The Gospel of the Kingdom for Kids; Tweens, & Teens; A Place Called Heaven; Something Very Sad Happened.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

News from Zimbabwe

Schools in Zimbabwe reopened on March 22nd for in-person learning. Parents and students are happy about that but, as in the USA, teachers are very concerned as social distancing is problematic when you have 50 -70 students per classroom. Approximately 500,000 vaccines have been secured for a population of 15 million and teachers are hoping to be vaccinated. Our Zimbabwe teams, FOOT and PKZ, are busy contacting headmasters and making payments for our 45 sponsored children. School uniforms and school supplies will be provided for those who need them.



Now that lockdown restrictions have been relaxed, the food security project for the elderly will also resume. PKZ buys the grain from our friend and FOOT director, Joseph Sibiya. (Joseph has become an extremely hard working farmer!) The grain is brought to a grinding mill to turn into mealie-meal, which is the essential ingredient for the staple dish called “sadza.” Our guys, Blessing and Samuel, then pack special bags and seal the bags using a creative burning candle and ruler method devised by Blessing. Needs to be seen to be believed! While this approach to securing mealie-meal is labor intensive as opposed to buying from a local grocery store, PKZ believes in supporting small businesses in the community and making our giving dollars stretch. It is a win-win for all.*

PKZ has also started a local soccer academy which the players have named the Green Diamond Academy. (Green is for the color of tea and the macadamias both of which are hallmarks of the area. Diamond is a skill level they hope to achieve!) Boys aged 12-17 comprise the Junior Team and 18-24 year-olds are on the Senior Team. The teams have benefited from the uniforms, soccer balls, and a few soccer shoes from the last two containers. We hope to add more soccer shoes on the next container as we didn't have the right sizes for many of the players.

Speaking of the container, we are looking at the possibility of a fall 2021 or spring 2022 endeavor. Please think of Zimbabwe as you reduce or recycle items so beneficial to our Zim friends – shoes, teen and children's clothing, books, bibles, sewing supplies, linens, bicycles, tools, durable medical goods, medical supplies, athletic gear, etc. I and others will gratefully accept your items, then pack and store for the next big adventure.

Connie

*For video slide show of milling maize go to our

3 YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/>

Parish Helpers Zoom

Hello Parish Helpers! I hope you are doing well. As Spring arrives, I find myself in such a wonderful spirit of hope that it may not be so very long until we can meet in person again. Seems like just yesterday we were hunkered down for the winter, and now the days are longer and warmer and things are looking up!

Meanwhile, the PH has business to conduct and we have decided to hold a Zoom meeting on our regular April meeting date and time—April 8 at 1 p.m. First order of business is nominate officers for the coming 2 years. We can vote and install at our May meeting (probably via Zoom). We also need to discuss the Treasure Shop and how and when we may open. Also, the summer PH Fair—to have it or not? We also have a quilt ready.

If you do not want or cannot do Zoom online, please join us by phone. You can dial in on your home phone and be part of the conversation. Here is the information you will need: (I will send out a reminder email closer to the date with the information again.) Link to Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84292493965?pwd=a0diR2xEMXRrM1RLZzhQUGkzTXEyUT09>

Number to call in on phone:
929 205 6099 (New York)
Meeting ID: 842 9249 3965
Passcode: 962107

Carol Jeffery

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is part of our “5 for 5” ministries. This offering provides an opportunity to share our abundance with those in need. OGHS distributes this abundance to places lacking health and educational resources as well as assistance where disaster has struck. Because of previous years in giving to OGHS many remote villages have access to water and therefore can protect themselves from contracting the Covid virus by simply washing their hands and other cleansings. Our continuous giving to OGHS strengthens this water resource and validates this year's phrase of “Water is life. Water is love. Let love flow”. You can contribute to this wonderful ministry by sending your offering to the church via mail, dropping your offering in the small box outside the side door of the church, or going to our church website and clicking the OGHS link. Our UCC resources provide us this lovely prayer.

Holy giver of all good gifts bless now this offering that great hours of labor have made possible. Bless the drops that become mighty rivers of grace and transformation. Bless the vision of the world transformed. Let a shining river of love flow through us to your waiting world, in Christ's name. Amen.

Donna V Ackerman, Outreach Coordinator

Did I Forget Something?

I find myself in a constant state of fog. I can't seem to be able to remember short term events or conversations. This creates a sense of fear or dread. As I approach what can be considered "elder" status, my concern with memory loss becomes more apparent. Psychologists have connected the symptom of memory loss to those who actually contract the Covid virus. They are called "long-haulers". These individuals carry physical and psychological effects after recovering from Covid. The good news is that it seems the vaccine is correcting these symptoms and people are recovering from the effects of being Covid positive.

But what about those of us who have never contracted the virus yet still have this memory loss? Ah, once again science comes through with an explanation. The isolation felt by many of us due to the conditions of the pandemic, results in a kind of false messaging within our brains. According to the September 2020 edition of Psychology Today, Dr. Charles Brainerd, a leading expert in false memories from Cornell University, states that "continuously being in a dark mood makes it difficult to remember the details of your life". He goes on to state that "things that substantially elevates people's stress levels leads to poor encoding of events as we experience them, which in turn elevates false memories".

Awesome, I feel better already! As much as I consider the truth we find in science, I like to associate the truths found in God's word when validation is required. My go-to verse is II Timothy 1:7, "God did not give us the Spirit of fear; but of love and of a sound mind". Another validating verse is I Corinthians 2:12a, "Now we have received, not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God". As we continue through these stressful pandemic times, let's listen to the science and follow the professionals that have acquired more knowledge than us concerning the Covid virus, but let us also go to the Word of God and seek the comforting words that the Spirit provides. As Jesus told his followers in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid". Together my friends we shall overcome these challenging times. And soon we will be in our beloved sanctuary, singing praises to God and sharing hugs.

Donna V Ackerman

Quick Note from the Treasurer

A big THANK YOU to all of you Amazon Smile shoppers. We received \$55.49 in February! It may not seem like a lot, but these quarterly deposits into our checking account are always a nice surprise. So, don't forget to always enter Amazon through the Smile door, and choose First Congregational Church of Wakefield NH. And while we're at it, Staples coupons and your empty ink cartridges are always welcomed by Julie in the office. You can leave them in the side entry for her. They really make a huge difference in our monthly Staples bill. Thanks and Happy Spring!

Nancy Dee, Co-Treasurer

Our Church Bell—A History



Recently, as I drove by the our beautiful church, I happened to look up to our Steeple and thought about the bell that I haven't heard rung in over a year. My thoughts then brought me to the bell and its history. I remembered reading about the bell in Titia Bozuwa's book, Joan, a Mother's Memoir, several years ago. It occurred to me that some of our church members and friends may not know of the story of our church bell and so, with Titia's blessing, I am

sharing that story with you here.

Titia's memoir is the story of her daughter Joan's struggle with breast cancer. In the last chapter, Titia describes how the bell came to Wakefield as a lasting memorial to her daughter. Here are some excerpts from that chapter.

"... exactly a year to the day that Joan died, a bell was to be hung in the steeple of our church. It had been cast in Holland and travelled over the ocean, all 260 pounds of it, a gift from our Dutch family.

... The air was perfumed with the fragrance of spring flowers and the steeple was ready to receive her gift. In awe we watched the workman make his final trip to the belfry by means of a crane that mocked the heights of the old colonial houses on Wakefield's main street. ...

... the man knew I was Joan's mother and seeing the camera in my hand, invited me to come up and take a picture.

... The cable was steadily moving upwards now. Beside me was the crown of the maple tree I'd seen planted as a sapling. Above me the deep blue sky that hung over the village like a summer parasol.

... The cable stopped its upward motion. I opened my eyes. The big brass bell in front of me looked like the sun itself.: brilliant.

... her name cast in bronze became more than letters. The bell was transposed to a living spirit and I was communing with that spirit on a light, airy plane between heaven and earth ...

... Through a blur of tears I made out the letters in the middle of the bell curve—Joan Mary Bozuwa, April 29, 1957—June 12, 1986.

Carol Jeffery

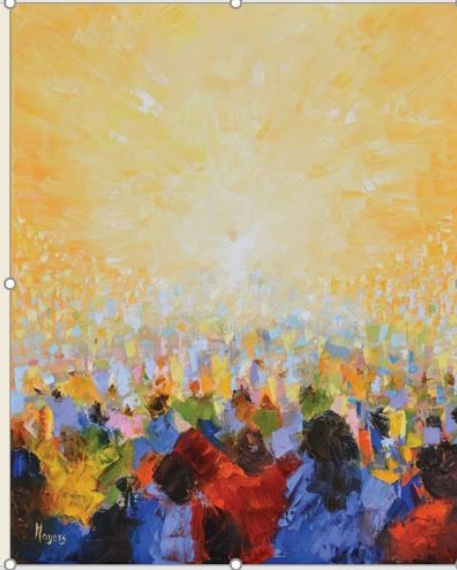
Copies of the book, Joan, A Mother's Memoir, by Titia Bozuwa are available for purchase. Proceeds will be donated to the Endowment Fund. Please contact Titia if you are interested. A copy can be borrowed from the Church Library (Fellowship Hall) or the Gafney Library.

Prayers for Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday, Year B

*Sovereign God,
you have established your
rule over the human heart,
not by force
but by the servant example
of Jesus Christ.
Move us by your Spirit
to join the joyful procession
of those who confess Christ
Jesus with their tongues
and praise him with their
lives.*

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16



Maundy Thursday, Year B

*Eternal God, in the sharing of
a meal
your son established a new
covenant for all people,
and in the washing of feet
he showed us the dignity of
service.
Grant that by the power of
your Holy Spirit
these signs of our life in faith
may speak again to our
hearts,
feed our spirits, and refresh
our bodies.*

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 • Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 • John 13:1-17, 31b-35



Good Friday, Year B

*Grieving God,
on the cross
your Son embraced death
even as he had embraced life:
faithfully and with good
courage.
Grant that we who have been
born out of his wounded side
may hold fast to our faith in
him exalted
and may find mercy in all
times of need.*

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 • Psalm 22 • Hebrews 10:16-25
or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 • John 18:1-19:42



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Celebrations!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Rob Nelson	17 Aimee Ball
4 Karen Hagy	19 Jo Szirbik
4 Jean Lloyd	20 Susan Jacobson
4 Julia McCarthy	20 Raenya Morann
6 Jo-Anne Perks	21 Amanda Boggs
7 David Albro	23 Ciera Rose Dee
10 Kristin Galabrun	23 Natalee Royle
11 Michael Crew	24 Ann Eaton
11 Linda Turner	24 Molly James
11 Michael Weeks	26 Sarah Kinville
12 Darlene Clements	28 Dawson Cotreau
14 Agnes Carlson	28 Madison Cotreau
14 Elizabeth Heinlein	28 Del Littlefield
14 Adam Szirbik	29 Lauree Royle
15 Sharon Lafond	30 Linda Messer
15 Ginny Schweitzer	

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

3 Dean & Colleen Nicastro
5 Rick & Cindy Denver
15 Bill & Susie Goodwin
15 Anders & Nancy Jacobson
22 Carol & Rob Lundgren
23 Dana & Julie Margolis
23 Scott & Nicky Mercer
25 Nathan & Debbie Fogg

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)

With Sympathy

We are saddened recently by the passing of two church friends.

Barbara Cawlina passed away on February 25 at age 89. Our deepest sympathy to her husband, Joe, and their family.

You can read Barbara's obituary here: <https://www.peasleefuneralhome.com/obituary/barbara-cawlina>

George M. Blomster, 83, passed away on March 9. George and his wife, Marion, were active in the church for many years before moving to Wolfeboro several years ago.

Hybrid Worship Service

The Leadership Council and Diaconate are looking into having hybrid worship service some time in the next few months. Throughout the pandemic thus far, we have been following the guidelines set out by the New Hampshire Conference regarding Covid-19 safeguards and we continue to do so. Hybrid services will combine in person and online worship when it is safe to do so. More information will be forthcoming as things progress towards reopening. Meanwhile, we hope you will join us on Zoom or Facebook Live.

Virtual Worship

We continue to gather via Zoom for our Sunday Worship. We'd love to see you there. Be sure we have your email address so we can send you a personal Zoom invitation. The Zoom link is also posted on our website homepage. It is a recurring event, so the link does not change weekly. Link and bulletin are here: www.fccwakefieldnh.org

We also broadcast on Facebook Live. For easy access to Facebook Live, go the link below. You do not need a Facebook account to see the video:

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC>

Mask Up!



When we return to in-person worship, masks will continue to be required. In anticipation of this and of other future times when we gather, it will be nice to wear these church logo masks. A quantity was made by our dear friend, Dalton. Each one has a hidden pocket which holds a removable/washable filter. They are \$10 per mask. Our youth will receive masks at no cost. If you would like to purchase one or more masks, please send a check or cash to FCCW, noting # of masks on the memo portion. You can also pay online through our website. Choose "Facemasks" under drop-down menu. Click here: [Pay online](#). We'll be sure to get the mask to you.

Carol Lundgren

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 MAUNDY THURSDAY Community String Band Via Zoom—6:30 pm	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY Online Worship and Communion Via Zoom and Facebook Live 10 a.m.	5 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30	6 Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	7 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Diaconate Mtg Via Zoom 2 p.m.	8 Parish Helpers Zoom 1 p.m. Racial Justice Discussion Group via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom—6:30 pm	9	10
11 First Sunday of EASTER Online Worship Via Zoom and Facebook Live 10 a.m.	12	13 Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	14 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Leadership Council Zoom 4 p.m.	15 Community String Band Via Zoom—6:30 pm	16	17
18 Second Sunday of EASTER Online Worship Via Zoom and Facebook Live 10 a.m.	19 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30	20 Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	21 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	22 EARTH DAY Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. Community String Band Via Zoom—6:30 pm	23	24
25 Third Sunday of EASTER Online Worship Via Zoom and Facebook Live 10 a.m.	26	27 Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	28 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	29 Community String Band Via Zoom—6:30 pm	30	

**Easter Sunday
Online Worship**

April 4, 2021

**Join us on Zoom or
Facebook Live
10 a.m.**

**Find Links
On Page 6**



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



**Palms Curbside Pickup
Church Front
Entrance**

**Friday, March 26, and
Saturday, March 27.**