

STEEPLE VIEWS



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

REVEREND DR. TERE KRUEGER, PASTOR
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JULY 2021

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

HAND in HAND

I was in a Ministry Collaborative meeting on Zoom. The minister led us in “Lectio Divina” = Divine Reading, a spiritual practice where we look for Spirit to speak to us through that to which we’re attracted. The phrase came, “*Walk Hand in Hand with Me*”. I eagerly accepted the invitation from Jesus. During the time of sharing, it struck me, “Ah, this is also how I want to journey with YOU, FCCW—“Hand in Hand”! Keep pace with each other. Listen to ALL as we continue to craft and recraft our vision and mission statements so we can continually and more closely follow Spirit’s leading for this body.

This is an amazing little church who seems to have the motto, “WE CAN and WE WILL” be God’s hands in this congregation, this community, this country—even in Zimbabwe! We’ve seen through the pandemic that change is inevitable and requires adaptability and commitment. You have persisted and supported the dedicated Tech team, led by Max Gehring, through online worship and now through hybrid church. FCCW HAS ADAPTED and SURVIVED! Yay God—Yay You!

Lest we be naïve, many are mourning losses, whether deaths, sickness, loss of housing, income, time doing and being with loved ones, watching little ones grow, etc. It’s tough. Even though you may not have experienced something as horrible as others have, let yourself acknowledge and feel your pain, as well as empathize with others. That’s the way to move through things—where vulnerability enables strength, awareness and gentleness--instead of resisting, becoming emotionally constipated and more prone to heart trouble!

As Vernon Bader, my North Dakota friend says, “*Even when we don’t see eye to eye, we can walk hand in hand!*” Isn’t that a tremendous insight! We can explore and transcend our differences through *respectful, loving* community.

I’m so happy to be here! We get to laugh—and cry together, share profound levels of joy, and ridiculously fun silliness. We get to be open and real with each other, reaching out for, as well as offering our hands to each other. We get to recognize and then release unkind thoughts; forgive others and ourselves. An amazing truth in the form of an affirmation is, “*I contribute to world peace when I join in spirit with all people who dedicate themselves to expressing divine love. As peace flowers between individuals, peace grows in the world.*”

You have learned that giving is the key to living our fullest lives. You’re an AWESOME congregation! And, you have even been willing to share silence, breathing Spirit—TOGETHER.

Joyfully,
Rev. Tere

Celebration



Independence, Liberty, Justice, Patriotic are words we sometimes wield in defense of our unruly behavior. These same words are shared in reverence or pride when we are in a state of loss or mourning. As a child

growing up in a variety of communities across the nation, I always looked forward to the Fourth of July. Its parades and activities that made up our country's celebrations like cookouts, ballgames, flags, and fireworks brought joy and wonder to a young and impressionable mind. No matter if we were living in the Deep South, the North, or the Midwest the celebrations were the same. In addition to the celebrations were the feelings associated with the Fourth of July. Pride in our country. Pride in the men and women who served to protect our country. And pride in Democracy that enabled the people to have a voice in the government.

These are concepts that exist today, but at the same time are being challenged. Folks are using words like; "divided" to describe America. People lay claim to being more patriotic because of their political, religious, and social connections and therefore claim their ways are the correct ways. When challenged as to which commandment was the greatest, Jesus kept things quite simple as it says in Mark 12:30, you are to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Then He goes on to add in verse 31 to love your neighbor as yourself. That's it. Simple.

Let us celebrate our nation's Declaration of Independence and all that that entails in developing a new country. Let us honor those who were occupants of this land before European immigration and recognize their existence. Let us acknowledge those who were enslaved decades before 1776 and through their labor the economic growth of our country was made available. Let us love our neighbor no matter their heritage, socioeconomic status, faith, or any other divisive label. We are all Americans and therefore we are America. So, let's celebrate.

Celebration 235 Planning Group Is Forming!

Looking for folks to support the development of a late September celebration of the anniversary of our Church's founding in 1785! Covid put this off for a year ... but NOW we are ready. If you are interested in knowing more, please tell Carol Lundgren (carollundgren94@gmail.com or (978) 807-4041 - we'll keep you in the loop, welcome ideas and assistance as you are able!

Carol Lundgren

Save the Date—Yard Sale!

The FUNdraising Team is busy at work! The next great FCCW Yard Sale is being planned for Saturday, August 21 with a rain date of August 28. Rent-a-Space will be offered for your personal items. More information will be forthcoming in next issue or via email!

Men's Fellowship

The FCCW Men's Fellowship continues to keep busy in the Wakefield community during the Covid crisis. A number of painters worked hard painting Susan Raban's home on Governors Road during a three-day large painting project. The Fellowship has been busy supporting Bea at her home on Great East Lake cleaning up the yard, painting and removing her trash to the dump weekly. We have also helped a number of community and church members clean up their yards of leaves and fallen limbs during the Spring season.



We gave a number of FCCW and Wakefield community youth scholarships to attend the Horton Center UCC Camp. Brian Shipley made a significant Horton Center scholarship donation to allow more Wakefield community youth to attend. The men also made a significant donation to Julia McCarthy for her recent scholarship invitation to attend Cambridge/Oxford in England later this summer.

We joined other Wakefield community .volunteer groups placing new flags on Veterans' graves in Lovell Cemetery on Veterans Day. Our June meeting was held at Buddy Dee's home and we'll be meeting at Ron Kratt's home on Pine River Pond. Officers elected for the coming year include George Ackerman, President; Paul Allen, Treasurer; and Ron Kratt, Secretary. All men of Wakefield are welcome to join us.

Dave Schweitzer

In Recognition

At Annual Meeting on June 27th, Max Gehring was honored for the essential work he has done throughout the pandemic time as a key member of the Sound Team and with Worship Production. Max also delivered the Sermon which focused on following the tenants of Marshall Rosenberg's "Non-Violent Communication" which follows the tenants of non-judgmental communication: observation, feelings, needs and requests. Max will travel to Ireland next year to train in NVC formally. We look forward to learning more. Thank you Max!



Jan Stanley, who has long been engaged in the music life of this church, was honored for her work as Director of the Wakefield Memorial Bell Choir. Jan will be moving to Nevada in the near future and she will be missed. Jan also has directed our Kids Music Camps for several years. We lovingly and reluctantly wish her God-speed



Congregational Life Administrator, Julie Margolis, is stepping down from her role as CLA on July 1. Julie has been an asset in all ways for Church in the last six years. Personnel Ministry Coordinator, Dave Schweitzer, had nothing but high praise for her professionalism and deep thanks for her work on behalf of the Church.



Memorial Bricks

Be sure to notice the Memorial Bricks that are now lining the walkway to the church. It is a great way to spread joy, acknowledge births, baptisms, weddings and the memory of loved ones. We need your help in spreading the word. A brick is a lasting gift and is another alternative gifting opportunity that will help support our church into the future. Go to our website for information on ordering a Memorial Brick.

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

Luncheon— July 11

Bittersweet. We are sad that our marvelously efficient Congregational Life Administrator, Julie Margolis, is resigning as of July 1. But we are very happy for her and wish her much luck in her future endeavors. We very much look forward to seeing her in the pews worshipping along with us and participating in the church as a "lay" person!

In recognition of Julie, a luncheon has been planned at the Wakefield Inn following worship on July 11. Please plan to come and wish Julie well!

Community String Band

The Community String Band has started meeting outdoors at member's houses, and we are simultaneously zooming so that people who cannot attend in person can still join. Anyone interested can contact Shana Aisenberg for locations. There will be no classes on July 8th or 29th.

Shana Aisenberg

Calling and Discernment

FCCW is a community of active members with ever changing lives. How would our church function so well without the time and talents of so many? Calling and Discernment appreciates the contributions of all who serve in so many capacities. This month we highlight two quiet, humble members:

Linda Petkunas has served as Archivist and Historian for several years and has diligently recorded, filed and preserved the historical artifacts of our church life. Current and future members of FCCW will have access to what has gone on before us thanks to Linda's dedication. Linda is stepping away from this role and will be happy to advise the person who steps in!

Jan Stanley has been central to the music ministry for more than four decades as an accompanist, choir member, founder of Women's Ensemble, and director of the handbell choir from 1987-2021. Jan will be relocating to Henderson, Nevada where a new community will benefit from her extensive musical talents.

If you are interested in learning more about being an archivist/historian, participating in the music ministry or any one of the other ministries -- Building & Grounds, Communication, Diaconate, Faith Formation, Finance, Outreach, Personnel, Stewardship -- please speak to Jan Brewjo, Julie Everson, Linda Messer, Harriet Wilson, Donna Ackerman, Margie Galabrun or me! We are happy to explore how your interests and spiritual gifts best match one of these vital ministry teams.

Connie Littlefield

News from Zimbabwe

Shipping container

Thank you for the amazing array of goods donated for the humanitarian container to Zimbabwe. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity. Imagine, close to 1600 dresses are among the boxes of clothing, shoes, school supplies, medical supplies (crutches, eyeglasses and much more), blankets, sewing supplies, books, etc. At this point we are very close to our 300 cu ft maximum and will only be able to accept donations of peanut butter or medical items. If you have spoken to one of us and we haven't picked up your items, we will, as it has been estimated in our cubic foot space allowance. Your participation in this effort is a very tangible, deeply meaningful and appreciated expression of Christian love and compassion.

Send Sam to Keene

We are on the final stretch to bring Samuel Khumbula to Keene State College in time for end of August classes. He actually got to choose his classes with an advisor by Zoom! (Physics, Math, Chemistry, Writing, Spanish, Psychology and Statistics are among his picks.) Sam is so appreciative of words of encouragement and has been astounded by compassionate hearts who have made contributions to offset his passport, SEVIS, and visa fees. (No surprise here as that's how the FCCW community is!) The US Embassy in Harare has scheduled a July 14th interview. Prayers for a successful outcome are greatly appreciated.

Connie Littlefield

Christmas in July—Parish Helpers

The Parish Helpers will meet again for their Annual Picnic on Thursday, July 8, at 12 noon. We will meet at Carol Lundgren's home on Pine River Pond (weather permitting). This is a bring-your-own-lunch event with beverages and dessert being provided by the hostesses.

Since we missed our annual Christmas gift exchange in December 2020, we thought it would be fun to hold our "Yankee Swap" in July instead! If you'd like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift (it doesn't need to be Christmas—don't go crawling though your attic/ cellar in search!). Value should be around \$10. Please call Ginny at 522-9593 or email me at carol.jeffery@gmail.com if you plan to attend!

Now down to business—the **Treasure Shop is open!** And Carole D. and Rachel are looking for people to sign up to work in the shop. There will be a sign up sheet at the picnic, but meanwhile, you can call Rachel and get your spots on the schedule beforehand. Her number is 520-2316. The sales have been amazing so far and we need to help it up. It is our only fundraiser for 2021 so let's make it happen!

Carol Jeffery

Stewardship Ministry

A fresh start! Just like January 1 feels to us when the year changes, July 1 is the beginning of our new year of being Church!

We count our blessings and name them in terms of how we offer our Time, Talent and, of course, our Treasure. From the Treasure (aka pledging) perspective we can report a solid 50 members who have pledged a specific amount this fiscal year. You know who you are – thank you! Others among the congregation feel inclined to give when in church at the time of the offering or mail in an offering when they can. You know who you are – thank you as well!

Our budget for this new year cannot be balanced without the commitment of pledges plus free-will offerings AND a healthy dose of FUNdraising and rentals. In this way, we balance the budget.

Because we are not able to balance the budget based on pledging alone, we look to innovative FUNdraising (notice FUN is always capitalized ... our spirit is to have FUN while FUNdraising!), to rental income (such as the Hazel MacBrien Nursery School) and other community-wide gatherings, gifts (as the one annually from the Parish Helpers – so helpful) and other avenues such as on-line sales of gently used items of all sorts and types that members and friends donate.

So, thank you one and all for your gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure – however that may be accomplished! Together, we are Church ... united and moving boldly forward in our 2021-22 fiscal year.

Carol Lundgren

Save the Date

The Villages of Wakefield are extremely fortunate to have Titia Bozuwa as its resident author. Her newest book is a wonderful compilation of what she calls "vignettes" titled, *Our Tree A Conversation with Gijis*. Titia's ability to share her own love, loss and laughter allows for the reader to venture into a world that all could someday find relatable.

Join friends and family as they celebrate the publication of this heartfelt book on Saturday, August 7th at 1 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Wakefield. Reservation information will be forthcoming.

A reception will follow at the Twin Farms Estate where Titia will be happy to sign your new purchase. All proceeds, \$15 per copy, will be donated to the benefit of your choice, either the Endowment Fund for the First Congregational Church of Wakefield or the Gafney Library in Sanbornville.

Donna Ackerman

Notes from Our Annual Meeting



Church Moderator, Margie Galabrun, ran an efficient and thoughtful annual meeting. Our 2021-22 budget was passed by consensus with thanks to the hard work of the Finance Ministry and the Ministry Coordinators. Keeping a once-a-year

meeting like this on track and running smoothly is impressive. Margie does an admirable job, but will welcome a co-coordinator in the future -- if someone wishes to step forward!

Endowment Dream Team Judy Trepal and George Ackerman announced the Fund has now grown to 179,600! There are several activities planned this year to further stimulate growth in order to solidify the financial foundation for future generations of Church. They are a dynamic team, but this is an all-church effort!



Rev. Tere memorialized several members who have been called home to God: Shirley Stevens, Marjorie Berg, Chuck Russell, Richard Goodrich, Barbara Cawlina, Lois Royle, Suzy Carter and remembered Paul Allen's brother Tim Allen. Thanks be to God for these beautiful lives now gone from our midst, but always held in our hearts.

Worship In-Person or Online

While we are open for in-person worship, we are also continuing to 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. The video of the week and past videos are available on our Facebook page anytime.

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

You can find the Zoom link, the Facebook link, and the Worship Bulletin on our church website homepage at www.fccwakefieldnh.org.

Library News

The Divine Dance by R. Rohr; R-F

The Trinity is supposed to be the central, foundational doctrine of our entire Christian belief system, yet we are often told that we shouldn't attempt to understand it because it is a 'mystery'. Should we presume to try to breach this mystery? If we could, how would it transform our relationship with God and renew our lives? The word Trinity is not found in the New Testament, the idea of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was present in Jesus' life and teachings and from the very beginning of the Christian experience. In this book, the internationally recognized teacher Richard Rohr circles around this most paradoxical idea as he explores the nature of God-circling around being an apt metaphor for this mystery we're trying to apprehend. Although these early Christians gave us some highly conceptualized thinking on the life of the Trinity, the best they could say, again and again, was, whatever is going on in God is a flow-it's like a dance. But God is not a dancer-He is the dance itself. That idea might sound novel, but it is about as traditional as you can get. God is the dance itself, and He invites you to be a part of that dance. Are you ready to join in? Source: Amazon

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

Prayer Chain—2021

The purpose of the prayer chain is immediate intercessory prayer for the person or situation in need.

The prayer chain is activated when someone contacts either the Church Office (603-522-3189, Harriet Wilson (dhwilson39@gmail.com) or Carol Jeffery (603-828-5633). Harriet will send out an email to all the prayer chain members with the need. Carol will text those who have requested that form of contact. When you receive that email or text (or both), you are asked to pray for that person or situation. From time to time, the pastor may send out a prayer for a particular situation. You are welcome to use that prayer or one from your own heart.

For privacy reasons, we request that you ask permission of the person in need before starting the prayer chain for that person. We also ask that all requests for prayer be kept totally confidential.

Please contact the Prayer Chain Coordinator (Harriet Wilson, dhwilson39@gmail.com) should any of your information change. Thanks to all our prayer chain participants! Bless you for being part of this important ministry.

Harriet Wilson

Celebrations!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Chrissie Mooers
Levesque | 22 Linda Foss |
| 1 Betty Seibert | 22 Patricia Golden |
| 3 Tammy Canney | 23 Linda Petkunas |
| 4 Brenna Hagy | 24 JohnPaul Eaton |
| 5 Royal Doughty | 24 Chip Hagy |
| 7 Robert Baldwin | 24 Dick Nelson |
| 8 Lee Robinson | 24 Stephen Royle |
| 9 Keaghan Canney | 25 Sandy Burr |
| 9 Bob Foulks | 26 Faith Harvey |
| 10 Linda Shepard | 26 Janet Twombly |
| 13 Titia Bozuwa | 27 Rev. Alberta Wallace |
| 14 Michelle Crew | 28 Sue Littlefield |
| 16 Kathy Frothingham | 28 Lynn Weeks |
| 17 Rick Denver | 30 Jan Fairchild |
| 20 Andrea Szirbik Groft | 30 Jan Maki |

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Buddy & Nancy Dee
- 15 Curt & MaryBeth Cook (1993)
- 17 David & Ginny Schweitzer
- 24 Jean-Michel & Margie Galabrun

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 have a prayer request, please email Harriet Wilson (dhwilson39@gmail.com) All prayer requests are kept strictly confidential and will only be shared with the express permission of the people involved.

Celebrating Our Children



Congratulations to **Miley Colbath** for graduating as Paul School's 8th grade Valedictorian. Miley also had the honor of reading a speech that she had written, as hers was the one selected from 26 submitted.

Miley is a member of our Jr. Bell Choir and has enrolled in Bell Ringing next year at Spaulding High School. She

will also be taking piano lessons. Can we hear an "Amen"?

In addition to scholastic and musical aptitude, Miley is also a graceful and accomplished dancer. Even though we have never attended any of Miley's dance recitals, we have witnessed her grace through her participation in Music Camp's Sacred Dance. Miley, we are very proud of you.

*Margie Galabrun & Max Gehring
Jr. Bell Directors*

thank you!

A huge Thank You to the Men's Group! Six hardworking 'young' men spent a Thursday morning painting my house. They brought their own equipment, were neat, polite and got it almost all done. I will be making a donation to the Endowment Fund in appreciation.

Susan Raban

Dear Friends at my favorite church,

I cannot thank you enough for all the wonderful cards and support that you send along with prayers. You are an amazing asset to God. Also the Parish Helpers are always on top of those in need of kind thoughts.

Love, Sharon Lafond

Thanks For Your Support!

Many thanks to all those who supported recent fundraising. The Pancake Breakfast raised \$575 for PKZ for the shipping container. And a thank you to Dave Schweitzer who bought and brought breakfast to the first responders at the Safety Building. Simultaneously, the Bake Sale raised \$348. The online sale ended up an in-person sale and did very well. And down the street, the Parish Helpers' Treasure Shop did an amazing first day as well netting \$475. Well done, everyone!

JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
<i>4</i> 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 4th OF JULY! Worship and Communion 10 a.m. In person, Zoom or Facebook Live	<i>5</i> Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30	<i>6</i> Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	<i>7</i> Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Diaconate Mtg Via Zoom 4 p.m.	<i>8</i> Parish Helpers Picnic 12 Noon	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
<i>11</i> 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. In person, Zoom or Facebook Live Recognition Luncheon at the Wakefield Inn	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	<i>14</i> Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon Grief Support Group—11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Leadership Council Zoom 4 p.m.	<i>15</i> Quilting Group 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. String Band Location TBA	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
<i>18</i> 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. In person, Zoom or Facebook Live	<i>19</i> Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30	<i>20</i> Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	<i>21</i> Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon Grief Support Group—11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	<i>22</i> Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. String Band Location TBA	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
<i>25</i> 9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. In person, Zoom or Facebook Live	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	<i>28</i> Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon



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