

# 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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AUGUST 2021

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## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

### FCCW's Next Adventures!

Just think, we are on the cusp of some new beginnings at FCCW! Our culture and Covid has brought many changes. There's a new "church landscape" out there bright with possibilities. How can we best seize opportunities to make us an even more Vital, Vibrant, and Thriving community of people who care for each other and our "neighbor" through God's compassionate Love? We need to make decisions about technology and outreach, faith formation for kids (little ones through at least high school), music, etc. I know, **I KNOW** that if in processes of prayer--we ask for, listen, discern, and share we will receive the Divine's plan for FCCW! I mean, why do things that would be dead-ends, detours, a waste of time and resources? Let see what God's design is for us!

This is how we can begin—and it's based on research! ***"The more emphasis a congregation gives to...personal religious practices, the higher the congregation's vitality and the more likely it is to be growing in membership."*** Churches who are the most 'full of life' engage in: 1) "Moral" things like hospitality to all, justice, stewardship, etc.; 2). Spiritual Exercises both at home and communally. WHY? In order to deepen their connection with God and develop personal Christian maturity. This is why I offer the REFLECTION time after the Sermon. 3) They don't cast everything in stone—they can adapt the ways they "eat, meet, greet" and meditate.\*

For this reason, I would like to see us go into processes of DISCERNMENT. The root of this word means to "sort out". We earnestly ask God's Spirit what and how is the best way for FCCW to proceed and listen for the answers, not only in prayer, but throughout our activities as we do them with a sense of presence, mindfulness—looking for God's guidance and confirmations. Discernment is a skill within prayer that can be developed—YAY!!

***We can learn to warm the heart and stand in ready expectation. Prayer is a RELATIONSHIP with God, not the conceptual "thinking about God." Discernment teaches us how to pray in, with, and through the Holy Spirit, who...quickens, warms, and enlightens us. This warming the heart is...the work...to pray always. \*\****

True discernment requires inner listening—a skill we can learn. YES! We CAN learn to quiet our minds—for at least a few seconds at a time. Those are spaces in which Spirit can get through to us. You can practice through the day—just by becoming aware of your breathing! Since we do that, oh what, 8-12 times per minute, we have LOTS of opportunities to practice and to let go of judgement of how we're doing. CAUTION, THIS CAN BE a TRAP--another opportunity for you to Judge yourself. STOP IT! NOT ALLOWED!! And, it's a wonderful opportunity to FORGIVE YOURSELF and KEEP PRACTICING. Whoa, quite the spiritual discipline, eh! YAY!

Then there is also a brilliant thing called Meditation or Centering Prayer. It's a time where you can just sit and practice this ***awareness exercise*** for 20 minutes (or whatever). Again, in the Christian, this is a time of Prayer which is a Relationship with God. And, it's also been referred to as a discipline. One who is devoted to Awareness and becoming more Loving knows s/he needs practice in creating those quiet spaces. So, we learn to use an inner muscle that wants God's Highest and Best, for us. So, a) we realize we're doing "monkey mind"—leaping from thought to thought while holding on for dear life to thoughts (obsession or compulsion □ and then, b) we learn to simply "let go" and return to our breath or a sacred word. That's how "simple" meditative awareness is—and how difficult! The best news is, because God loves us so much, we receive gifts, blessings along the way to help us.

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**Oh, how can I inspire you to want to learn discernment and these awareness practices which help us to listen?! It is such rich, important work that will RENEW our lives individually as well as communally as a church!**

And, you see, you will be learning a process you can also use for yourself. You will be transforming into a “new creature”, growing in spiritual maturity rooted in love which only serves you, let’s see, only about EVERY minute of the day, LOL!!!

On the practical side, let me suggest one time to meet. Mondays at 4:45 for 45 minutes until 5:30. Let’s have other times, as well. Perhaps Sunday? Another day? I’m praying that a curious kernel of people in this congregation will be prompted to take this 1<sup>st</sup> step into discovering God’s plan for us.

*Spirit, please use these words to inspire these good people. Amen.*

*Rev. Tere*

*\*The Practicing Congregation by Diana Butler Bass  
\*\*Discernment Matters by Sr. Mary Funk*

## Introducing CLA Andrea Selig



We are pleased to introduce our new Congregational Life Administrator. Andrea Selig began her tenure with FCCW on Monday, July 12. As CLA she will be handling our church office administration and pastor support as well as assisting the various church ministries. Her hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 with a break for

lunch.

Andrea grew up in York, Maine and then attended undergraduate studies in business at Siena College in upstate New York. After school she entered the Real Estate Lending Industry and then the Real Estate Title Insurance Industry, where she facilitated real estate closings for over a decade. Most recently, Andrea worked at a local family-owned insurance agency as a Service Specialist and Administrative Assistant. There she supported all departments in day-to-day operations.

In 2004, Andrea and her husband Steve moved from the seacoast to enjoy the quiet country life in the hills of Wakefield, New Hampshire. There they enjoy gardening, kayaking, snowshoeing, and spending lots of time with their fuzzy four-legged “kids”.

Over the next few weeks, we hope you will have a

## Yard Sale – New and Improved!!

DATE: Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>  
RAINDATE: Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>  
TIME: 9:00 – 1:00

We’re excited to be bringing back our tried-and-true Yard Sale this summer ... with some fresh ideas! As in the past, we will have an area devoted to big items – furniture, boats, appliances, etc. And as for the smaller items, we’re going to try something new this year: it will again be in the parking lot area, but this time the church will only have a portion of the space to set up; the rest of the area will be open to anyone who wants to pay for a space in order to sell their own items. Details on this new twist follow this Yard Sale writeup.

We will also have our incredibly successful bake sale, food concessions for our hungry shoppers, a Boutique area selling more upscale items and much more!

Please let us know if you have any large items and/or Boutique-quality items that you may wish to donate. You can contact Margie Galabrun to let her know what you have to donate and how/when to get those items to the church. Contact Margie at [balchlaker@gmail.com](mailto:balchlaker@gmail.com) or 603-522-6647.

AND! Know that this is one of our major fundraisers and requires many hands! When we put the call out for helpers – and we will need many – please be sure to respond with your willingness to help move furniture or bake cookies or set up or break down or advertise or cook or whatever – offering to help where your talents are best suited!

### Yard Sale – Rent a Space

Something new! We will be selling space for people to set up their own Yard Sale table. At a cost of \$25, you will be assigned a spot in the church’s parking lot. The space will accommodate up to an 8 foot table. We are offering this up to our church family first before we put the word out to the community. The particulars:

If interested, please contact Julie Kessler (at [ju-lie-louisekessler@gmail.com](mailto:ju-lie-louisekessler@gmail.com) or 603-871-8066) by August 6<sup>th</sup> to ensure your spot. We will open this up to the community on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Set up will be the morning of the Yard Sale starting at 7:00AM

Your table should consist of Yard Sale items – that is, we’re not looking for vendors of craft or new items. You must supply your own table and chairs. At the end of the event, you must remove all items that have not sold.

## Olympic Gold

It's always so amazing watching the Olympics. Hundreds of athletes, who have trained for most of their lives, are vying to be recognized as the best. The precision of synchronized diving, or the team effort to score goals in beach volleyball and soccer leaves me in awe. As a nation many of us wait with baited breath when we can sit in front of the TV and cheer for our favorite competitors. To see Simone Biles run with record breaking speed and strength as she launches herself off the springboard, then leaps over the horse, to spin and twirl through the air in back breaking twits, only to land with sound footing and arms stretched to the sky, is one of the most inspiring moments in human physical accomplishments. These women and men from around the world represent the epidemic of dedication, passion, and fortitude.

As athletes of the Spirit, we too are to train and challenge ourselves to be the best for God. In I Corinthians 9:25 (translation from The Message) Paul says, "All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally." In the same chapter Verse 24 Paul says, "You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs, one wins. Run to win." Second Timothy 4:7 says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." As we seg-way from a world of isolation and Zoom, and move toward a more interactive setting, be it church, work, or school, let us run a good race. Put on your spiritual athletic attire (prayer and faith) and be the hands and feet of Christ as we move about our world competing against the evils that try to do harm to those we love.

*Donna V Ackerman*

## Parish Helpers

This is the time of year that we would be hustling and bustling to get ready for our annual Village Fair. Not knowing what the pandemic situation would be, we opted to not have a Fair this summer. God willing, we will resume having our Fairs in 2022!

We normally don't hold a regular monthly meeting in August, but we thought a get together for lunch would be fun! We are still in the planning stage, but keep your calendars free for Thursday, August 12 and plan to have lunch with your Parish Helpers friends!

Meanwhile, the Treasure Shop is going gang-busters! We are having our best season ever! If you haven't signed up to work at the shop, please get in touch with Rachel soon and get on the schedule!

Hope to see you soon!

*Carol Jeffery*

## News from Zimbabwe



Thank you, thank you, thank you for the donation of all that peanut butter! This is going to make a significant difference to the children at the Daisy Dube Home and to other recipients who are lacking in protein! The

plan is to load more than 320 cubic feet of donated goods on two trailers on Sunday or Monday Aug. 29/30 made possible by Brian Shipley and Mark Evenson! The loading with the 18 other groups will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 31st from 9-noon at Spaulding High School.

As of this writing Zimbabwe has had approximately 93,500 cases of covid with 2870 deaths reported. Zimbabwe's population is approximately 15,000,000. The delta variant is running rapid these days and the numbers are increasing significantly. We received a special prayer request from UCCZ President Rev. John Matiza coming via our NH Ukama Chairperson, Rev. David Keller. Many UCCZ churches are reporting heart breaking deaths of their members.

These numbers are considered to be significantly under reported as many people are not diagnosed and some deaths are reported as malaria, pneumonia, or other causes. There is much superstition surrounding Covid-19 and immunizations particularly in the rural areas. Now anyone who wants a vaccination can receive one if they live close to a vaccination center or are willing to walk long distances to get vaccinated. The UCCZ attributes more Covid cases due to attendance at funerals where large groups of people are expected to pay cultural respect to the deceased and to their families.

You shall meet Samuel Khumbula soon! Sam is scheduled to arrive at Logan on Friday, Aug. 13th (speaking of superstitions...) and he is widely excited to meet everyone at FCCW on the 15th.

Bless you for your continued support of our Zim partners!

*Connie Littlefield*

## Save These Dates September 22 and September 24 - 26!

The Celebration 235 Anniversary Planning Team is putting together a sweet weekend of honoring our history while discerning our future, setting the course for an even brighter season of faith and community connections. Stay tuned for your invitation! Questions, ideas, offers of help most welcome. Contact Carol Lundgren to learn more: carollundgren94@gmail.com

### Calling and Discernment

Are you interested in becoming involved with the inner workings of First Congregational Church Wakefield? Or are you curious about which Ministry or what each does to keep our church beautiful, well maintained, warm in winter, and spiritually healthy? You are always welcome to attend any Ministry meeting to find out what is needed to keep FCCW open and running smoothly. Or you may simply call a member of C&D and we will help you.

Calling and Discernment (C&D) is exploring different types of evaluation tools that help identify each of our spiritual gifts. There are online and/or printable questionnaires available which we may be able to put into practice. Perhaps a conversation with one of the C&D team members can help you draw out a talent you did not realize was a gift you can offer. Special techniques and practices of discernment can also be taught/learned. We hope to offer training via small groups in the future.

We are pleased to have Patricia Golden as the new FCCW Archivist and Sue Lynn and Ashley Chamberlin as delegates. Linda Messer has agreed to be Co-Coordinator of Calling and Discernment with Connie.

At this writing these are positions waiting to be filled: Coordinators for The Arts Ministry and for Faith Formation Ministry and the position as Co-Moderator of the Leadership Council serving with Margie Galabrun. Maybe one of them speaks to your heart. Please contact Andrea in the church office (522-3189) or email churchof

office@fccwakefieldnh.org if you are interested and a C&D member will give you a call.

Linda Messer

## Book Launch—August 7

Help launch Titia Bozuwa's newest book—Our Tree, A Conversation with Gijs—on August 7 at 1 p.m. at FCCW! We will gather in the sanctuary where Titia will read excerpts from her book. Following the presentation, all are welcome to refreshments while you meet and greet the author at the reception which will be held across the street at Twin Farms. Books will be available for purchase and Titia will gladly sign them. All proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to either FCCW Endowment Fund or to the Gafney Library—the choice of the buyer. Thank you, Titia, for your generosity! (PS If you haven't read Titia's earlier books, they will also be available.)

To plan for the refreshments, please let us know you plan to come. Please call the church at 522-3189. Hope to see you there!

Carol Jeffery



### Faith Formation Class

It has been and will continue to be a busy summer! That said, I've decided that we will be extending our summer break from our Tuesday noon class through the month of August BUT stay tuned! Come September, we will be jumping into our next study. Starting on September 7th, we will be picking up with Lillian Daniels book "Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To: Spirituality without Stereotypes, Religion without Ranting"

Here's a brief description: *In this book, Daniel argues that it's time for Christians to stop apologizing and realize that how we talk about Christian community matters. With disarming candor laced with just the right amount of humor, Daniel urges open-minded Christians to explore ways to talk about their faith journeys that are reasonable, rigorous, and real.*

Hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you in September!

Blessings, Julie Kessler

Vignettes of life,  
love and an  
everchanging world.

Join us Saturday August 7, 2021  
for a book signing with



**TITIA BOZUWA**

to celebrate the publication  
of her new book

**OUR TREE**

1:00 pm First Congregational Church  
of Wakefield, 2718 Wakefield Road —  
Sanbornville, NH. Book sale and  
reception to follow at Bozuwa Barn.

LIMITED SEATING  
RSVP 603-522-3189

**OUR TREE**

A Conversation with Gijs

# Celebrations!

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 Phillip Twombly  | 14 Matt Mooers              |
| 4 Chris James      | 15 Amanda Crew              |
| 4 Madeline Johnson | 15 Shannon Johnson          |
| 5 Douglas Ball     | 17 Nancy Jacobson           |
| 5 Richard Messer   | 19 Stephanie Ballard        |
| 6 Shane Caplette   | 23 Matthew Boggs            |
| 8 Rebecca Ellis    | 24 Dick Wilson              |
| 8 Julie Evenson    | 28 Debbie (Caplette) Soucey |
| 9 Harriet Wilson   | 29 Anastasia St Pierre      |
| 11 Cassandra Ball  |                             |
| 14 Dan James       |                             |

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Donald & Janie Silcocks
- 15 Steve Michalsky & Patricia Golden
- 19 Bob & Denine Faulks
- 20 David & Sharon Tinkham
- 21 George & Jo Szirbik
- 22 Royal & Carole Doughty

## 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](mailto:dhwilson39@gmail.com)) All prayer requests are kept strictly confidential and will only be shared with the express permission of the people involved.

## SAFE CHURCH EXTRA!

Back in March, the Safe Team applied for a grant to enhance the protection of our Church building and to provide better security for all persons using the facility. The grant requested \$25,000 for the improvements. I was notified by Senator Hassan’s office on July 23rd, 2021 that First Congregational Church of Wakefield has been awarded the Grant through the Department of Homeland Security!! Details will be forthcoming soon.

*Buddy Dee*



## Music Camp News

Music Camp is back—with a few adjustments. It will be held on August 16, 17, 18 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. While it will be shorter on time, we are hoping the campers will come to love our church as much as we do. You are welcome to join the fun or be willing to help in any way, please let us know.

Registration Forms are being mailed to children who have expressed a interest or have attended in years past. It will be limited to 25 kids.

*Blessings,  
Patricia Golden, Evelyn Truhn and Buddy Dee*

*thank you!*

## Stewardship Pledge Drive Update

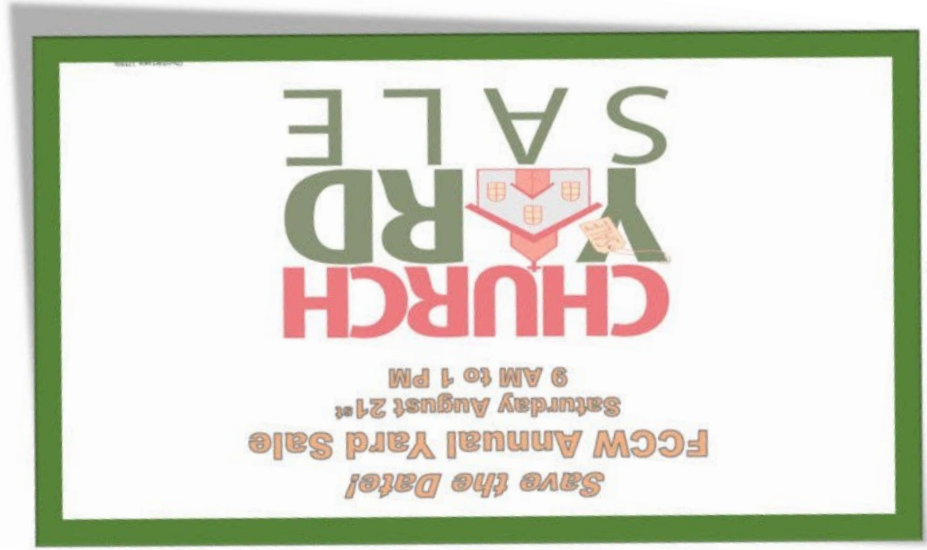
We have SO MUCH to celebrate and be thankful for since our new church year began on July 1! Our Finance Ministry received pledges several thousand dollars OVER the Stewardship estimate! How great is that? Humble thanks to all who have pledged.

Yes, there is STILL a GAP in expenses over income, it is now a smaller “gap” thanks to all who have pledged. Oh, and in case you are wondering, it’s never too late to make a pledge! Simply communicate your wishes to Assistant Treasurer, Julie Kessler at [julielouisekessler@gmail.com](mailto:julielouisekessler@gmail.com).

*Carol Lundgren, Stewardship Ministry*

# AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b></p> <p><b>Worship 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook Live</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon</p> <p>Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room</p> <p>Diaconate Mtg Via Zoom 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>String Band Location TBA</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon</p> <p><b>BOOK LAUNCH 1 p.m.</b></p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b></p> <p><b>Worship 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook Live</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon</p> <p>Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Parish Helpers Picnic TBA 12 Noon</p> <p>String Band Location TBA</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b></p> <p><b>Worship 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook Live</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon</p> <p>Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon</p> <p><b>YARD SALE 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b></p> <p><b>Worship 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook Live</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon</p> <p>Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>String Band Location TBA</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon</p> <p>(Yard Sale rain date)</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b></p> <p><b>Worship 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook Live</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>				



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