

# STEEPLE VIEWS



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

REVEREND DR. TERE KRUEGER, PASTOR

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS

DECEMBER 2021

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## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

### Christmas Healing in the Dark

It's sure getting dark early! Do you feel darker inside too, lately? Many of us are. We are dealing with heightened Covid, uncertainty, trials that are putting racism in our faces, shootings, etc. Because I care for you spiritually, I want to ask, "What's happening inside you? For instance, you hear something on the radio, TV, phone, etc. You become alarmed and additional negative emotions quickly follow. What can we do about this painful, down-spiraling? May I offer some HEALING actions. ***I pray you notice Spirit's prompts if there is something(s) here for you!!***

***Christmas, the true meaning, is all about God incarnating into this world. Here are ways we can be God's adult children--as co-creators—co-incarnators. YES!***

When feeling impacted by a problem, ask: "What is my intention regarding this problem?

Spirit, what can I **DO** with this information that will positively impact this problem?" Ask, then Listen.

Am I being called to take an action? E.G. to write/call a power-person, contribute time or money to a group, reach out for support (emotional, spiritual...), pray, etc.

Am I being called to Release, Purify negative thoughts/emotions? (See below.)

Am I being called to have a "prayer sentence"? (See below.)

It is so easy to be run off the rails by our thoughts! Monk Thomas Keating (one of my spiritual parents) writes\* when we think painful thoughts, we generate upsetting emotions. It would actually be best if we could DROP or LET GO of almost all upsetting thoughts—get out of their grasp. We need only hold onto them long enough to use their energy to motivate action. We need to wake up to our thinking because amazingly, it impacts the world!

FACT. This is physics—because all is energy (Einstein), including thoughts and emotions. We are created to be powerful 'energy transformers'! Negative energy comes at us. Will we transform it—or be engulfed by it? Thoughts are either purifying or poisonous. (Remember when you've been in a room where people are fuming--you felt the heat?) Prayer is one of the most powerful energies we can intend. What if we immediately had a prayer session after reading the news, or after thinking negative thoughts?! Hmm..... Don't Let it Stick—Let Go Quick!

When Keating was asked what we can do about toxic thoughts and feelings, he told the story about an "active prayer sentence" (like an "affirmation"). Having a 'go-to' prayer sentence is powerful. With practice, it becomes automatic, interiorized! It repeats itself inside us! COOL, eh? (In meditation/silent centering prayer, this is like your mantra, sacred word or verse that's repeated over and over to help you break loose from thoughts/emotions. It's not easy to do because we're sooo attached to our mind's thoughts. (Mind is used differently than brain.) We think, what would I do without them? Ha, indeed! Imagine what ELECTRO-POSITIVE divine beings we'd be!

Having a 'prayer sentence' (aspiration) propels us into God's reality. A verse the Desert Fathers & Mothers (pioneers of this work) repeated over and over as they were weaving in their hermitages all day was, "Oh God, come to my assistance. Oh, Lord, make haste to help me!" \* You can form your own prayer word/sentence. "Oh God, I trust You." "This is the day You have made; I rejoice (leap for joy) and am glad." "You are so intimately aware of me, God." "Joy to the world, the Lord is come." Share your practice with me, if you like, so I may join you in it.

Within LOVE, Rev

\*Divine Therapy & Addiction: Centering Prayer & the 12 Steps

\*Larry Dossey; Lynne McTaggart's books \*Psalm 69:2, 118:24, 139:3

## Christmas Happenings



The Annual Christmas Pageant will take place during the worship service on Sunday, December 12, with a snow date of December 19.

At this time, an in-person worship service is being planned for Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. Because of the increasing numbers of Covid cases in our area, we have to continue to follow safety protocols. Masks are required and we are limited to the number of people we can have in the sanctuary. The Christmas Eve service is usually well attended. To avoid having to turn people away at the door, we are asking those who want to attend to please make a reservation. Please call CLA Andrea at 522-3189 to hold your place.

As usual, we will also be able to participate via Zoom and watch on Facebook Live.

## Safe Church Grant Update

The NPSG program is on schedule. All the required documents are signed and have been submitted to the grant administrator at the Grant Management Bureau for review and approval. The necessary documentation has been submitted for the financial risk assessment review and approval. The next step in the process is the Environmental and Historic Preservation review. We cannot start on the project until all approvals have been received. Due to all the time and work Buddy Dee invested in the Safe Church project, it is progressing on schedule.

*Tracey Kolb*

## Advent! Faith Formation Tuesday Class

Our first Advent class started on Tuesday, November 30th. All are welcome to join in at any time! This year we're using a unique approach to this season of waiting with the book "All Creation Waits; The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings" by Gayle Boss.

Open a window each day of Advent onto the natural world. Here are twenty-five fresh images of the foundational truth that lies beneath and within the Christ story. In twenty-five portraits depicting how wild animals of the northern hemisphere ingeniously adapt when darkness and cold descend, we see and hear as if for the first time the ancient wisdom of Advent: The dark is not an end but the way a new beginning comes.

We meet at noon via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Julie Kessler to be sure you're added to the Zoom distribution list. Call (603-871-8066 or email at [julielouisekessler@gmail.com](mailto:julielouisekessler@gmail.com))

*Julie Kessler*

## Gifts Unexpected

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.  
1 Corinthians 12:4 NIV*

Gifts come in all sorts of shapes, colors and sizes. They may be the unseen gifts like talent, compassion, wisdom, courage, and love. But, sometimes, a gift you have been given is forgotten, misplaced or maybe you didn't recognize it as a gift. Those gifts eventually seem to appear from nowhere.

My story is about a gift that was left packed away for over two and a half decades. It was a small, red, spiral-bound journal written in by my Dad during the last several months of his life. He was fighting reoccurring cancer.

I knew he had been writing his 'memoir' quietly in the peace of his bedroom. He titled it "Sliding Down the Other Side of the Hill". As he wrote, he NEVER complained about his illness. He just steadily jotted down as many memories of his childhood and his father's tales as best he could remember them.

He died in 1988 and the journal remained in my father's bedside table for over two years. Eventually, it was moved with a few of his belongings to a box in my basement, still unread by anyone. When I finally had the courage to open the box and read his journal, I realized it was the most precious gift I would ever receive. My Dad's memories are now part of who I am. Gifts I never expected.

Now, after several years of reading snippets from that 33-year-old, spiral-bound notebook, I have embraced each one of those short stories as a gift from God. The God that my father always loved. Even though I never saw my Dad in a church, it was he who cloaked me with the faith that has settled and grown within me. Not by lessons taught in books nor by 'sit down and listen to me' lectures. But simply by having this man as my father and in my life for 42 years. The faith that tells me every day that I am a child of a loving God. The same God that settled in my father's soul and in his father's. The same God within us all, the greatest Gift of all.

My Christmas prayer is that we live peacefully, love sincerely, and always look for the infinite blessed gifts that encircle us all.

*Linda Messer,  
Calling and Discernment Ministry*

## Zimbabwe News



The big news is that the container was cleared last Wednesday. It arrived in Mutare on Sunday night, but because there was no electricity, they couldn't operate certain security gates or the huge mechanism that lifts the container from the truck. That is life in Zimbabwe. One would think that with a huge operation processing hundreds of trucks per day, there would be a back up available. Our container went through the dreaded physical inspection on Monday afternoon which lasted four hours. Our team of eagle eyes were there watching the process as they offloaded just a few boxes to check. Then, one of the ZIMRA agents found prescription medication in a box labelled clothes. (Not an FCCW box.) That meant a whole new ball game as they then offloaded almost 80% of the container. to inspect. ZIMRA loves to find an error like that, in fact, they pounce on those kind of things and threaten to impound the container until we get a medical license which takes weeks. Naturally there is a fine and a storage charge for every day of delay, so our team talked to our clearance agent who talked to Zimra and a "token of appreciation" was exchanged in order for us to get a clearance and avoid the nasty medical

license and confiscation. When we returned on the second day for the clearance, no electricity again so the ZIMRA office couldn't process our paperwork via the computer. (I wanted to lend them our generator.)

As we waited on day two off site in a park in Mutare, I met a lovely woman selling bananas. I was taken with the way in which she artfully balanced the box of bananas, kind of at a tilt, and swayed as she walked gracefully. I learned she started early in the morning, without having eaten breakfast and would have no lunch, and moved throughout the streets until 4 pm to get home for her children. She may make \$2-\$5 a day if she is lucky, just enough to feed her kids.



When the container was finally cleared and ready to go on Wednesday, we were a skeleton crew offloading at City Central Church and then loading three lorries to go in various directions. We did this from 2 pm - 9 pm. Our lorry driver was a very gregarious guy and I soon learned why, when after driving 2.5 hours we reached our Chipinge destination. He hit the stone wall surrounding the property while backing into our driveway. The driver promptly got out of the truck and fell flat on his face in a drunken stupor. I had to laugh when he started snoring as we once again offloaded boxes. It's midnight, starting to rain, and this guy is face down in the dirt. I felt so bad for Mr. Chibanda, our wonderful Tekeshe guy who would have another 2 hours to go with this guy who shouldn't be driving. He assured me he would be ok as the driver slept for the 90 minutes it took us to offload. Life in Zimbabwe.

Words of gratitude have been pouring in from all corners. People at Rufumiso and other churches receiving boxes feel abundantly blessed for being remembered.

*Love to all, Connie Littlefield*

## Hazel MacBrien Nursery School

During the month of November we talked about Veterans and Thanksgiving. We showed the kids an army uniform and talked about how Veterans protect and keep our country safe! Picture day was held this month on one of the warm days we were lucky to have. November is a great time to talk about things that we are thankful for, Native Americans, cornucopias, Pilgrims and turkeys. The kids had a lot of fun exploring in the sensory table. We put water, cranberries, a small rubber turkey, marbles and rocks along with turkey basters, sifters and cups in the table. We discussed how cranberries float in water and you can make juice and sauce from them. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## From the Stewardship Ministry

What does the Advent Season and Stewardship have in common? Well just about everything! Not only is it a time to reflect on our relationship with our Church and Church Family but it is a time to think about Stewardship in the wider world. We all get bombarded at this time of year with requests from non-profits for support. Many of them do all of their fund raising in the last 2 weeks of the year. It is a good time for us to review how our Stewardship and contributions have an impact on the community around us. It is a time for personal reflection – what impact do I want to have with my year end donations? What is my Stewardship contribution going to be? Maybe finding some new opportunities to contribute?

Most importantly Advent, with all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, can also be a great time to take a quiet walk outside in the beautiful natural world that is all around us and to re-examine and perhaps re-energize our Stewardship. Happy Holidays everyone!

*Frank Frazier and your Stewardship Team.*



## Anticipation

My anticipation of that 1969 Christmas morning was intense. I knew something was going to be different. Our family financial status was not one of great abundance, but it was also not one of extreme poverty. Mama always made do with whatever was set before her. If it was clothing, she excelled as a seamstress. If it was food, she could make leftovers taste like a four-star restaurant. Not that I had ever eaten at a four-star restaurant, but I'm sure my Mama would have been able to achieve that kind of rating. Daddy on the other hand had a way of earning money and then spending it frivolously. My brother Vic and I spent many evenings that autumn perusing the Sears and Roebuck or Spiegel catalogs hoping that at least one of the wish-list items we had selected would make it under our Christmas tree. That 1969 Christmas found us living in rural Virginia outside of Norfolk. I was in seventh grade. Our Virginia home was an old plantation style house. It had a huge front porch with four tall columns, a wide walnut staircase, and a "Gone With the Wind" parlor graced with eight-foot-tall sliding pocket doors. In that room was the Christmas tree. Vic and I had already snuck in and shook each wrapped present. We knew there would be the customary socks, underwear, or gloves in the festively wrapped boxes. But Vic was hoping for a new stereo. I wanted a bike. Neither of those items were under the tree, yet.

That Christmas morning, I woke somewhere around 4:00 am. I tip-toed from my room across the hall to Mama and Daddy's. I placed my face inches from Mama's and whispered, "Merry Christmas". She slowly opened one eye, lifted the covers, and scooted over so I could climb in beside her. She wrapped me up in her cozy arms and whispered in return, "Merry Christmas Darlin, but not yet". Realizing I had to wait a couple more hours, I snuggled closer to Mama and in the warmth of her embrace, fell asleep. I woke again a little disoriented as to where I was. I glanced at the clock sitting on Mama's nightstand and it read 6:05. I couldn't take it anymore. I squealed "Merry Christmas" and leaped out of the bed. Mama smiled as she and Daddy reached for their bathrobes and slippers. I ran out into the hall and shouted, "Merry Christmas Vic". He flew open his bedroom door and, in as cool a manner as a fifteen-year-old boy could muster, he ran past me and down the stairs. We met up in front of the parlor doors impatiently waiting for Mama and Daddy to join us. Finally, Vic slid open the doors and we elbowed our way into the room. Instantly he descended to the floor in front of his new stereo. It had a Plexiglas top and black turntable with two separate speakers that I knew would be blasting rock-n-roll music. This of course would cause my Daddy to shout words my young ears weren't supposed to hear. I stood stark still looking all around the room. There were Christmas stockings hanging on the fireplace hearth bulging with a variety of fruit, candy, and small toys. There were wrapped presents of various sizes and shapes. But I didn't see a bike. I slowly walked closer to the tree, searching behind it and looking back to the entrance thinking maybe it was in another corner of the room. Then with the flair of a circus showman Daddy wheeled into the room the most beautiful bike ever. It was Purple! It had high handlebars, with colored streamers flowing from the purple

hand grips, and a purple banana-style seat. I flew across the room and squealed with delight. I gave Mama and Daddy big hugs and proceeded to glide the bike out of the house, down the steps and on to the driveway. In only my PJs, bathrobe, and slippers I straddled the seat and rode like a crazy person down the long dirt driveway to the road and back. I'm not sure how long they watched me. I do know that it was later in the morning when I finally came back into the house to open the rest of my presents. Vic was up in his bedroom blasting Led Zeppelin while Mama filled the house with four-star aromas. Daddy sat in his big Early American chair, smoking his cigarettes, and saying things under his breath while staring at the ceiling where Vic's room vibrated. Many a Christmas has come and gone, but none could compare to that childhood experience.

I believe it was the actual anticipation of waiting and wanting that made that Christmas so extraordinary. Just like the anticipation we experience during this amazing time of Advent. It is the time of preparation, as in the waiting for the birth of the Christ Child, or the return when we will all live in peace and love, free from pain and sorrow. For almost two years, as with the whole world, our small community has endured the ups and downs of viral infections. We have witnessed the loss of loved ones or friends, and the isolation that results in strained emotions. May this Advent be a time of blessings as we maneuver once again the perils of Covid. Let us anticipate, with waiting and wanting, the joys of family and friends in the safest and most loving manner possible.

*Donna V Ackerman*

**Starring Sage Davis as Narrator One**



**A  
CHRISTMAS  
CAROL**

**7:00 PM**  
Friday 10th, Saturday 11th, Sunday 12th

**2:00 PM**  
Sunday 12th

\$10 per/person  
Tickets available at the door

**Mustang Theatre**  
Massabesic High School  
88 West Road  
Waterboro, ME 04087

## Mini Christmas Bazaar

The FUNdraising Team has set up a mini Christmas Bazaar featuring gently used items and Christmas decorations for sale. It is set up in the Fellowship Hall and will be open on Sunday mornings after Worship and on Saturdays from 10 to 12. We are following Covid protocols and limiting the number of people in the Fellowship Hall at a time. Masks are required. Many great bargains can be found—be sure to stop in and see what you can find!

The FUNdraising Team has been busy at work with selling donated items online. Since the onset of our Online Yard Sale, over \$10,000 has been raised selling gently used items. You can peruse our offering by visiting our Online Sales page on our website.

<https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/fundraising/online-sales/>

# Our Endowment Fund

As of December 1, 2021 we have **\$201,000** in our Endowment.

That's 1/3 of the way to the \$600,000 we seek to raise. This is a good beginning but with have a long way to go. So, how can we achieve our goal?

## Pick one or two of the items below and be a part of making it happen:

### Purchase an ornament or mug *(think Christmas gifts)*

Mug \$10

Ornament \$5

To purchase call Andrea 603-522-3189 or visit our Christmas Bazaar Sundays after church and Saturdays from 10-12:00 thru December 19<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall.

### Purchase a memorial brick for \$150

Christmas Special 2 bricks for \$250 *(ends Dec 25, 2021)*

Download a form at [235by235.org](https://235by235.org) or give Andrea a call 603-522-3189

### Set up an automated monthly online donation

This one is so simple, yet so impactful. Think how \$10 per month **(tax-free)** will impact you... how about \$25? Simply go to our website or contact Julie Kessler to set up your automated donation. [julielouisekessler@gmail.com](mailto:julielouisekessler@gmail.com)

### Be part of our Year End campaign

Be a matching donor. We have one matching donor contributing \$2,500 but to reach our 2020 level of \$5,000 we need additional matching donor(s).

Can you donate \$1,000? Maybe more **(tax-free)**? Reach out to Judy: [trepaldavis@gmail.com](mailto:trepaldavis@gmail.com), George: [gea5775@yahoo.com](mailto:gea5775@yahoo.com) or if you wish to remain anonymous reach out to Julie Kessler: [julielouisekessler@gmail.com](mailto:julielouisekessler@gmail.com)

Contribute so we can get all matching funds. We will be announcing the matching amount in early December and remember your donations are **tax-free**.

### Donate items to our Online Sales Team

Email Margie at [balchlaker@gmail.com](mailto:balchlaker@gmail.com). What's in your attic, basement or garage?

### Create a Facebook Fundraiser *(Nancy Dee raised over \$1,000 with her fundraiser)*

"How to" directions are available at back of sanctuary, on our website or Andrea can email them to you. [Churchoffice@fccwakefieldnh.org](mailto:Churchoffice@fccwakefieldnh.org) 603-522-3189

### Contribute through Planned Giving

There are many more options for Planned Giving ... more than including FCCW in your will. To learn more contact Dave or Ginny: [moonriver43@earthlink.net](mailto:moonriver43@earthlink.net)

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## 2021 ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING PROGRAM

Alternative gift giving is giving in recognition for the person who has everything to benefit the people who don't. We have an opportunity this Christmas season to consider a gift to any of five worthy programs.

**The Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund** provides temporary emergency assistance to individuals and families in need within our church and within the community.

**Heifer International** provides livestock and training to individuals or families in need to increase income, food security, and nutrition with a pass it on philosophy. Each person who receives an animal passes on the first offspring to another person/family in need. You can purchase shares of goats, chickens, pigs, rabbits, llamas, buffaloes, heifers and other animals.

**Zimbabwean Child Sponsorship** makes education a reality. Signs directed to community members in several schools say "Stop early marriage. Give us school fees, not husbands." The sad reality is that orphaned girls have had a limited "career path." Sponsorship provides school fees, uniforms, school supplies to the most disadvantaged and changes the trajectory of their lives.

**Daisy Dube Supplemental Food Program** provides protein (soya chunks, fish, meat, eggs, peanut butter, etc.) to 18 children living in an orphanage, helping to combat hunger and malnutrition. Having food gives children a sense of worth and freedom of worry about what they will eat or if they will eat.

**Re-usable Sanitary Supply Project**

Girls miss a week of school each month due to lack of sanitary resources. Washable, reusable sanitary pads provide a sense of dignity and empowerment and allows girls to stay in school.

### Alternative Gift Giving 2021

Our members and friends have a long history of sharing their resources with others during the Christmas season. If you wish to participate in more than one of the following programs, it is only necessary to write ONE CHECK with your donation allocated according to your wishes. Checks are made out to **First Congregational Church of Wakefield (FCCW)** and accompany this form with a specified amount indicated to the program(s) you choose below. For more information on each of these projects/missions, please see the back of this form.

**Local Programs:**

**Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Global:**

**Heifer International ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org))** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Zimbabwe Mission Projects** ([www.projectkz.org](http://www.projectkz.org))

**F.O.O.T. / PKZ Child Sponsorship** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Supplemental Feeding Program for Children  
at the Daisy Dube Orphanage** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Re-usable Sanitary Supply Project** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Lights, Life and Tree of Memories

Concord Regional VNA and Central NH VNA and Hospice have joined to become Granite VNA. This year our annual Tree of Memories is combined with Lights of Life. Virtual ceremonies will be held on Saturday, December 11 at 11 a.m. and can be viewed on the VNA website. Prior to the ceremony, doves will be placed on a tree at the Wakefield Town Hall.



You can purchase an inscribed porcelain dove to be placed on the tree in memory of a departed loved one. You can go to the VNA website [www.grantitevna.org/lights](http://www.grantitevna.org/lights) and fill out a form online. Or contact Ginny Schweitzer at 522-9593. Forms are available the church and via email from the church office (see Happenings).

### Parish Helpers

The Parish Helpers Annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 9, at 12 noon at the Wakefield Inn for vaccinated members who wish to attend. If you have not already responded to Carol or Ginny, please call Ginny (522-9593) as soon as possible so we can make arrangements with the Inn. Since we held a Yankee Swap in the summer, we will not have one at this time. Merry Christmas!

*Carol Jeffery*

### WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations due to bad weather will be posted on:

WMUR Channel 9  
WCSH Channel 6, and on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC/>

### Shop Local!

Why not give a 235 Anniversary Commemorative Ornament or mug? They are in the Café cabinet in the Fellowship Hall, along with an envelope for your check/cash. Ornaments are \$5 and Mugs are \$10. All proceeds go to offset the anniversary expenses, and any profits will go to the Endowment fund. If you would like some of these and cannot get to the church, let us know and I'm sure we can figure it out. You may call Andrea at church at 522-3189 or email me at [Nancy.dee2018@gmail.com](mailto:Nancy.dee2018@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

*Nancy Dee*

### An Open Letter of Thanks...

...to the friends, members, and Parish Helpers of our Church. Through your generosity and donations, you are providing a ray of hope for your friends and neighbors who may be in need. The hardships presented by Covid-19 this past year, including job loss, reduction of hours and sickness, have been eased by specific donations to the **Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund (FDDF)**. Donations were made to the Wakefield Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels and also provided emergency assistance for dental care, rent support, heat, a wheelchair and health care for several children.



This Fund was set up more than 20 years ago at the request of Hank Feddern, Deacon Emeritus. It is a local mission under the auspices of the Diaconate to help provide temporary, emergency financial relief to people within Wakefield and is supported by donations from church members, friends, family, and the Parish Helpers. Additionally, donations made throughout the year and through **Alternative Gift Giving** during our Thanksgiving and Christmas season are very important to this ongoing mission.

If you would like to make a donation, or a monetary gift on behalf of or in memory of, a friend or loved one, simply mail or drop off a check to the Church with a note in the memo line which says **FDDF**.

The Diaconate would like to **Thank You** for your continued support of this vital local mission.

*Gail Feddern, Diaconate*

*(If emergency assistance is needed, please call our Congregational Life Administrator, Andrea Selig at the church office, (603-522-3189) or email [churchoffice@fccwakefield.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccwakefield.org). Andrea will direct you to the minister or co-chairs of the Diaconate.)*

### Christmas Reading

This Christmas move closer to the meaning of the season by reading a book from our Parish Helpers Room Library collection:

*Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Book of Christmas Virtues*  
*Parables for Christmas*  
*A Cup of Comfort for Christmas*  
*The Purpose of Christmas*  
*Unplug the Christmas Machine*

*Linda Petkunas/Church Librarian*

# DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Diaconate Meeting 4:30 p.m.	<b>2</b> String Band Location TBA or Zoom	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  Worship and Holy Communion 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook	<b>6</b> Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.	<b>7</b> Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.—1 p.m.  Spirit Discovery Group—4:30  Choir 5:30	<b>8</b> Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	<b>9</b> Parish Helpers Luncheon 12 p.m. Wakefield Inn  String Band Location TBA or Zoom	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  Worship and Christmas Pageant 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.—1 p.m.  Spirit Discovery Group—4:30  Choir 5:30	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> String Band Location TBA or Zoom	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  Worship 10 a.m. Christmas Pageant Snow Date In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook	<b>20</b> Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.	<b>21</b> Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.—1 p.m.  Spirit Discovery Group—4:30  Choir 5:30	<b>22</b> Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	<b>23</b> String Band Location TBA or Zoom (tentative)	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP</b>  7 p.m. In person, Zoom, and Facebook	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
<b>26</b> <b>1st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b>  Worship 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.—1 p.m.  Spirit Discovery Group—4:30  Choir 5:30	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	



# 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

## 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.

**Please keep in prayer: Annie G, Bob J, Family of Bonnie H, Carol J's Niece Chrissy, Elizabeth H, Freddie K. Lyn S, Family of Ron F, Ryan S, Sue L's Daughter Cindy, Brandon & his Family, Wendy D, Aaron J. Rob L.**

**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.



We are saddened by the passing of our dear long time member, Maurice Hatch, who passed away on Monday, November 29. Calling hours will be held at the Peaslee Funeral Home on Friday, December 3, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A funeral service will be held at FCCW on Saturday, December 4, at 1 p.m. with burial to follow at the Lovell Lake Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association of NH & MA ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)) or to the American Diabetes Association ([www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)). You can read the full obituary here: [Obituary | Maurice A. Hatch of Wakefield, New Hampshire | C.E. Peaslee & Son, Inc. \(peasleefuneralhome.com\)](http://www.peasleefuneralhome.com/Obituary/Maurice-A-Hatch-of-Wakefield-New-Hampshire-C.E.-Peaslee-&-Son,-Inc.-peasleefuneralhome.com)

We also mourn the passing of our dear member and friend, Elizabeth "Zib" Heinlein who passed away Wednesday, December 1. A Celebration of Life will be planned for the spring. We keep Zib's sons, Robert and Richard, as well as her sister, Catherine Britton, in our thoughts and prayers.



## Time For a Change

This is a personal share to my Church Family. I am stepping down from the role of Deacon, my association with the Call and Discernment Ministry, and as the Outreach Coordinator. My personal growth is going in a new direction, and I need a sabbatical from the many balls I have been juggling within the church. I will continue to be involved in the choir, this is where my passion lies, and as an active member of the Parish Helpers. I will also continue as a member of the Z-Team and all that it supports. I will follow through in my role as a Deacon until the end of this calendar year. I am not leaving; I am just pausing. This has been heavy on my heart for some time, and I know taking this step will result in peace and joy. I love my church family, but I need to close a few doors so that God can open new ones. With Love and Peace, Respectfully Submitted,

*Donna V Ackerman*

Dear FCCW family and friends,



Thank you so much for all of your healing prayers, messages, cards, and yummy food! I am truly blessed to have so many wonderful, caring people in my life and so thankful to be on the mend. It was a crazy few months this fall with so many visits to the hospital, took a while to figure out the issue, but thankfully it was found and is fixable. Your prayers have worked! Thank you again it is greatly appreciated. Peace and Joy,

*Annie Gehring*



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