

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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FEBRUARY 2022

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Peace that Passes Understanding

We watched two minutes of Martin Luther King's last sermon. The date: April 3, 1968. You could see the strain of the last days of constant threats to his life: *"You won't leave Memphis alive"*. His voice cracked as he said, *"I may not make it with you to the Promised Land, but that's ok because I have been to the mountain-top... I know you will make it....Longevity of life has its place, but...I only want to do God's will."*

He was viciously shot dead the next day. Could it possibly be that he was experiencing a joyful moment doing God's will in his last moment? You see, we discovered he died with a smile on his face, which a young woman had seen seconds before. When I relayed the story of Clare Jean Ester, I was so powerfully touched by the confluence of these 2 stories—that I kept weeping as I felt amazement and grief, joy and sorrow. What did you feel? I so yearn for racial unity with all our brothers and sisters who are made in the image of God! Do you, too?

OMLord & my God! In spite of weaknesses, he was a strong man of God. Yes! MLK clearly sought and received God's Peace in the valley of the shadow of death. He knew and yet he stayed.

He knew the Peace purchased with blood that flowed out of Love. He allowed himself to lead right in the center of life's electric storms, hated, reviled. In 1956, the first of many of his houses was damaged or destroyed by bombs. Many friends gathered at his home, angry and defiant. He calmed them. *"We will continue a path of Non-violence and Love."* He was more interested in Living the Gospel of ultimate Love than merely churchifying it. He was more interested in raising his level of consciousness than reacting to violence with hate. Can we also shine our lights of kindness--regardless of how we are treated?

MLK was a man imbued with Christ's Peace, Courage, Strength. I'm heartened to know he was smiling when he died. *"Oh God. May we be so committed in our calling as followers of Jesus that we too seek the peace that passes understanding instead of seeking lives of luxury and safety. Help us. Amen."*

Rev. Tere

*FCCW: Clare Jean Ester is an eyewitness to MLK's murder. Her story, which was broadcast on NPR's StoryCorps, was referenced during our Youth Moment in our worship on 1.23.22.

Ed. Note: To read about and hear Clare Jean Ester in her own words, go to <https://storycorps.org/stories/he-did-his-own-eulogy-an-eyewitness-recalls-dr-kings-final-speech/>

Growing A Stronger Church

The Calling and Discernment Team continues to consider ways in which to match wonderful, creative people with various ministries within the church. We know our church grows stronger and more vibrant when that happens!

It feels like we have been in a start/stop cycle with intermittent pauses for some time now. Yet the church continues to find ways to make things happen. We are fortunate to have such a vital church and wider community which supports one another and seeks to provide important and inspirational opportunities.

Would you like to be involved in Outreach Ministry? Outreach is an advocate for the 5 for 5 giving programs: Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund. Yet Outreach is and can be so much more than that! FCCW gives regularly to the Wakefield Food Pantry, has supported mission trips, been involved in soup kitchens, outreach to the homeless through the Boston City Reach program and has ministered to people in need in our community in various ways, most notably through the Shepherd Program. What ideas might you have that could help us engage in Christian action?

The Arts ministry is growing! We are pleased to announce Donna Ackerman and Buddy Dee as the co-coordinators of this team. Rachel White has been our Visual Arts leader extraordinaire leader and pulls together people as needed to assist. David Morrison has gracefully transitioned to the role of Bell Choir Director and Cindy Eggleston is dedicated to finding ways to make things hum (pun intended) with the vocal choir. But what about opportunities to include dramatic presentations, dance, guest musicians or to coordinate other opportunities? Is this your area of interest?

Gina Golden and team have begun brainstorming how to expand Faith Formation opportunities for youth. Seasonal outdoor activities, having a place to hang out and be together, and visiting a church or a temple to experience how others celebrate and worship God are among the ideas. Wouldn't it be fun to do some inter-generational activities with them!

Tracy Kolb has transitioned beautifully to oversight of the grant implementation for Safe Church begun so well by Buddy Dee. Carol Lundgren and Brian Shipley (and others) have been vital to that effort. Is this an area that appeals to you? There is a need for ongoing Safe Church practices (CPR and AED training for example) as well as help with aspects of executing the grant.

And many more opportunities abound in other ministries not mentioned. All of this is a way of saying: You are welcomed, you are wanted, and you are necessary to keep our beloved community alive and well.

Please contact me or contact Linda Messer if we can help you discern how your particular gifts for ministry -- your passion -- can be a good match in any area within FCCW.

BE A HERO!

Huh, you say? How, you say? IT'S EASY – when you quiet yourself to “Hear God’s Call.” Stewardship is not just about money, as we well know. It is also about sharing One’s Time and Talent! Where would this faith community be without those who came before us with rolled up sleeves and open hearts? Generations of people – just like us – who are **foundational** to the existence of FCCW?

NOW it is time for those of us, who are able, to be **FOUNDATIONAL** with and for our YOUTH and the generations to come! (*Please see the Calling and Discernment article by Connie Littlefield on this page.*) THEN, **search** your heart, **pray** for discernment of where you can put your time and talent next. Is it OUTREACH? Is it with our wonderful YOUTH? Is it growing your TECHNOLOGY skills with the Sound Team? Is it helping the SAFE CHURCH Team manage the \$25,000 GRANT work from the Department of Homeland Security as well as creating opportunities for CPR training, AED defibrillator training? Is it MUSIC, ARTS, FAITH FORMATION? Something else?

This is your warm invitation to ponder and pray about opportunities that exist RIGHT NOW for growth in knowledge AND spirituality. Please say YES as you hear where God is calling YOU!

*Stewardship Ministry
Carol Lundgren and Frank Frazier*

Hazel MacBrien Nursery School News

January has been a very cold and icy month. Hopefully February will bring some better weather. In January we have been working on letters Ww, Jj, Mm and number 4. One of the children's favorite art projects this month was making melted snowmen. We used shaving cream and glue and then added a hat, eyes, buttons and a scarf. They have also enjoyed having sand in the sensory table and playing with playdough. We're hoping for a warmer day so we can get out and play in the snow!

What's the Spirit Discovery Group, Rev?

I love this group. First, we quickly check-in. Then we read a few verses, noticing what stands out to each of us—a word, a phrase, something. Then we sit consciously in the presence of God in centering prayer meditation. After an agreed upon number of minutes, we share. Centering Prayer is a prayer said in the heart or on the breath with a simple word or phrase. When one's mind wanders, we gently but firmly beckon it back with our breath or our word. The fruits of CP are many. All are welcome in person or on zoom. Just let me know if you want an invitation. Tuesdays 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m..

Rev. Tere

Love

What is love? This is the ultimate mystery passed down through the ages. For centuries writers, artists, and musicians have dedicated their lives to addressing this mystery. The Beatles sing, "All You Need is Love". Love occurs between spouses or partners. Love is found between siblings. A parent and child love are everlasting. Grandparents and their grandchildren hold a special kind of love. There is the love of nature, certain foods, favorite books, colors, sport teams, movies ... Oh My Goodness. Maybe we use the word "love" too frivolously. I know my love for George is immeasurable. But do I really love jazz, or do I just prefer it over other styles? I know I love music. I'm not sure what my world would be like without it. Ahh, maybe that's it! Is "true" love based on the intensity or passion with which one associates with that person or thing? All this talk of love derives our from celebration or at least acknowledgement of February 14th, Valentine's Day.

Please indulge me as I put on my Historian Hat and share the origins of this special day. The Catholic Church recognizes three Saints named Valentine. During the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who decided that unmarried men made better soldiers, outlawed marriage for young men. Saint Valentine, thinking that was cruel, defied the order and performed marriages in secret. Of course, Claudius found out and had the Saint beheaded. Some say it was Saint Valentine of Terni, a Bishop, who is the true namesake. Claudius had him beheaded as well. The third Valentine was one who, in his passion to help Christians escape from Roman prisons, found himself a prisoner. He supposedly fell in love with the jailor's daughter and wrote her letters signed, "From Your Valentine". As for celebrating a special day in February, some say it originated with the Christianizing of citizens in connection to a Pagan celebration of "Lupercalia" a fertility festival dedicated to the Roman God Faunus. This involved the slaughtering of a goat, smearing its blood on a strip of hide, and slapping young women in the face with it. I think I prefer chocolates. It was not until the 5th Century that Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as St. Valentine's Day.

Based on various Bible interpretations, we find the King James Version mentions love 310 times. The New Revised Standard Version mentions love 538 times. And not to be outdone, the New Living Translation Bible mentions the word love 898 times. In my research, using the Young's Analytical Concordance, out of all the Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic translations, the word Agape is used the most. "Agape" means the *Love of God* in manifestation. "God so loved the world "... says John 3:16a. We are to be "rooted and grounded in love", says Ephesians 3: 17b. The author of Ephesians tells us in 3:19, that we are to "know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge so we may be filled with all the fullness of God". To be filled with God is to be filled with love. The book of John chapter 15 is packed full of the word love. In verse 9 Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love". I'm pretty sure that whichever translation you use, you will find that God is Love.

As we move through another winter month, celebrate every day with God's Agape love. Manifest and spread the love of God to all you encounter. Oh, and Happy Valentine's Day.

Donna V Ackerman

News of Our Partners in Zimbabwe



As we shiver in subzero temperatures, our brothers and sisters at Rufumiso UCCZ are experiencing temps hovering around 40 degrees Celsius. (That's 104 degrees Fahrenheit.) The months from November through March make up "rainy season" and there has been off and on rain but nothing very consistent. So people trying to grow crops in the low veld area of Birchenough Bridge where Rufumiso is located face a lot of challenges. The rain hasn't been substantial enough to allow for good planting. Often fields need to be replanted. The government has promised support for what they call "inputs" for farming but that tends to be distributed along political lines. The need for food security is overwhelming. PKZ recently provided approx. 300 lbs. of maize seed to assist 25 families, all made possible by Wakefield community monetary donations.

The Rufumiso Church members were thrilled to receive FCCW boxes from the recent shipping container. Representatives from every preaching point (sub groups under the "mother church" of Rufumiso) were present for the distribution. The texts came flooding in:

"People were very happy to receive goods from our partners with great love."; "On behalf of Goko High School staff, learners and the Parents Assembly I would like express our heart felt gratitude for the generosity and continued support. These books will go a long way to improve our learners' performance." ; "We all praised the Lord and humbly say thank you so much for the goods." ; "The dedicated commitment and love remain unparalleled and unrivaled." "May the Lord continue to add more blessings to Wakefield Church members."

Importantly Christmas is celebrated and enjoyed if a child or an adult has one new article of clothing to wear on that special day. There were so many smiles across Zimbabwe on Christmas this year. Thank you for providing light and hope and love! FCCW is a blessing to so many!

Connie Littlefield

Max's Irish Adventure

Some of you may recall a sermon I gave in church a few months ago when I brought up the concept of Nonviolent Communication. When I talked about it, I offered Nonviolent Communication, or NVC, as a way to deal with a conflict in the example of a couple sharing a car ride together and one of these people are uncomfortable with how the other is acting. I went on to explain how NVC offers a way for a person to understand a situation, express how they feel in the situation and why they feel that way, and how to make a request to anyone else around them without making it into a command or order. In short, NVC can be used to resolve issues between people, or even within oneself.

From February 24th to March 5th, I have an opportunity to attend an International Intensive Training (a sort of immersive workshop), or IIT, where I and dozens of others will be embracing NVC. We will learn about NVC from dedicated teachers and from each other, as we'll have presentations to study and moments to share NVC in small group settings. When it comes to sharing interpersonally and within a group, NVC is used more often to express oneself honestly and understand others intimately than to resolve conflict.

I am excited about this opportunity and I truly think of it as me living out my reason for being - the purpose that I've chosen for myself. I first learned about NVC about seven years ago and have learned bits and pieces here and there. In 2021, I attended a portion of a worldwide conference event online -- similar to the UCC's General Synod, just with less business. That really helped me to understand NVC in a multitude of ways. I want to embrace nonviolent communication even further so I am more prepared and feel more comfortable using it and sharing it with others. After the IIT, I plan to share NVC frequently and freely, which would look like a scheduled event or two at FCCW with an opportunity to practice NVC! This sort of event would be of no cost to those participating, and all would be welcome. I only desire to share NVC with others and would be overjoyed to share it with my FCCW family.

Now, for some details about the trip and my expenditures. I will preface by saying that the IIT is nine days and I plan to stay across "the pond" for an additional week to visit with my sister, her family, and my brother. I am not including that additional stay in the cost estimates below. As of right now, if I were to purchase travel tickets and sign up for the cheapest room option, the total estimated cost of this trip is approximately \$3500. This price estimate includes the \$1989 cost for tuition, \$400-700 for a hotel room shared with others, and about \$700-1000 for travel.

If anyone or group in the church would like to support my education, please mail me at: Max Gehring, PO Box 413, Sanbornville, NH 03872 or donate to my GoFundMe at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-max-attend-nvc-training-in-ireland>.

Sincerely and gratefully,
Max

Back by popular demand! Our Souper Sunday Soup Sale!

We are once again offering a wide variety of soup for take out! Soups must be pre-ordered and pre-paid and will be available for pickup at the church on Feb. 12 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. (Snow Date is Feb. 13, 12 noon to 2 p.m.) Local home delivery can be arranged.

Choose from a selection of 16 soups (see below) at a cost of \$5 per 16-oz. container. Call Margie at 522-6674 or email her at balchlaker@gmail.com to place your order. Payment can be made by check made out to FCCW and mailed to FCCW Assistant Treasurer at 2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH 03872 or dropped in the mailbox attached to the church building next to the side entrance. You can pay online through PayPal on our website homepage. Go to www.fccwakefieldnh.org and look for Donate button. Choose "Souper Sunday Soup Sale" from the dropdown menu.

Consider donating a homemade soup to someone in need. Just let us know and we will arrange to deliver it.

There are limited quantities on some varieties, so act now! **Deadline to order is February 7.**

- 15 Bean Soup with Kielbasa
- Carrot Ginger
- Chicken Noodle
- Chicken Pot Pie Soup
- Chili w/hamburger and turkey
- Chili w/beef and sausage
- Chili (Mexican) w/ground beef and pork sausage
- Clam Chowder
- Creamy Bacon Corn Chowder
- Hearty Southwestern Salsa Soup
- Pea Soup w/ham
- Potato Cheddar Soup w/ham
- Stuffed Pepper Soup
- Sweet Potato Black Eyed Pea w/ Kale
- Turkey Lasagna Soup
- Turkey Vegetable w/rice

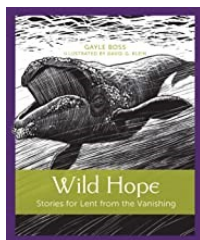
WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

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/>

Faith Formation Lenten Experiences

While Lent is still over a month away, it's not too early to start planning for our faith formation experiences during this holy time. Like Advent, we're looking to offer two different Lenten experiences to help focus us on this time of reflection.



LENT Faith Formation Option: Tuesday Faith Formation Class -

On March 8th, we will begin our weekly Lenten walk using the Lenten study entitled "Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing" by Gayle Boss. This is the same author that gave us our Advent study ("All Creation Waits") - a study that was both profound and beautifully written.

A synopsis of this study: *Pangolins and polar bears, olms, lemurs, and leopards. We share this beautiful blue-green globe with creatures magnificent, delicate, intricate—and now vanishing at a faster rate than at any other time in Earth's history. Spend Lent with twenty-five of these wild ones. Vivid descriptions of their lives will fill readers with wonder—and grief at what they suffer on a planet shaped by human choices. Their stories thaw our stiff hearts and wake us to greater compassion—which is what Lent, meaning "springtime," has always been for. These stories also wake in us a wild hope that from all this death and ruin, something new could rise. The promise of Lent is that something new will rise. In fact, as these stories also attest, our hope, though wild, is not impossible and is already loose in the world.*

Our class will meet via Zoom every Tuesday at noon. Please contact Julie Kessler (julielouisekessler@gmail.com or 603-871-8066) if you're interested in attending.

LENT Faith Formation Option: Informal Discussions Based on the StillSpeaking Lenten Devotional



This year's Lenten Devotional by the Still Speaking writers is entitled "The Long Haul". The devotional contains a piece of scripture along with a reflection based on that scripture and a closing prayer for every day in Lent. It is also sprinkled with thought-provoking pictures and when taken altogether should give us a meaningful walk through Lent. Our plan is to meet via Zoom on a periodic basis to share our insights into these daily devotions. Days and times to be determined as we get closer to the start of Lent. If interested in getting one of these devotionals, regardless of whether or not you want to join in the zoom discussion, please email Harriet at dhwilson39@gmail.com or text her at 603-998-4700.

Youth Group



Our first youth group meeting was a success! There were a total of 9 in attendance with about a dozen more anxious to come together soon! The youth, a range from 2nd to 8th graders, all participated and were comfortable enough to voice their opinions. Each one of them came up with wonderful ideas how to serve the community as well as have fun group activities to do.

Some ideas they had are: cleaning up the rail trail in the spring, reestablishing a trail from the Paul School into Forest Hills, learning sign language and sharing the Lord's Prayer during church service. We are planning an outside winter sledding/skating/ tubing activity during the upcoming February vacation break and they are looking forward to it!

If anyone would like to join us for an event, host something, have an idea for an activity or service project, or just be another set of hands for upcoming events, please let Gina or Julie E. know. Fun times ahead!

Gina Golden

Prepared to Serve



For many years, representatives from FCCW have participated in Prepared to Serve as attendees as well as presenters. This year's event will be held online from February 8 to 17th and features 12 workshops. The theme is from the scripture passage found in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

The popularity of this event is due in large part to the variety of workshops that meet the needs of local NH churches. [Download the event brochure](#) to learn more about this year's workshop offerings. Register now: <https://cvent.me/YdeNld>

Looking Back By Titia Bozuwa

After living in the same house for 63 years, it's time to get rid of "stuff." I don't think of myself as a packrat, but closets full of "things" stare at me. What to throw away? How do you part with things that jog your memory?

From a drawer with scarfs a small jewelry box emerges. I remember it from my youth. Apparently, I had judged it important enough to take with me on our emigration adventure. A small heap of silver beads lay inside, blackened by years of neglect. As I lift them up, I notice a cross attached to them. And then it comes back to me: that amazing happening toward the end of WW II.

My home town was under siege. I had spent days in the cellar with my family. The Germans did not easily give up the fight. Finally, we could go upstairs. Our house was still standing. Soldiers stalking down the street, guns at the ready, wore badges with the word Poland on their sleeves. They told us to get back inside. The fight was not over yet.

A few days later - most of the city now secured - I stood with my father on the sidewalk. A column of tanks and trucks, preceded by a troop of soldiers in battle dress, moved down the street. I had seen many soldiers and tanks over the course of the war. We lived in a military town. But this was different. Instead of palpable fear and disgust, the public stood in awe and cheered our liberators.

I had wormed myself to the front. A BrenGun Carrier passed by. It suddenly screeched to a stop. I felt myself lifted up and put on the front of the tank. I looked into the face of an officer. Under his helmet his eyes filled with tears. He reached inside his breast pocket and pressed something into my hand. "For you." And to my father, "She looks just like my daughter."

I was kissed on both cheeks and lowered to the pavement. The tank moved on, its treads screeching over the cobblestones. I was stunned. With the treasure held tightly in my hand, I ran home to show my mother.

"That's a rosary, Titia... He gave you his own rosary!" She said this with as much emotion as I had seen on the officer's face.

Now, 78 years later, I understand better the emotions that surrounded that split-moment happening. At age twelve, I felt mostly excitement and wonder at being chosen. I did not know that Poland was invaded by the Germans; how hard the Poles had fought, how bitter they felt in defeat. I was told that many Polish military, rather than surrender, had made their perilous way to Portugal through Nazi occupied countries, and sailed to Scotland to regroup and form a brigade - the brigade that had now liberated my city. I was too young to realize the hardships and dangers of their incredible journey. Most of all, I had only vague appreciation for what it must have been like to leave a daughter behind at the mercy of a merciless enemy.

What to do with a rosary, when you are brought up Protestant? Just days before, my brothers and I had snickered at our neighbor, who had spent the entire time spent in the cellar sitting on a chair mumbling with a rosary in her hands. What was a rosary for? The explanation I was given baffled me. I had been given someone's treasure that I did not know how to use! It made me feel slightly guilty. That's how it got to stay in the jewelry box.

The beads have regained their silver luster after a thorough polishing session. They represent something I now understand well: meditation. Both Reverend Mary and Reverend Tere have taught and emphasized the importance of turning inward, of seeking the peace of stillness, of "letting go", and taking a deep breath. After all these years, I can picture the Polish officer letting the beads run through his hands and finding solace while his mind overflowed with worries about his wife and daughter. The many years that separate me from the thrill of receiving a gift from a liberator have provided insight into what it means to lose what is most precious; how to turn fear and anxiety into the power of positive thinking through prayer. How emptying your overly busy consciousness brings you back to yourself. And if little silver beads help you to get there, so much the better!

To feel God's love and protection MEDITATE !! Thanks be to God that our church teaches us how to practice it.

Memory Lane



Recently, I was perusing our church website and found our "Spirit of the First Congregational Church" booklet that Linda Petkunas put together a few years ago. I happened on this photo and as I had a little space left in this issue, I thought I'd share it with you. It was taken and the UCC NH Annual Meeting in 1994. Pictured are Elizabeth Fogg, Betty Crowe, Rev. George Harvey, and Peg Harvey. Many thanks to Linda for putting this booklet together and allowing us a glimpse into our church's past. You can see more old photos and read Linda's booklet at this link: www.fccwakefieldnh.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Spirit-of-the-First-Congregational-Church-of-Wakefieldhttps://-NH-UCC-1985-2018.pdf

Carol Jeffery, SV Editor

Celebrations!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Pat Anderson | 17 Ryan Dee |
| 2 Bob James | 19 Lisa Robinson |
| 2 Marilou MacLean | 23 Allisa Eaton |
| 3 Kenneth Crew | 24 Barry Lockard |
| 3 Maureen Steer | 25 Cheyanne Boggs |
| 6 Sue Lynn | 25 Arlene Leyare |
| 10 Peter Foss | 25 Kristin Weeks |
| 11 Rob Lundgren | 26 Evelyn Truhn |
| 12 Peter Connell | 27 Charlie Bilodeau |
| 12 David Haag | 27 Tom Weeks |
| 12 Ryan McCarthy | 28 David Fairchild |
| 14 Marion Blomster | 28 Emma Royle |
| 14 Ann Gehring | 28 Stephen Silcocks |
| 15 Nicky Mercer | |

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Joe & Jan Brejwo
14 Lance & Marilou MacLean

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: Bob and Mary J, Carol J's Niece Chrissy, Lyn S, Ryan S, Sue L's Daughter Cindy, Brandon & family, Wendy D, Aaron J., Rob L., Arlene L., Josiah S., Kris W, Family of Peggy Richards, Family of Jean LLOYD

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.



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

Jean Lloyd passed away on December 29th. Jean was a member of our church while she resided in Wolfeboro. Several years ago, she moved to Massachusetts. She was an active member of the Parish Helpers and was often found at events helping in the kitchen. A funeral service was held for her on January 3 in Lynn, Massachusetts. You can read her obituary here: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/lynn-ma/jean-lloyd-10505670>

Peggy Richards, a longtime member of our church, passed away on Sunday, January 2, after a long period of failing health. She leaves behind her husband Doug and her daughters Jill and Chris, and their children. Please pray for Doug and all of the family at this time of loss. A funeral service was held for Peggy at our church on January 10. You can read her obituary here: <https://www.lordfuneralhome.com/obituary/Peggy-Richards>

I Dream A World Beth Fox, MLK Day

I dream a world that comforts
those in the streets and those
confined at home in this time
of isolation.

I dream a Great Reckoning
beyond the stamp put upon
my mind when young, one that

sees through conditioning
by movies and media,
a reckoning, with vetted sources
for news, each day fact-finding
first, and then conversation
over shared values.

I dream a reckoning where
I am a good ancestor,
telling those who follow
what I know of our lives,

A great reckoning, a world
where there is opportunity
and all proudly and freely vote

and a world where
The Statue of Liberty
keeps her message, and
looks over her shoulder,
does not turn her back
on those here at home.

Thank you to Beth Fox for sharing her beautiful poem with us at a recent worship service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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



FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Diaconate Meeting 4:30 p.m.	3	4	5
6 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Worship and Holy Communion 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/Facebook	7 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m. DEALDLINE to order Soup	8 Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.–1 p.m. Spirit Discovery Group—2:30 Choir 5:30	9 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Leadership Council Meeting via Zoom 4:45 p.m.	10	11	12 SOUPER SUNDAY SOUP PICK UP 12 – 2 p.m.
13 6th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Worship 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/Facebook (Soup Pickup snow date)	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.–1 p.m. Spirit Discovery Group—2:30 Choir 5:30	16 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	17	18	19
20 7th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Worship 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/Facebook	21 <i>President's Day</i> Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.	22 Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.–1 p.m. Spirit Discovery Group—2:30 Choir 5:30	23 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	24 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.– 11:30	25	26
27 8th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Worship 10 a.m. In-person or On Zoom/Facebook	28					