

# 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  
MAY 2022

PHONE: 603-522-3189  
WEBSITE: FCCWAKEFIELDNH.ORG  
EMAIL: CHURCHOFFICE@FCCWAKEFIELDNH.ORG  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTCONGREGATIONALCHURCHOFWAKEFIELDUCC)

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Reverend Dr. Tere Krueger

### “Is Excitement, Joy Back?!”

The enthusiasm was tangible—which is saying something for 10 am on a Saturday—Right?! Team Synergy—oh, did we brainstorm! There was much great dialogue which I will touch on. I hope you “sense” the energy we felt! I’ll abbreviate. My comments are in ( ).

“Intergenerational” questions = huge interest. Every demographic sees import/enjoyability connecting with all ages—is an ‘extended family’ for many. We have more youth —thx Gina, Julie E and others for creating youth group, including families not at church. What about reestablishing “children’s area in rear of sanctuary with age-appropriate things?

Younger parents asked for help. Enormously overburdened with family/school & being asked to do more at church can feel like a job. Would help if there were ways of giving & receiving. \*Can there be a media tool—like an instant bulletin board--where members can communicate needs, wants to each other quickly. E.G. “*Is anyone up for a concert, hike, cup of tea? Could anyone help-- who is in Rochester now? I’m sick, need a meal tonight.*” ‘Messenger’ a way to connect & quickly?

Monthly evening weekday meal provided at church; Pancake breakfast; Potluck 1x per month; Church Family Retreat? Volunteers, Men’s group Parish Helpers. . .

Church School? Good place for kids to learn stories, give respite time for parents in service. This topic has come up yet again because is important but complicated. How provide but not burden just a few people; pay for it? Do we truly care about children learning?

Can we have simple plan to act on as there is weekly need with kids in church? If have simple enough Bible story materials, people could sign up for a few weeks a year to be available when children are present. CLA can oversee sign-up. Safe church: need a 2nd person present. Let’s keep accepting kids, noise & all. (Let’s pray to see what ideas Spirit offers. I believe “if we build it, they will come”.)

Zoom? Valued enough to stay? Many positive responses—sick, shut-in’s, elderly, snowbirds, vacationers, and encouragement that our robustness is “in-person”.

Need some money & volunteers for more effective technology to help a weary tech team. Have contribution available to get earphone system in sanctuary for those who are hard of hearing. Who can research and purchase?

(Continued on Page 2)

Question: Is our focus on Endowment Fund not allowing a view to and asking for current needs to be met & preventing brainstorming of new initiatives to excite our church and provide vital outreach? Some may require teaming up with other groups outside our church? Being church in the present time is important, while protecting financials. (Can we open our minds to new possibilities while still making contributions to the Fund? Big ‘Thank You’ to members who have sacrificed to create/build Fund!)

Can we do more outreach events, invest more in advertising?

Is there meaningful “outreach project” to unite church around? Past outreach ideas: Researched making more housing for local homeless; More day-care is needed; Could we be a drop-off center? Be involved, then invite, bring friends to church?

We have united nicely around PKZ, Zimbabwe.

Can we do some simple things to keep connecting? Music unifies diff ages—bells, choirs. Get to know as work together.

Volunteers who are overwhelmed?

“Caring Angels” to send card, call, visit?

(AMEN!! Can you see how valuable, productive, how positive our time together was? **Do you see an idea here that you are drawn to?** And, are you in rhythm with yourself? Do you rest when you need to rest? God wants us to “be” & “do”.)

*Dear God. Thank You for our Church—caring people who are making a difference in Wakefield and beyond. Give us discerning minds and hearts to Hear Your Call and to Grow in Love and Care. Amen.*

### Parish Helpers News

We will kick off the restart of PH activity with a gala luncheon on May 12 at the Wakefield Inn. Please let Ginny or Rachel know if you are planning to attend.

More to look forward to - we are planning to have our Village Fair in August. We will have a quilt raffle beginning on Pride Day. We will have our Annual Picnic in July! And of course, the Treasure Shop will be opening for our summer season.

Hold on to your hats, ladies, there's a whirlwind of activity on the horizon!! Meanwhile-- be well, stay safe!

*Carol Jeffery*

### Team Synergy!



On Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> we held the first Team Synergy Meeting in our Church and for our Church in a very long time. We had 16 folks in Fellowship Hall and had 5 more joining us on Zoom. Our first Hybrid-Meeting went very well – all could be heard, seen, and participate. We spent over an hour not only confirming our love for our Church but also voicing many great ideas for things we can do now as we come out of the Pandemic. We survived! Now it is time to Thrive!

Most all of these great ideas centered around “more communication” and “more interaction”. Gina mentioned that the Youth Group would love to come to a Church Supper! Several folks voiced multiple ideas for expanding the way we communicate with Facebook Groups – forming a Group for just our members where people could share their needs and their ideas. Max mentioned getting behind a cause, such as the Social Justice movement. Did we mention dinner (it got mentioned a few times)?

We agreed that in order to continue to reach out to folks who are now “away” or who just can’t make it into Church that we should continue with Zoom and Facebook for Sunday Service. However, we also stressed that we need to continue to get folks back into our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall and yes maybe Sunday School. We may see the return of the Kids Area in our Sanctuary as a special place to make them feel welcome. There were lots and lots of other great ideas as well. The Team Synergy team will be bringing them forth over time and looking to the future for the right time to do this again. Stay tuned. This particular Team Synergy planning group consisted of: Frank, Margie, Rev. T, Julia McCarthy and Carol L. We are grateful to the techno talents of Frank and Max who provided a hybrid meeting (Zoom and in person).

*Frank Frazier*

### FCCW Connections on Facebook

We now have a PRIVATE Facebook group called FCCW Connections. If you were already a member of the FCCW Ministries Group, you are now part of the newly-named group. The purpose of the group is to provide a way to connect with other members of the church family. For a limited time, the group will be discoverable to anyone on Facebook (Which means they can find that it exists, not that anyone can join without approval.) To join, search “FCCW Connections” and request to join. An Admin will approve your request. ONLY members of the group can post or see what has been posted. You can also join the group if a present member “invites” you (via Facebook or email). Any questions, please contact me at [stepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:stepleviews@gmail.com).

*Carol Jeffery*

## From the Treasurers

First of all, a huge thank you to all of you contributors who have enabled FCCW to survive and thrive throughout this pandemic. Two years ago, we had no idea what the future would hold for us. But, you came through, and we are stronger than ever.

We instituted an online opportunity to donate, and lots of people have taken advantage of it. We want to be sure that you understand just how it works:

1. If you donate through our website with the donate button, it goes through PayPal, who charges us a fee for this service. A \$100 donation is reduced by \$2.48, so we actually receive \$97.52. This method can be used to pay for any and all church functions, for example—soup, mugs, yard sale, Zimbabwe. Our assistant Treasurer can access this money at will.
2. You can also donate through Facebook (you do not need a Facebook account). Facebook does not charge a fee, and remits monthly to us. I don't think Facebook allows you to specify where your donation goes. But you can email Julie Kessler ([julielouisekessler@gmail.com](mailto:julielouisekessler@gmail.com)) to inform her of your intent.

*Nancy Dee, Co-Treasurer*

## SAVERS Collection Time Coming Soon!

It's the best time of year to clean out those drawers and closets, etc. We are planning our trip to **SAVERS** in early June. Keep that in mind when you are sorting out your winter items and getting ready for summer. Information about drop off dates and times will be announced soon in an all-church email and in the next Steeple Views.

## Hazel MacBrien Nursery School News

During the month of April we worked on letters Ee and Uu and number 1. We had an Easter snack, we talked about Earth Day and things we can do to protect our planet, we got some Painted Lady caterpillars and the kids used magnifying glasses to get a closer look at them, we celebrated our 100th day of school in the afternoon Pre-K class and we ended the month with vacation week. Some of the fun activities we did this month were; painting with balloons, feeding the "bunny" letters to work on letter identification and marble rolling with blue and green paint to make the Earth on a paper plate and then cutting out our handprint and gluing it to the paper plate to show how we can take care of our Earth. We have started our enrollment for fall 2022 and have already received several inquiries. We are looking forward to coming back in May and seeing our caterpillars transform into butterflies!

## Library Book Review

*When Spiritual but Not Religious Is Not Enough* by Lillian Daniel can be found in the Fellowship Hall Library - Spiritual Journey Section

The phrase "I'm spiritual but not religious" has become a cliché. It's easy to find God amid the convenience of self-styled spirituality -- but is it possible (and more worthwhile) to search for God through religion?

The author gives a new spin on church with stories of what a life of faith can really be: weird, wondrous, and well worth trying. From a rock-and-roller sexton to a BB gun-toting grandma, a church service attended by animals to a group of unlikely theologians at Sing Sing, Daniel shows us a portrait of church that is flawed, fallible -- and deeply faithful. With poignant reflections and sly wit, Daniel invites all of us to step out of ourselves, dare to become a community, and encounter a God greater than we could invent.

Humorous and sincere, this is a book about people finding God in the most unexpected of places: prisons, airports, yoga classes, committee meetings, and, strangest of all, right there in church. Source: Amazon

*Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian*

## What Time Is It?



It's **PLEDGE** time!! Be on the look-out! Coming in the mail this week is a bright blue envelope containing your invitation to pledge for the 2022-23 fiscal year to support your church! Take some quiet moments to read the messages, enjoy the photos and pray about how you will offer your financial support (treasure) this coming fiscal year which begins on July 1. There are a variety of ways to pledge, but sending back the pledge card as soon as possible is a tremendous help in planning.

If you have questions or wish to discuss the pledge process, please contact our Assistant Treasurer, Julie Kessler, at 603 871-8066 or [julielouisekessler@gmail.com](mailto:julielouisekessler@gmail.com)! Thank you in advance for joining other "givers" and bless your discernment. Pledges will be dedicated on Pentecost Sunday, June 5. A copy of the proposed budget will be posted in the Narthex soon.

Your Stewardship Ministry Team,  
*Frank and Carol*

## Calling and Discernment

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7*

At our April Leadership Council meeting, Margie closed with a simple thought, in the form of prayer, that meant a lot to me. I can't remember her exact words, but the essence was this "We all need each other." This is true in relationships, in churches, in the workplace... wherever there are people who coexist. This is especially true for us at FCCW. We care for each other and we are cared for by each other.

Two wonderful members of our church, Carol Lundgren and Frank Frazier are stepping away from the Stewardship Ministry. For the past several years they have generously offered many valuable hours preparing memos, mailings and reminders that a new fiscal year is about to begin. It is not an easy task to ask FCCW members to open their pockets and renew their pledges. But this service is vital and necessary to the success of our church. And they have done it with such grace and dedication for as long as they have been co-coordinators of the Stewardship Ministry. We give thanks for their gentle way of 'asking' for the generosity of our members and for the many hours they each have devoted to all aspects of stewardship for our beloved church. As they end their tenure at the end of June, we at FCCW extend our appreciation for all that we have received because of their efforts.

Calling and Discernment would also like to remind our church members and other friends of FCCW that we are seeking to complete our Faith Formation Ministry and Outreach Ministry with co-coordinators as well. As always there are many other opportunities for you to share your spiritual gifts. God works through the Spirit that dwells within us.

If you are feeling a tug at your heart to become more involved at church in any way, please come knocking at the door. Or even easier, for more information contact Linda Messer at 781-8745 or email [linda1messer@gmail.com](mailto:linda1messer@gmail.com) or Connie Littlefield at [connielittlefield@yahoo.com](mailto:connielittlefield@yahoo.com)

*Linda Messer*

## Gratitude and Joy

I wish to thank many of our church family friends for providing our sanctuary with the colorful and beautiful Spring plants. The beauty and delight of fresh flowers are a gentle reminder of our Gods Grace and Love.

*Blessings, Rachel White*

## Decadent and Delicious

On behalf of the hospitality team of Janet, Laura and Rachel we wish to express our joyfulness and gratitude to Baker Brian for providing our coffee hour with both a chocolate and a vanilla homemade cheesecake adorned with raspberries, strawberries and even whipped cream! Thank You, Brian!

*Blessings, Rachel White*

## Rev. Richard Slater to Retire

After forty-eight years of Ordained Ministry and fourteen years serving on the New Hampshire Conference Staff, our dear colleague, Richard Slater, is announcing his retirement at the end of this year. Linked with this announcement is a [letter from Richard](#). I hope you will give it your attention as he speaks powerfully both of his days in ministry and his thoughts as he moves toward this new season of life.

As I expect we all will, I greet this news with mixed feelings. I will miss my daily interactions with Richard (and will be cherishing each day between now and the end of the year). I celebrate that retirement will allow Richard much deserved extra time for family, reading, and long bike rides that the rigors of being an Associate Conference Minister don't always allow. But most of all, I feel profound gratitude. Whether it is the many ears that have heard the word of God spoken through Richard's voice, the many souls that have been held in his care during times of grief or crisis, or the many churches that have benefited from his wisdom during times of conflict or pastoral transition, I am deeply thankful for all the gifts of God's grace that have been shared with Christ's Church through the fruits of Richard's ministry. As we approach the fall, we will be announcing opportunities for all of us to share with Richard both words of appreciation and words of parting.

Of course, Richard's unfolding new future also means a new future for the New Hampshire Conference. The Conference Board and I have decided that we would like to search for our next Associate Conference Minister in a way that would allow her/their/his start up to be contiguous with the conclusion of Richard's tenure. In other words, we are hoping our next Associate Conference Minister will step into the role some time between mid-December 2022 and late January 2023. To that end, we've already been at work. We will be posting the Associate Conference Minister position for applicants next week. It is our intention to be able to present a candidate for election at the Conference Annual Meeting on October 15th.

I hope you will all join me in surrounding Richard and his family in prayer over the weeks and months to come.

*Blessings, Gordon Rankin*



# HEARING GOD'S CALL

Bring or mail your pledge card to: FCCW, 2718 Wakefield Road, Sanbornville, NH 03872. Attention: Assistant Treasurer

On Sunday, June 5th, we will bless and dedicate our combined pledge commitment. In this way we are "Hearing God's Call". Growing in Love and Care.

## 2022-2023 ANNUAL GIVING PLEDGE



*Our Mission: Hearing God's Call. Growing in Love and Care*

*Dedication and blessings of all pledges: Sunday, June 5th*

First Congregational Church  
of Wakefield, NH UCC

Yes! I/we support this church with an annual pledge of : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This gift will be fulfilled as follows:     Weekly     Monthly     Quarterly     Annually

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Family

We just returned from visiting some of my Southern relatives. I emphasize “Southern” because most of George’s family live in New England, while mine can be found south of the Mason Dixon Line. We had a wonderful time fishing in a small well-stocked pond, nestled in rolling North Carolina farmland. In addition to George and me, there were two of my brothers, Vic up from Florida, and Lee over from Maryland. We stayed with my nephew, Eric. His delightful five-year-old daughter Iris out fished us all. She didn’t hesitate to not only dig under rocks and logs for the fattest worms, but she also had no qualms about putting them on her hook. Iris would cast her line with its brightly colored red bobber and worm, then patiently watch to see if a fish was interested. It didn’t take very long before a squeal arose, “I got one!” and she was frantically reeling in her prize. The joy and excitement from one so full of innocence made everyone cheer, including the cows who’s pond we were fishing in. Iris knew she shouldn’t touch the hook, so she would ask for help, but always made sure, grasping with both hands, she was the one returning the fish to the water.



Iris is my sister Kay’s only granddaughter. She was born August of 2016. Kay passed away January of 2017. Those few months together were all that Kay and Iris had. It blesses me to see Eric, through stories and pictures, making sure Iris knows about her grandmother. In 2019, Iris was only about 2 and ½. That spring, George and I were passing through North Carolina, and we stopped for a visit. Iris

was showing me her toy and the part she wanted open was stuck. With her big, bright, lavender eyes she looked at me and said, “help me grandma”. I melted. To these precious eyes, I must have resembled Kay and therefore she thought I was her grandma, not her great aunt.

Our time on earth is limited enough, but with various ailments, such as cancer, time becomes fleeting. We all have family. They may be distant or in-laws. They may be multi-generational or immediate. Cherish your time with family. Don’t wait for the right weather, season, or other convenience. I can only hope that there will come a time when I see my sister again. Until then, I will be there for her granddaughter in any way possible.

*Donna V Ackerman*

## Mother’s Day Remembrance

Linda Messer shares this Mother's Day poem in remembrance of all mothers who are no longer with us. It was written in 1934 by her grandmother (Hazel Hough Adams) when her great-grandmother (Barbara Dunkle Hough) died. Linda’s mother (Isabel Adams Low) died in 1990 and this poem was read at her funeral by Rev Maren Tirabassi. Linda’s family did not belong to a church, and so the funeral home contacted the minister of the local church in Melrose, Mass.

### To The Tree My Mother Planted by Hazel Belle Adams

Oh, friendly elm by the kitchen door,  
Your low, spreading boughs, like outstretched arms  
Welcome me home,  
Though it is no longer the same.

For the busy hands which so lovingly tended  
Your first feeble efforts to live and grow,  
Are still, in restful sleep.

And though her voice and her smile are gone,  
And mute reminders of her dear presence  
Serve only to renew the heartache  
Her going has meant,  
Still you comfort me.

The voice in your branches whispers gently:  
“My child, be not so sad,  
For surely as I change this drab brown dress  
For one of lovely green when spring is here,  
So will she, whose death has brought you grief,  
Arise and live again.”

And the softly murmured words  
Are as a benediction of hope and promise  
On my bowed head.

So, friendly elm, live on.  
Keep faith alive, lest hope forsake me.

Live on, a magnificent monument to one  
Who cherished the least of God’s growing things.

Give shade and rest  
To weary laborer of the fields,  
And let the song birds she loved find haven  
In your arms.

Guard well the door- keep safe from harm  
Her dear ones sheltered within.

And sing a low, soft lullaby to the sleeping countryside  
When daily tasks are done.

For she who gave your roots so tenderly  
Into the care of Mother Earth  
Would have it so.

# Celebrations!

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Sarah Connell	14 Scott Frothingham
5 Emma Dolbear	17 George Ackerman Jr.
7 Dalton Ostrye	17 Bridgette Gehring
8 Scott Mercer	18 Lance MacLean
9 Maurice Hatch	19 Cindy Eggleston
10 Sophia Moran	22 Peg Bridges
11 Sharon Baldwin	23 Marc Galabrun
11 Patricia Martin	23 Lynn Shaffer
11 Wayne Robinson	28 Luke Evenson
13 Nicholas Gatchell	29 Scott Twombly
14 Elizabeth Fogg	31 Brittany Frothingham

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

3 Barry & Evelyn Truhn
13 Charlie & Ann Bilodeau
18 David & Gisela Haag
24 Chip & Karen Hagy
29 Rob & Kelly Druge
30 Richard & Linda Messer
31 Dick & Harriet Wilson

## 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: Glenna Nelson and family on the passing of Dick.**

**Bob and Mary J, Carol J's Niece Chrissy, Wendy D, Rob L., Arlene L., Josiah S., Kris W, Jan S., Curt C., Cindy E**

*With Sympathy*

We are saddened by the passing of Richard (Dick) Nelson on Saturday, April 23, 2022 after a brief illness. Dick was 99 years old. He lived in East Wakefield, NH with his wife, Glenna, for 32 years, before moving to Dover, NH in 2020. They are treasured members of our church and the community. A service will be held at the FCCW on May 14, 2022.

## Pride Day—May 21

Plans are underway for FCCW's participation in Wakefield's annual Pride Day celebration. More information will be coming soon via email and Facebook.

Pride Day will be held on May 21 and this year's theme is The Magic of Wakefield.

The Parish Helpers will be unveiling their 2022 Raffle Quilt, "Windows of Hope." Tickets for a chance to win this queen size quilt will sold for \$5 each or 3 for \$10.



## FCCW Music Camp

FCCW Music Camp is back again this summer and we are looking forward to seeing our returning campers and excited to meet new ones! It will be held the week of August 1st through August 5th!

Children attending first grade through high school in September are welcome to attend. The camp is free of charge! Camp starts promptly at 9:00 AM and ends at 12:30 PM. each day. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Music lessons will be offered in Handbells for students ages eleven and up, as well as Ukulele and Kazoo lessons for all campers! There will also be a Movement with Music activity each day and fun Games!

New campers, please call Andrea, FCCW Congregational Life Administrator, at 603-522-3189 and the application and information packet will be mailed to you. If you are a returning camper, the application and packet will be sent to you automatically. If you do not receive it in the mail, please call CLA Andrea.

We are looking forward to another exciting week this summer!!

*Buddy Dee, Patricia Golden, and Evy Truhn*

# MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Worship and Holy Communion</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> <b>In-person or On Zoom/ Facebook</b>	<b>2</b> Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.	<b>3</b> Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.—1 p.m.  Spirit Discovery 3:30  Choir 5:30	<b>4</b> Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room  Diaconate Meeting 4 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>  <b>MOTHERS' DAY</b>  <b>Worship</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> <b>In-person or On Zoom/</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.—1 p.m.  Spirit Discovery 3:30  Choir 5:30	<b>11</b> Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room  Leadership Council 4:45 p.m.	<b>12</b> Parish Helpers Luncheon  Wakefield Inn 12 noon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> <b>In-person or On Zoom/</b>	<b>16</b> Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.	<b>17</b> Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.—1 p.m.  Spirit Discovery 3:30  Choir 5:30	<b>18</b> Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>WAKEFIELD PRIDE DAY</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> <b>In-person or On Zoom/</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.—1 p.m.  Spirit Discovery 3:30  Choir 5:30	<b>25</b> Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	<b>26</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.—11:30	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>10 a.m.</b> <b>In-person or On Zoom/</b>	<b>30</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>31</b> Adult Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 p.m.—1 p.m.  Spirit Discovery 3:30  Choir 5:30				





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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD  
SANBORNVILLE, NH 03872

