

STEEPLE VIEWS



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

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS
AUGUST 2022

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Still Waters

A Reflection by Linda Messer

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul;..... (Psalm 23:1-3 MEV)*

After a long day or week's work during the summer months, many of us spend time at the water's edge relaxing, restoring, and rejuvenating. Others find themselves walking along forest paths, climbing mountain trails, or picnicking in the wide open spaces of a pasture. We all need to restore our souls one way or another.

Right now, without a settled pastor, our beloved church is like the ocean at the time of a slack tide. Slack water is described as a short period in a body of tidal water when the water is completely unstressed. It is also defined as the period at the turn of the tide when there is little or no horizontal motion of tidal water. In other words, there is no tug one way or another. Like the still waters, we are at rest, at peace. We are unstressed. That does not mean we are doing nothing. We continue to do our 'church' things. But I suggest that we do these things with the purpose of renewal, discernment and joy. Let us rejoice in each other's company, enjoy worship as a congregational unit and appreciate sharing our faith. Let us restore our soul. Soon enough the waves will start to roll one way or another as we settle into the new tidal movement and evolve with a new ministry. But for now, let's enjoy who we are and appreciate this time of discernment.

This is the perfect time for each of us to look inward. What gives us joy? What gives us confidence? What challenges us to grow and learn? What can we share that would make a difference in our church. What time and talents can we offer? During this slack tide, peaceful time, let each one of us take the time to discern ways we might dip our toes into pools of still water and find ways that will restore our souls and ready ourselves for whatever may lay ahead.

Tribal

Over the years I have heard many people declare that a population of some kind is their “tribe”. It is human nature to have feelings of belonging. Most of us are a part of a family whether nuclear or multigenerational. We gather at family events like holidays, birthdays, weddings, and funerals. We go camping, have picnics, and take family vacations. But in the most recent years I hear folks talk about their “tribe” or their “people”. These are individuals outside their family. We categorize people into various collections. I call my girlfriends my tribe, my people. We gather and share movies, foods, beverages, and updates on things going on in our lives.

George and I learned, while living on an island reservation in Southeast Alaska, there were many tribes or clans. The main Native tribe was the Tsimpshians. They were divided into four main clans: Killer Whale, Wolf, Eagle, and Raven. These clans had their own matriarch, songs, dances and regalia. They were very distinctive and occasionally competitions and challenges arose between clans. But like siblings who argue within a family, these clans all considered themselves Tsimpshian first and foremost.

We traveled to Scotland this past June and I discovered that my ancestors on my mother’s side were of the McDonald clan. Mama’s maiden name was McDaniel, but unlike blood lineage, the Scotts can be part of a clan based on loyalty. The McDaniels were loyal to the McDonald clan. So, they fought beside and married within that clan. It has a very long history and dates back thousands of years. Learning of this connection to Scottish origins gave me a sense of belonging. As most know, I moved many times growing up. I don’t have community connections that many develop from being in one place over a long period of time. After twenty-two years, I now consider Wakefield my home and FCCW my church and tribe.

Biblically, there were twelve tribes of Israel descending from the twelve sons of Jacob. The book of Matthew depicts the genealogy of Jesus beginning with Abraham and all the “begats” until it reaches Joseph and Mary. It was very important to make such connections so that Jesus would be more accepted as the Messiah. In Jesus’s case he was of the tribe of Israel, a Jewish man, but not necessarily recognized as the Messiah as the Old Testament prophets stated.

One of the consequences of declaring people as your tribe is that there can be exclusions of others. This can cause hurt and, in some cases, major divisions. Today’s political landscape has resulted in aggressive interactions due to the categorizing of folks into tribes, clans, or “us vs them”. As in most things in life it is wise to strive for balance. Enjoy your tribe, clan, and family while also working toward being the kind of person the world needs.

Donna V Ackerman

Men’s Fellowship



The Mens’ Fellowship continues to meet regularly and to provide good works for the church and community. Here, George and Brian help move an FCCW dear one to a nursing home.

Zimbabwe News



Renovations continue on the building for the proposed medical clinic in Humani. The roof is now completed and the large open area is being sectioned off into rooms for medical consultation and examining rooms, a reception and waiting area, a pharmacy, and a storage room. More cement and door frames were sent this week. Looking forward to updated photos. It is great to see how the building is slowly

transforming. Windows, an improved floor, a handicapped ramp, and a fresh coat of paint remain on the wish list!

Connie Littlefield



Our lovely garden—hydrangeas hugging the piano.
Photo by Linda Messer.

Scrabble



It has been a LONG 36 months since the Scrabble group last met in the Parish Helpers Room at Church. Save the date of September 7 at 1 p.m.

Some changes to the schedule are being considered, but we are hoping to meet the first Wednesday of each month at Church. We will meet at 1 p.m. and plan to leave by 3:30. Each person will bring (if they want) a drink or snack. There will be no one will responsible as HOSTESS. Masks will be optional. If interested, PLEASE COME!!!! More information, call Elizabeth Fogg (603-522-5116)

Elizabeth Fogg

News from Sam

Dear Wakefield Friends,

I wanted to share with you that I am making good progress in my summer job with Upward Bound. Everything is going well and I am having fun with the high school students and other staff members. We do many leadership activities and I am teaching the students how to play chess.

I feel bad sometimes that due to my hectic schedule I have not been able to see my friends in Wakefield -- those who took part in making my stay to the USA possible and those who think about me and send me cards. It has been close to a year now and I am hoping I will have an opportunity to meet be you again very soon.

Kathy Blair took me to Dartmouth to look at the college. We did an unofficial tour and I think it is a pretty good school. I will try applying there at some point in the future and see how it goes. I would appreciate your prayers.

Samuel Khumbula

Breaking News!

] The brand new, highly anticipated, Ukulele Club will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, from 6 - 7:30 pm starting September 27 in the Fellowship Hall of FCCW! The acclaimed Lance MacLean will be leading us in instruction, songs and, most of all, FUN. Cost is \$10.00 per person, \$5.00 for each additional family member. We have a few loaner ukes available for those who do not have one yet. First come, first served. Any questions, you can contact Buddy Dee at buddy.dee1023@gmail.com

Building and Grounds Ministry

Building and Grounds would like to remind everyone that we need to keep the fire doors closed at all times. The fire doors have been labeled as the 2 million dollar doors in the past. In the event of a fire, those doors will help to prevent the spread of the flames. In the event of a fire, if any one of those doors is left propped open, then our fire insurance would be void. So we are asking, please do not prop them open, even for coffee hour.

If you happen to be traveling through the fellowship hall, you might notice a new dehumidifier in the small room where we keep the extra chairs. The door to that chair closet needs to be left open and that dehumidifier needs to be emptied by hand. If you think you can handle emptying it, please do so when you notice the red light glowing. Just dump the water down the sink.

Thank you, B&G

Parish Helpers Quilt Raffle



“Windows of Hope”

This year’s quilt was actually made in 2020 and then the pandemic hit. We are finally able to raffle it off this year. It is a queen size quilt pieced by the Parish-Helpers Quilters. Tickets for the raffle are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. You can purchase your ticket from any of the Parish Helpers and at the Village Fair or Treasure Shop. The winning ticket will be drawn in November!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

We have many opportunities in our church and community to be stewards of our earth. The Treasure Shop, the Yard Sale, Online Sales and the SAVERS collection are grateful recipients of your “too good to throw away” stuff that you no longer need.

Next time you decide to clean cabinets or closets, keep this in mind. Helping the church raise funds and helping the environment!

Celebrations!

Thank You!

Many thanks to the many church members who surprised me with cards, flowers, garden produce, items for the Food Pantry and visits on my 90th birthday. It was an overwhelming sensation to be remembered by so many. I feel blessed - again - to be part of this generous church.

Titia Bozuwa

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

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

Rest in Peace, Bob James

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved Bob James on Thursday, July 21.. Please keep Reverend Mary and their family in your prayers. A celebration of his life will be held at the Community Church of Durham, UCC on August 27 at 11 a.m. [A lovely tribute to Bob can be read here.](#)



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.


FCCW 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.

Please pray for:

Mary J & Family • Laura F • Sue L • Matt S • Arlene L • Peter & Linda F • Wendy D & Alberta W • Carol J's Family: Tim & Chrissy, Joan C.

AUGUST 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Choir 5:30	3 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Diaconate Meeting 4 p.m.	4 Chair Yoga 10:30 Fellowship Hall	5	6 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room
Children's Music Camp - August 1 to 5—9 a.m. to 12 noon						
7 9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SUNDAY Worship 10 a.m. In-person, Zoom or Facebook Live	8 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.	9 Choir 5:30	10 Treasure Shop Open 9–12	11 Chair Yoga 10:30 Fellowship Hall	12 Village Fair Set Up	13 VILLAGE FAIR 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room
14 10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SUNDAY Worship 10 a.m. In-person, Zoom or Facebook Live	15	16 Choir 5:30	17 Treasure Shop Open 9–12	18 Chair Yoga 10:30 Fellowship Hall	19	20 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room
21 11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SUNDAY Worship 10 a.m. In-person, Zoom or Facebook Live	22 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.	23 Choir 5:30	24 Treasure Shop Open 9–12	25 Chair Yoga 10:30 Fellowship Hall Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.– 11:30	26	27 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room
28 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SUNDAY Worship 10 a.m. In-person, Zoom or Facebook Live	29	30 Choir 5:30	31			 September 3 All-Church Yard Sale!

Village Fair



AND FAMOUS
**COOKIE
WALK**



SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
(ACROSS FROM THE WAKEFIELD INN)
2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD, WAKEFIELD, NH**

**COOKIE WALK - CRAFTS - HOMEMADE PIES AND
BREADS—JEWELRY—VENDORS—QUILT RAFFLE
LUNCH**

**THE TREASURE SHOP WILL ALSO BE OPEN!
COME JOIN IN THE FUN IN THE
VILLAGE OF WAKEFIELD CORNER!**

SUMMER EVENTS!

Children's Music Camp — August 1—5

The Village Fair—August 13

Yard Sale — September 3



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