

An illustration for a yard sale featuring a yellow lamp, a basket of blue items, a green jacket on a hanger, a blue bottle, and a blue net.

Yard Sale!

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 3RD
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

The First Congregational Church
2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH (across from the Wakefield Inn)

**Baked goods, Quality Clothing & Accessories,
Books, Puzzles, Toys, CDs, DVDs, Household Items,
Antique/Vintage Items, Select Indoor/Outdoor
Furniture, Outdoor/Camping Items**

Something for Everyone!



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



STEEPLE VIEWS



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

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS
SEPTEMBER 2022

PHONE: 603-522-3189
WEBSITE: FCCWAKEFIELDNH.ORG
EMAIL: CHURCHOFFICE@FCCWAKEFIELDNH.ORG

Re-Entry

A Reflection by Donna Ackerman

The other night some of my girlfriends and I attended an improvisational performance at “The Village Players” theater in Wolfeboro. The cast consisted of five men who had been previously incarcerated. The title, “Re-Entry”, pretty much says it all. If you have never experienced an improvisational performance, let me tell you it was incredible. The actors began their interactions with a theme. For example, one actor was having a conflict with his “hypothetical” fourteen-year-old daughter. Then, like a classical composer creating variations on a theme, they played off one another. The skills of these actors brought the audience to laughter, tears, and sometimes anger. I found myself several times leaning forward in my seat and holding my breath. By the end of the night my emotions were raw. This performance was not for the faint of heart. The different monologs lead you down a path that could leave you hanging and wanting more. The final skit was a role-play about being pulled over by the police for a busted taillight, while being on parole, and finding themselves across state lines. Something that could result in a violation of parole and being sent back to jail. They had to use the “tools” they learned through the arts program they received while in prison. Tools that made it possible to interact in the outside world without getting sent back to jail, or worse killed. Many ex-cons have a difficult time finding a job or a place to live. As one actor said, his world is all about “second chances”. I can’t imagine any of us not experiencing a second chance for some misconduct that we have engaged in. I have had numerous second chances in my lifetime. I thank God that he is not a respecter of persons. God treats all persons in the same way. Jesus ate with the poor, the tax collectors, and the socially shunned. Jesus showed us the walk we are to walk and not just talk about. We cannot say we are followers of Christ and still judge others because of their ethnicity, immigration status, LGBTQ standing, or previous incarceration. Our church is an Open and Affirming church. One that says, “Whatever your walk-in life, past, present, and future, you are welcomed here”. We are a loving congregation that provides second chances and the tools to assist in Re-Entry.

A Message From the Diaconate

The deacons met to complete the “Request for Pastoral Leadership for our Time of Transition” form. The form was then sent to Rev. Richard Slater, Associate Conference Minister. We are looking to hire a Transitional Minister for 3-6 months. This minister will be able to do much of what a settled pastor would do, on a temporary basis. Once we have a Transitional Minister in place, we will be able to focus on pursuing a settled pastor. In order to include the entire congregation in this process, we hope to offer a meal, whereby people will be able to share their ideas and expectations for the new settled pastor.

We are very grateful to those who have come forward as lay ministers, to fill the pulpit on Sunday mornings. It has been greatly appreciated!

Finally, we thank you for your patience and understanding, during this time of transition. This process takes time. We are currently awaiting the reply from Rev. Slater at the Conference.

Please hold us in prayer as we navigate these sometimes uncharted waters. We will update you as we hear from the Conference, as to the progress of our Transitional Minister.

Blessings, The Diaconate

In the upcoming weeks, we welcome to the pulpit: September 4—Julia McCarthy; September 11— Rev. Pam Maiden; September 18—Ernie Shipman

Thank You!

Thank you to all from the Wakefield Food Pantry!

I would like to take a moment to thank all the people that contribute to the Wakefield Food Pantry. We have seen an increase this summer in the number of families in the community that are coming each week for food. So far in August 2022 we have given out 810 more meals than we did last August! We are also seeing larger families – 6-8 in a household. We are receiving less food from the NH Food Bank and USDA.

The food that we receive regularly from the local churches go a long way to help us – it is frequently items that we do not receive otherwise. Thank you also to Jo Szirbik for making sure that everyone knows what to donate each month. Thank you for your continued support. It is greatly needed and appreciated!

*Marilou MacLean, Operations Manager
Wakefield Food Pantry*

Hazel MacBrien NS



We are so excited to be back for the 2022-2023 school year!! The first day of school is on Wednesday, September 7th. Our teachers, board and students want to say a huge THANK YOU to the church for letting us use the beautiful classroom at your facility! We're looking forward

Inspired by Gratitude

Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. Philippians 4:6 (NET)

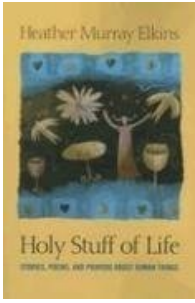
Have you ever wondered why you come to church? In addition to Brian’s yummy cheesecake or cinnamon coffee cake he so generously offers at coffee hour, of course! Is it the people who have become like family? Is it the music, the sermon or the prayer? Most of us are likely to say, “a little of everything above.” I believe all those reasons are some of what inspire us to give thanks and worship our God for all that has been created. Although we are not required to give anything in return for all that we receive, we know that the Holy Spirit within us will guide us in the right direction. Is this spirituality?? We all have much we could offer as a display of gratitude....compassion, support, empathy, forgiveness, love. Maybe even time and talent. And stewardship!! Caring for and protecting each other, our planet and all of its creatures impact OUR future. And the future of this and many other churches.

We know a church is not just a building but it IS a place where we like to gather together. While God has a hand in all we do, it is our collective gutsy, Spirit-inspired will and determination that maintains this special place called First Congregational Church Wakefield NH. Our own members collect needed financial resources, match talents to tasks, educate the young as well as old, and offer spiritual guidance to those in need.

Maybe this is the time that YOU will consider a place in the Ministry of Stewardship or the Ministry of Faith Formation. Please take the time to find out more, by calling/emailing Linda Messer (linda1messer@gmail.com, 603-781-8745) or Connie Littlefield (603-268-5445) (connie.littlefield@yahoo.com) Or simply call the church at 603-522-3189 and leave your name and a number/email where we can reach you.

Linda Messer

Adult Faith Formation
Classes to Resume



With summer and all its myriad of activities coming to an end, it's time to consider refocusing and reacquainting ourselves to our faith journey. To get us restarted, we'll be using a book by Heather Murray Elkins entitled "Holy Stuff of Life." This book gives us a collection of stories, poems and prayers where "each one highlights a sacred truth housed in the ordinary things of

our lives. It will serve to make us more aware that very few things are truly ordinary and that our lives are filled with small and not so small divine moments"

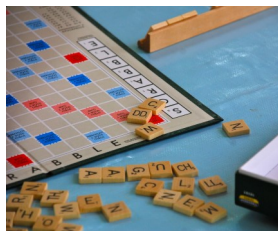
Each week we will focus on a section of the book as pre-determined the week before (some of the "chapters" are very short, some are much longer). I will be placing an order based on the number of people that would like me to order their copy. Please contact Julie Kessler if you're interested in attending and/or if you'd like a copy: julielouisekessler@gmail.com or call 603-871-8066.

Note that class meets on Tuesdays at 12:00. The class will begin either Sept 20th or 27th depending on when the books arrive. To start, we will meet via Zoom but can change to in-person or hybrid depending on what people prefer.

Julie Kessler

Scrabble

It's coming soon—The Scrabble Group will start up again on September 7 at 1 p.m. in the Parish Helpers room.



There will be some changes. 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

The third and final term for Zimbabwe students begins in September. (The Zim school year is based on the British system and begins in January and ends in December.) While the government has lifted mask mandates for people who are vaccinated, all students are required to wear masks as ordered by the Ministry of Education. And in Zimbabwe there is absolutely no arguing about mask mandates. Everyone complies.



PKZ has another new student seeking sponsorship. Benjamin Shoma has been a Form 3 student at Rimbi High School. His father is dead and his mother is not able to send her children to school. A relative noted Benjamin has a problem "growing up" and is small for his size due to a lack of food and adequate nutrition. (If you are interested in assisting Benjamin please speak to a member of the PKZ

Team.)

Our sister church at Rufumiso is also without a settled pastor. The UCCZ head office sent a seminarian to be with the congregation for two months but that student has returned to school so they, too, depend upon lay leadership from the congregation. There are few members in the Rufumiso Church who have formal jobs -- formal jobs are those who work as a teacher, nurse or other civil servant -- so the congregation finds it difficult to fund a pastor's salary when so few people have any kind of steady income. Another issue for keeping a pastor is adequate housing. Pastors and their family members have stayed in two rooms at the back of the church. The building of a parsonage at Rufumiso began in 2012 has not been completed. Our 2012 & 2014 FCCW mission travel teams worked on aspects of building the parsonage while the 2016 mission team focused on painting the church. For the past two- three years the \$250 in our church budget has purchased cement and other parsonage building supplies. This amount is a bit of a drop in the bucket yet our sister church is extremely grateful for the assistance given.

Let's remember to keep our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe in our prayers!

Connie Littlefield

Notes from the Treasurer

Did you know that the office will accept your used ink cartridges? Andrea will collect and when we reach 20 cartridges, she takes them to Staples for a credit on our account. You can leave them in the CLA box in the Narthex.

As a reminder, the Assistant Treasurer handles all deposits. So, when you are popping your envelope in the box, make sure it's the Assistant Treasurer. The Treasurer's box is for Payment Authorizations, invoices, notes, etc.

Every month I create a Treasurer's Report, which goes out to Leadership Council. If any member would also like to receive this report by email, please contact me at nancy.dee2018@gmail.com. I'm happy to provide it.

Our next Finance Meeting will be held via ZOOM on October 20 at 1:00. All are welcome, just contact Julie Kessler for a ZOOM invite.

Nancy Dee, Co-Treasurer

****UKULELES****

A Ukulele Club will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6 to 7:30 pm, starting September 27 in the downstairs Fellowship Hall of FCCW. Acclaimed musician, Lance MacLean will be leading all ages in instruction, songs, and most of all, FUN. Cost of \$10.00 per person, per session, \$5.00 for each additional family member. We have a few loaner ukuleles available for those who do not have one yet. First Come, First Served. Any questions, contact Buddy Dee at buddy.dee1023@gmail.com

Safe Church Up Date

Safe Church Team is currently actively meeting with the Building & Grounds Ministry to plan how best to use a \$25,000 grant we have been awarded. The grant (thanks to Buddy Dee's grant writing skills) will do FIVE things for FCCW: better outside lighting, better locking mechanisms at outside doors, better communication systems within the church building and more consistent internet connection throughout the building.

We have already received the first bids and are evaluating them. This will likely be a long process, so please stay tuned! Should you have questions or wish to participate, please contact our CLA, Andrea Selig, in the office and she will facilitate a response from a team member.

Carol Lundgren

CareGivers Support Group

Caregiving for a loved one is an honor, a privilege and, at times, daunting. And it can be lonely. Our church hosts a caregiver self-care support group usually the 1st and 3rd Monday each month from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Parish Helpers Room. All who are caregiving are welcome to join this supportive group. Please extend the invitation. There is no charge - ever!

Carol Lundgren

Parish Helpers News

If you are a Parish Helper, and you can manage it without hurting yourself, PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK!

Thanks to your hard work and generosity (and that of our friends in the Congregation,) the Parish Helpers Village Fair was a big success. Along with a stellar day at the Treasure Shop, we added to our coffers which enable us to continue our giving to the church and local/ world charities. It couldn't be done without you all - from baking, cooking, set up and take down, and being present to work at the fair and the TS - it takes a Village to pull off a successful day! And we did it! Thank you all!

Now that the fair is behind us, we can focus on upcoming events. We start off in September with a regularly (remember that?) scheduled meeting on **Sept. 8 in the Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m.** We will have a short business meeting followed by a guest speaker. It's been a long time, and we welcome back Beryl Donovan, Director of the Gafney Library. It's an exciting time for the Gafney and Berrie will talk about the expansion, the opening and what else is new in the world of books!

The Treasure Shop is having its best season ever! Donations are still coming in and so are the customers. We'll be keeping the shop open until Columbus Day weekend so there is still plenty of time to sign up and help in the shop. If your summer has been too busy, you still have time to have some fun in the TS!

And here's something to look forward to in October— **On October 13**, the Parish Helpers will host a program by Rebecca Rule, NH writer and humorist. You may recall her last program with us, "That Reminds Me of a Story", a few years ago. This program is free and open to the public. Mark your calendars!

Carol Jeffery

Music Camp Report

We have completed Music Camp 2022 and we are very happy with the results this year. The August 14 Sunday Service that the Campers helped with and performed, was well attended. The Campers did a fabulous job, were polite, kind and helpful during Camp week and at the service. Music Camp by the Numbers: 30 campers, 20 volunteers, 200 volunteer hours during camp (4 hours/day X 10 volunteers = 40 X 5 days = 200 hours) This does not include prior planning. Under \$410 spent, including food, bell music, gifts for kids, bible curriculum, etc.

We could not have done this without the support of our volunteers and congregation.

This is an important outreach of FCCW to the Wakefield Community, as most of the campers were not members of our Church. They learned music, handbells, percussion, ukuleles. They also learned about Jesus through song, movement and games. They learned about themselves, worked to learn about, and play, an instrument, to work within a group and learned about Jesus' love through this fun experience.

*Thanks to one and all,
Patricia Golden, Evelyn Truhn, Buddy Dee*

Safe Church Update

Safe Church Team is currently actively meeting with the Building & Grounds Ministry to plan how best to use a \$25,000 grant we have been awarded. The grant (thanks to Buddy Dee's grant writing skills) will do FIVE things for FCCW: better outside lighting, better locking mechanisms at outside doors, better communication systems within the church building and more consistent internet connection throughout the building. We have already received the first bids and are evaluating them. This will likely be a long process, so please stay tuned! Should you have questions or wish to participate, please contact our CLA, Andrea Selig, in the office and she will facilitate a response from a team member!

Carol Lundgren

Stewardship

As you may know, Stewardship does not have a coordinator at the moment! We pray God will touch someone's heart who will want to creatively engage in this lovely ministry. Former long-time coordinators, Frank and Carol, are ready to "pass the baton" with just the right amount of advice and encouragement. If you would like to hear more about this Ministry, please give Carol a call @ 978 807-4041

Carol Lundgren.

Welcome New Members!



Anne and Joe Palmariello are both from the greater Boston area and first met on a blind date in 1985. They immediately hit it off and their romance blossomed. They were married and have 4 children in their blended family -- 3 boys and a girl. The kids are now grown and live dispersed around the northern New England region.

Anne worked in the radiology field inside and outside a hospital environment. Joe began in the military where he spent 6 1/2 years in the army. After working in a variety of jobs, he settled into the telecommunications field moving from desktop systems to mobile telecommunications beginning with Nextel and then migrating along the merger route to Nextel, Sprint and finally T-Mobile.

Although both Anne and Joe were brought up Catholic, they eased their way to Protestantism. They moved to Dearborn Road in East Wakefield on Lake Ivanhoe near the Vanderhoofs who connected them with FCCW which they have enjoyed greatly and became members of the church family this year.

They are quite active in our community. Anne served as president of the Wakefield Lions recently and is active in the Friends of the Wakefield Libraries. Joe is a Mason and member of the Union Masonic Lodge. Both Anne and Joe are active volunteers with the Wakefield Food Pantry. They are excited about being members of our FCCW church family. Welcome Anne and Joe!

Dave Schweitzer

Library News

Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life (J-G)
The Boundless Compassion Journal (J-G)
Prayers of Boundless Compassion (S-Pr)
By Joyce Rupp



Joyce Rupp is well known for her work as a writer, spiritual midwife, international retreat leader, and conference speaker. She is a member of the Servite (Servants of Mary) community and the co-director of the Boundless Compassion program. Rev. Linda Fraser recommended her books during her leadership of our worship service on July 24.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

Celebrations!

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

21 Scott & Kathy Frothingham



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Christine Feddern	16 Russell Baldwin
2 Ryan Hughes	16 MacKenzie Robinson
8 Susan Girardin	18 Sara Denver
8 Lora Stanley	18 Sarah Duplinsky
10 Meaghan Connell	18 Margie Galabrun
10 Rachel White	19 Eric Perkins
11 Mark Evenson	19 Sharon Theiling
11 Ken Jeffery	24 Connor Nelson
12 Cindy Denver	25 Joe Brejwo
12 Priscilla Frothingham	26 Rebecca Mooers
14 David Schweitzer (80)	28 Edie Garland
15 Ethan Ball	30 Janice Brejwo

Happy 80th Birthday, Dave!

If you see this youngster out around town on September 14, be sure to wish Dave Schweitzer a happy 80th birthday! Have a great day, Dave!



Rest in Peace

We are saddened by the passing of our dear friend, Donna Vanderhoof. Donna left her earthly life on July 28th. She was a longtime member of the church and active with the Parish Helpers and Prayer Shawl Ministries. She will be greatly missed. **A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, September 9, 2022, at 11 am at our church.** Please pray for comfort for her family and friends during this difficult time.



You can read obituary here:

<https://www.peasleefuneralhome.com/obituary/donna-vanderhoof>

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

We believe that prayer is powerful!

During this time of transition in our church, let us pray for our church leaders—the Diaconate who work tirelessly to carry on duties above and beyond and to the Officers, Ministry Coordinators, and Leadership Council for their thoughtful deliberations in guiding our church during this time of uncertainty.



And as always, please keep in your prayers all those who suffer in any way in mind, body and spirit,

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:

Vanderhoof Family; Laura F; Sue L; Matt S; Arlene L; Peter and Linda F; Wendy D & Alberta W; Carol J’s Family; Tim, Chrissy, Michael, and Barry; Joan C; Sharon L; Don S.; Mary J and her Family

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Set up for Yard Sale 9 a.m.—3 p.m.	2 Set up for Yard Sale 9 a.m.—3 p.m.	3  9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Treasure Shop Open 9—12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m.
4. 13th Sunday After Pentecost Worship 10 a.m. In person, Zoom Or Facebook Live Coffee Hour	5 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30	6	7 Treasure Shop Open 9—12 SCRABBLE GROUP— 1 p.m. Diaconate Meeting 4 p.m.	8 Chair Yoga 10:30 Fellowship Hall Parish Helpers 1 p.m.	9	10 Treasure Shop Open 9—12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room
11 14th Sunday After Pentecost Worship 10 a.m. In person, Zoom Or Facebook Live Coffee Hour	12 Choir 5:30	13	14 Treasure Shop Open 9—12	15 Chair Yoga 10:30 Fellowship Hall	16	17 Treasure Shop Open 9—12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room
18 15th Sunday After Pentecost Worship 10 a.m. In person, Zoom Or Facebook Live Coffee Hour	19 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30	20 Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 noon	21 Treasure Shop Open 9—12	22 Chair Yoga 10:30 Fellowship Hall Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.— 11:30	23	24 Treasure Shop Open 9—12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room
25 16th Sunday After Pentecost Worship 10 a.m. In person, Zoom Or Facebook Live Coffee Hour	26 Choir 5:30	27 Faith Formation Via Zoom 12 noon Ukulele Club 6 p.m.	28 Treasure Shop Open 9—12	29 Chair Yoga 10:30 Fellowship Hall	30	