

STEEPLE VIEWS

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



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JULY 2023

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Poem and Prayers Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood

In the months of May and June, I have been participating in Poem a Day challenges. These exercises are where a lead writer offers a one word prompt, a poem inspired by the word, and invites those participating to write a poem with that word. Folks are invited to post their poems but not required or pressured to do so. In May, the challenge was led by Kaitlin Cur-tice through her The Liminality journal. Kaitlin is one of my favorite writers, poets and prayer developers. In June, the effort was led by Jillian of Jillian Joy, another splendid writer I met during this exercise.

I have enjoyed doing this for the past two months. Last year, I just read others' poems, but this year, decided to post my poems every day. Some of my poems were serious, some playful and fun, and occasionally a glimpse of poetic brilliance may have broken through. I was inspired by the writing of other participants, which included three clergy, a number of young writers, and several who identified as queer. Getting to know them is a blessing, and honing the craft of writing poetry in a more disciplined way was helpful, not only to my poetry but to my general state of mind and emotional health. It can be very helpful to develop some discipline in our spiritual practices, even as that changes over time and place.

I am an undisciplined person who struggles every day to adhere to some form of discipline in my spiritual practice. While I like to think I follow the art of "prayer without ceasing," the truth is I often need particular times to focus in prayer and conversation with God. This has involved all types of methods and practices over the years, but all require time apart from the rush of the world around me and a movement into a place where I can listen more clearly and mindfully.

Our First (aka Old) and Second (aka New) testaments, as well as other apocryphal writings, include poetry, some of it beautiful and lyrical. The Wisdom Books in particular are poetic and use poetic forms (Job, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Psalms, Song of Songs and Lamentations and parts of Isaiah). However, poetic forms are found throughout the bible, including the book of Genesis and the Book of Revelation. Many theologians and poets see the Lord's Prayer as a poetic form, and approximately 1/3 of the bible is written in some poetic form.

My favorite book of poetry in the bible is the Song of Songs (aka Song of Solomon), beautiful love poetry, and sometimes viewed as allegorical to love between God and the people and Christ and the church. One of my very favorite parts of the Song of Songs is chapter 2, verses 1 and 10-13. I am adapting these to put into a community context and to utilize some "poetic license" as a song of hope!

We are roses of Sharon, lilies of the valley.
Arise my loves, my beautiful ones, and come away.
For now, the Winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time for singing has come
and the voice of the Spirit is heard in our land.
The sweet trees put forth their fruits
and the flowers are in bloom.
Arise my beloveds, my beautiful ones; Love is here to stay.

Stewardship Message

Ed. Note: Chris Feddern delivered this message at a recent worship service. I asked Chris to share it here in the Steeple Views for the benefit of those who were not present— C.J.

Kevin & I just recently returned home from vacation. Rev. Larry was also on vacation. I saw on Facebook that Julie Evanson and her family had an awesome time on their vacation. I know many of you have traveled recently or will be soon. Why do we want to go on vacations or travel? To have fun? You bet! To connect and reconnect with family & friends? Certainly! To see new places and experience new things and learn about new cultures? Absolutely!

But-- wouldn't it be boring if, while on vacation or even during our daily lives, if things remained largely the same? What if we were surrounded by folks of only Western European descent and people who only spoke American English? Wouldn't it be boring if we only had American food all the time, say, hamburgers and potato salad? (Though delicious). What if you visit a National Park, Yellowstone for example, and see elk, beautiful elk, but only elk and even more elk; what if we look to our skies and see robins, just robins; or on the horizon see desert—desert as far as the eye can see.

That is not all of God's world. God made the heaven, the oceans, the earth & the people, and creatures upon it. There are all kinds of people with beautiful skin colors adorned in colorful clothing from around the world; there are many magnificent languages to hear and try to interpret; many songs to sing; wonderful ethnic foods to eat like egg rolls or sushi or tacos; there are not just elk in our National Parks but buffalo, deer, wolves & even snakes; there aren't just robins, but bluebirds, crows & seagulls; there is not just desert but lakes & mountains & everglades.

Every creature, every species, and every individual within a species are unique. We strive to know God's world & people through experience, communication, and healthy discourse.

This church, of which you are a member or friend or visitor of, has been in this community since the late 1700's. It's had its ups and downs, it's experienced challenges and has evolved—just as our community has. Generation after generation of people, families, and even strangers, have listened to or given many sermons as they gathered here to teach and be taught about God, Jesus' life, the Bible, and the commandments we live by such as 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself' and lessons such as 'do unto others, as you would have them do unto you'.

Generation after generation and to this moment in time, we have been responsible stewards for God, of this church, and its missions. What is a steward? Well, there are many different meanings of the word—you could be a wine steward who has charge and care of wines and serving their customers, or a steward on a cruise ship who takes care of his passengers and their concerns, or a steward who takes care of another's property and financial concerns. Stewardship of this church includes the giving of

our time and talents as we conduct our services and fulfill our mission. It is also prayerful giving of your financial support as we care for and manage that which is not ours individually but is dedicated to the work of God and caring of this church. That is why your dedicated pledge of financial support is so important.

Our motto is 'no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!' We celebrate God's wonderful and diverse world and strive for Unity & Peace as we try to understand and teach and learn all there is to learn. Unity and Peace—that is our Purpose.

The Stewardship committee would like to ask, if you haven't done so already, please do prayerfully consider making your pledge of financial support of our church and our missions. We gratefully accept your generous gifts and thank you for your time, talents, and financial support. Amen.

Chris Feddern

Search and Call Ministry

Thank you to the friends and members who completed the Holy Cow Survey. Your input has been heard and is helpful as we move forward to find a settled pastor. A link has been provided at the end of this article to view the full results of the survey. By viewing this presentation, it will give you a better understanding of where we are now as a church. The final report has been turned over to Leadership Council for ways to make this church we call home even better.

The Committee will now be taking on the task of updating our church profile for prospective pastors. We will be meeting with our Finance team to determine the salary and benefits our church can offer to a new pastor. This will all take time. We thank you for your support and ask for prayers guiding us as we move forward.

Buddy Dee for the team—Judy Trepal, Titia Bozuwa, Joe Palmariello, Max Gehring, Margie Galabrun

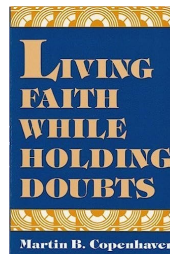
[Link to full Holy Cow results](#)

Passcode: GLRR0MV!

Library Update

“Living Faith While Holding Doubts” (S-J)

By M. Copenhaver



Martin Copenhaver is the senior pastor of the Wellesley Congregational Church in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He brings the sensibility of a pastor to this book as he describes the role of doubt in the life of faith. People assume that doubt disqualifies them from belief in God when it can help us to grow in faith. Copenhaver shows that faith and doubt are but two sides of the same coin. Source: Pilgrim Press

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

Welcome New Members!

Julia Meghan McCarthy, “Julia” (She/Her)



Julia was born, baptized, and raised in this church, having Godmoms of Ann Bilodeau and Margie Galabrun. She is now a 17-year-old senior at Spaulding High School. How time flies! Over the years Julia has been an integral part of church activities, ranging from peace vigils and marches, Z-Team participation, and Horton Center just to highlight a few. Julia enjoys lacrosse and

swimming, as well as reading, gardening, listening to music, and spending time with her friends. Julia has been eager to join the church for quite some time.

Timothy William McCarthy, “Tim” (He/Him)

Tim was also born, baptized, and raised within this church family. His Godparents are Dave and Ginny Schweitzer, and he was mentored in confirmation by George Ackerman. Tim has most enjoyed helping at Z-Team breakfasts, Pride Day, caroling, Horton Center, and if you asked him what his favorite part of our church is, he will tell you Coffee Hour. Tim is now a 14-year-old Freshman at Spaulding High School and he enjoys soccer, swimming, skiing, video games, reading, camping, and mowing the lawn. Tim is looking forward to membership in our church and says that he understands why young adults don't go to church as much, but that it is a great place to raise a family when you are older.



No Place Like Home

George and I love to travel. Of course, his way of traveling, hiking 4,000-foot mountains, and my way of traveling, let's just say the “Marriott”, are a bit different. Our most recent trip covered four European countries; Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Liechtenstein. I must admit, Liechtenstein caught me by surprise. I forgot it was real. Even the tour program didn't give much reference to its existence. Nestled between the other three well known countries and the Alps, Liechtenstein had its share of cobblestone roads, castles, and cathedrals. The display of Medieval and Barouch architecture was breathtaking. The population of this tiny country is just under 40,000. That's a little larger than Portsmouth's 22,000 and a little smaller than Portland's 68,000. As a frame of reference, the 2020 census list Wakefield's population at 5201. Wow!

But it is here in this tiny New Hampshire community that I call home. I walked the property looking at my gardens, admiring their growth and variety of colors. The spring blossoms of daffodils, columbine, and iris have passed. The simple smiling white daisies and the stoic purple lupine stand as sentinels. The hostas have stretched their umbrella-like leaves, and the perky primrose poke their cheerful yellow heads among the green of the soon to be awakened lilies. George immediately began examining the progress of his vegetable gardens. The potatoes and tomatoes are doing well, and we are already harvesting lettuce, spinach, and carrots. The snow peas don't even make it into the house because I eat them right off the vine. It is not only the peacefulness of sleeping in our own bed, and the joy of reuniting with our crazy dog, Dweezil, it is the completeness that derives from being back with our church family that makes this place home. As you drive north on the Spaulding Turnpike (Rt 16) you will see DOT signs that indicate places like Ossipee and Conway. But it is the quaint Wakefield sign set just off the road, with its simple display of flowers that makes my heart stir. We may not have cobblestone roads and massive historic cathedrals, but we have the gleaming white spire of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield with it's melodic bell and welcoming doors. This little church community is home to many of us, and I for one am proud to be a member.

Thank you, Lord, for bringing us safely home again.

Donna Ackerman

The Wakefield Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship group gathered at the Schweitzer's patio for some well-deserved relaxation. They enjoyed a great meal featuring Ginny's Johnsonville brats, sauerkraut, deviled eggs and Brian's famous German chocolate cake and ice cream.



The State of our Church

Ed Note: Our church honorary sage, Titia Bozuwa, delivered this message at our 2023 Annual Meeting.

Our moderator asked me to give you a short State of our Church following the Annual Meeting.

As I thought about what to say, it felt like trying to pin down a moving object: a moment in time wedged between 237 years of church history and a future that is probably best characterized as uncertain.

We owe our existence to the foresight and hard work of many generations, who have handed us a beautiful building in excellent shape, plus an organizational set-up that would be more than adequate to run a sizable corporation with..., and an endowment fund to boot.

Yet, looking back, we have to acknowledge there is one thing that isn't as good as it used to be, and that is membership. In this respect we reflect a national trend. Fifteen percent of adults (that means 40 million people) have stopped going to church. It has become socially acceptable to be unreligious. This trend represents the largest and fastest religious shift in America's history, according to an article this week in the New York Times.

The reasons for this trend are various, and it would lead me too far afield to list them all. But what should concern us is that this cultural phenomenon creates unchurched people and, in turn, ir-religious kids. So, in my exercise of looking back, I found reasons to worry, to panic even.

But...Glory Be...there came the Holy Cow...We milked her for numbers that, as you will see in a moment, allow us to see who we are and who we might become, as benchmarked against 2800 other churches of various denominations. It is uplifting to be able to tell you that we came out smelling like a rose. We are at a low conflict level and have high morale. There is a lot in the report that should give us confidence to move forward while paying attention to where we might improve. Resting on your laurels is never a good idea.

Yet...we are still left with the poor membership numbers. We do a lot of things right, but how can we show that to a generation that doesn't want to set foot inside our church? The statistics, the trends, the spirit of our times are against us. And by "us" I mean not just our UCC church, but all mainline churches, the Roman Catholic Faith, the Jewish Faith, even the Buddhists are having a hard time keeping their pews filled.

My answer to the question of how to entice others to partake in our wonderful sense of community, our interpretation of how Jesus wants us to live, is **NEVER**

GIVE UP, but also... **be willing to give up**. And by that seeming contradiction I mean that we have to be as ready to give up some of our baked-in ways of doing things as we expect outsiders to give up their hard-held ideas about organized religion. *That* is the difficult work ahead of us.

The State of our Church is: we are at a juncture. That could be truly exciting! We are at a point in time where we will have to make radical decisions very soon. The first choice we have to make is asking a new minister to come and lead us into this vision *full time or part time*.

As your Sage, I would advise FULL TIME. If we really want to grow and change, we will have to get the most inspired and effective guidance we can get. We can't do it alone. Even if, at first, we would not be able to make the yearly budget, I would say **Chance it**. Don't keep your extra pennies in the bank. Sitting safely in a bank, unspent, our funds will not make our membership grow. We would not reach the people we would like to open our doors to and invite them to become part of our community.

With this radical piece of advice I will yield to Judy and Joe to show you the outcome of our collective report card. Rejoice in the good news it contains, and alert your minds to the areas where we might improve the ways we can do the never ending work God demands of us. Thank you.

Titia Bozuwa

FCCW Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting happened on Sunday, June 25, and was well attended. Major agenda items included the 2023-2024 Budget (a consensus was reached to approve); results of the audit by Marylou McLean; the results of the Holy Cow survey presented by Joe Palmariello and Judy Trepal; recognition of Ministry Leaders; and our honorary Sage's "State of the Church" message. The minutes will be available soon. Annual Reports were sent out via email and are also available on our website.

Keeping Up With General Synod

The 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be taking place in Indianapolis June 30th through July 4th. There are a couple of ways to keep up with the happenings at Synod.

First, all worship and plenary sessions, excepting the keynote address, will be live streamed. Visit generalsynod.org during the days of General Synod for the link to the live stream.

Second, your New Hampshire delegation will be posting daily Facebook Live updates on both the Conference's Facebook Page and Group. Check back daily to hear from your delegates and some of the highlights of their General Synod experience.

News of Zimbabwe

The Outreach Team hosted a wonderful gathering welcoming UCCZ President Rev. John Matiza and his wife, Mrs. Ketani Matiza, with about 30 people in attendance. Mrs. Matiza said the very, very delicious food felt like Christmas as most Zimbabweans are reduced to eating one basic meal a day with sadza (made from corn meal) with vegetables.



Rev. Matiza discussed the history of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. American missionaries -- the forebearers of the Congregational and now UCC churches -- founded Mt. Selinda and Chikore Mission Station in 1893. Each mission station would have three elements -- a church, a hospital, and a school -- and that the missionaries brought the message of Jesus to Zimbabwe. Later an emphasis on agriculture was added.

Rev. Matiza spoke of ways of expanding Ukama (partnership) by including youth to youth and women's groups to women's groups as ways to increase the connection, share ideas and expand our understanding of God's love. The significance of the shipping container as a visible, tangible symbol of love and the hope for economic stability to improve the life of Zimbabweans was discussed. Currently unemployment is at 95%. Most do not have formal jobs. Inflation is now at 1300% and rising. Civil servants (teachers, nurses, police, etc.) who make up the 5% with jobs make the equivalent of \$100 a month, down from \$550 a few years ago. Pastors go 6-8 months as members of the congregation are simply unable to contribute as they struggle to feed themselves. Most can't afford to send their children to school. People who worked and paid into the system are receiving a pension get the equivalent of \$8 US dollars per month. This is the same for retired pastors who have worked their entire lives. Their pensions are reduced to \$100 a year.

In spite of the dismal outlook, The Matiza's spoke of hope, that God is with them, that they must get up every day and try again, and that God will show them the way.

Many thanks to Ann Bilodeau, Anne Palmariello, Jo Szirbik, Donna Ackerman and Nancy Dee for all the behind the scenes work which made everything come together! Special thanks to Jo and George Szirbik for hosting The Matizas overnight. Mrs. Matiza said the breakfast was remarkable because in Zimbabwe they could never afford to

have bacon and eggs. (Zimbabweans have bread and tea for breakfast when they are able.) Rev. Matiza said it felt like "kanyi" (home) to be in Wakefield due to the outpouring of hospitality.

Speaking of the container, GOD BLESS YOU!! We have 97 jars of peanut butter headed to Zimbabwe. Your donations came to 2,720 ounces which translates to 170 lbs! Much of this will be headed to the Daisy Dube Home and the Shelter of Hope, two orphanages doing the very best to care for children.

Thank you so much for the clothing, shoes, fabric and sewing supplies, medical supplies, books, array of school supplies, athletic equipment, toothbrushes, toothpaste, eyeglasses, linens, sleeping bags, backpacks and totes. I am excited about the refurbished laptops along with 100 Geometry and 100 Algebra 1 textbooks donated by Spaulding High -- with teacher editions and resources -- all in pristine condition! Together, we are doing our part to make a difference. I call it *Love in Action*.

Connie Littlefield

Music Camp

It's not too late to sign your children up for FCCW's Summer Music Camp—July 31 to August 4th. Email the office at ChurchOffice @fccwakefieldnh.org or call 603-522-3189 for an online registration form.

Our New Deacon, Julie Evenson

Hi all! As the newest member of Diaconate, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself for those of you who don't know me. I have lived in Sanbornville most of my life on Lovell Lake and began attending FCCW as a child going to Sunday school. I became a member of the church in 2014 and since then have been involved with Calling and Discernment, Search and Call, and Kiwi. I am humbled to now be asked to be part of Diaconate.

I work locally as a Physical Therapist and love being able to help the people of my community.

I have 4 children with my husband of 13 years. Kaitlyn (26) lives in Alabama and is going to school to be a PT, Cameron (25) works locally as a boat mechanic, Jillian (23) is pursuing her career in marine affairs, and Luke (11) is striving to recreate bikes and hopes to have an old truck to fix. He is going into 7th grade as a non-traditional homeschooler. My family keeps me on my toes, but I also try to find time for myself and enjoy jogging, yoga, hiking, and being on the lake.

I look forward to working with the other members of Diaconate and bringing forward my gifts to serve our church.

Julie Evenson

Hazel MacBrien NS News

The last two months of our school year were packed with lots of activities and fun! In May we worked on number 5 and letters Zz, Cc and Ff. We made some zoo animals using paper plates. Our three year olds made elephants and our fours made monkeys. The sensory table was full of farm animals during our Cc is for cows week and then the zoo animals came out for Zz week. Both classes enjoyed a trip to Foxx Family Farm in Ossipee and the weather was beautiful. The kids got to feed miniature donkeys, horses, sheep, goats and peacocks. It was a fun day for the kids, teachers and parents alike! We also participated in the Wakefield Pride Day celebration by riding on our float and then hosting the bounce house.

In our last two weeks of school in June we worked on letters Oo is for ocean and Xx is for x marks the spot and number 8. Our sensory table was filled with ocean creatures, gold coins and frogs and ducks. We did some fun math activities with sea shells and made pirate headbands. The month of June also brought end of year activities like our afternoon class' graduation and our last day field trip to The Nick in Wolfeboro. We were so lucky that the weather cooperated for both events! It's always a bitter-sweet end for Miss Sara and I; we are so proud of all the kids and what they've accomplished while with us at HMNS, but hard to let them go off to the big school. Thankfully we will be seeing most of our threes come back for our fours class in the fall !!

We would like to THANK FCCW for all their support as we end another successful year! It's always so nice to open up the doors to the Fellowship room and see how happy everyone is as we bring the kids in to use the bathrooms. We are so grateful for this beautiful space and look forward to September! Have a great summer!

Ed. Note: We love having HMNS in our church. Thank you to Miss Jen and Miss Sara for your wonderful work with the children!

Parish Helpers Happenings

The Parish Helpers enjoyed a lively conversation with author, Jessie Crockett, at their last meeting. We were excited to learn that Jessie has a new series underway written under the name of Jessica Ellicott. You can read more about her books—click here: [Amazon](#).

Our next meeting is our Annual Picnic on July 14 at 12 noon at Nancy Dee's home at 134 Deer Ridge Road. Please plan on bringing a potluck dish (not dessert) to share. If it is difficult for you to bring a dish, please come anyway! We always have plenty! If you can manage, please bring a chair and we look forward to seeing you there!

Carol Jeffery

“With the Help of God”

The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8 CEB)

Congratulations to all those who recently joined FCCW. We are blessed to have you all as the newest members of this beloved church.

I am always grateful to witness the joyful ceremony and celebration of new members at FCCW. There is no requirement of membership to worship in our church and yet people make a personal choice to commit to FCCW as their spiritual home. We are known as a loving and welcoming church so who wouldn't want to be a member here?!

There are many reasons or circumstances that may lead a person to seek out a new church. Perhaps the person has moved and needs to find a new church family to worship with. Or maybe left a former church because they could no longer relate or, worse, felt unwelcome. Others may not have felt it necessary to worship in a church setting for a long time and simply fell away from the habit of weekly worship. Or, maybe, like me, had never regularly attended a church, not even church school as a child. I had never been baptized nor even thought much about it until FCCW. But no matter the reason for settling within a church community, all of us have been on a faith journey. Maybe even a faith journey we never recognized nor felt we needed.

I have always believed in God. But it wasn't until my father died in 1988 that I realized something had always been missing in my life. In my heart, I knew it had to be something associated with God. I sought out different places of worship over the next 25+ years. Listened to many sermons, never returning to many of those churches more than a couple of times. But, even though I was still on my journey alone, my faith was definitely growing. Then on July 17, 2016, I was baptized and became a member of FCCW answering the ceremonial questions with, “Yes, with the help of God”.

I believe that as fulfilling as becoming a member of a church family is, it is not the beginning nor the end of the faith formation journey. The faith journey is a never-ending, life-long journey beginning with your first breath and you hear the words, “I love you”. But when you accept GOD's love and realize that God has loved you since that first breath, you will continue to learn, accept, and love your faith journey “With the help of God”. Listen for that inner voice, it is God still loving and speaking to YOU!

Prayer: God that I love, may we continue to hear and feel Your love so that we can continue to grow in faith to better hear and see Your love in others.

Linda Messer

Celebrations!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Chrissie Levesque	20	Andrea Szirbik Groft
1	Betty Seibert	22	Linda Foss
3	Tammy Canney	23	Linda Petkunas
4	Brenna Hagy	24	JohnPaul Eaton
5	Royal Doughty	24	Chip Hagy
7	Robert Baldwin	24	Stephen Royle
8	Lee Robinson	26	Faith Harvey
9	Keaghan Canney	26	Janet Twombly
9	Bob Foulks	27	Rev. Alberta Wallace
10	Linda Shepard	28	Sue Littlefield
13	Titia Bozuwa	28	Lynn Weeks
14	Michelle Crew	30	Jan Fairchild
16	Kathy Frothingham	30	Jan Maki
17	Rick Denver		

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Buddy & Nancy Dee
- 15 Curt & MaryBeth Cook
- 17 David & Ginny Schweitzer
- 24 Jean-Michel & Margie Galabrun

Your Special Gifts

The Calling & Discernment Ministry invites you to consider your special gifts -- your interests or your areas of passion -- to the life of our beloved church community. You are invited to consider *any* of the ministry teams to see if it could be a good fit for you.

Specific teams which are seeking members include Faith Formation, Finance Team, Safety Team, Personnel, and Calling and Discernment; two specific positions are church clerk and co-treasurer.

If you would like to hear more about any of these positions or explore new ways to participate, please speak to Connie Littlefield, Margie Galabrun, or Jan Brewjo. We look forward to talking with you!

Connie Littlefield

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 carrying on duties of worship leadership and pulpit supply. For the Search Committee, the Officers, Ministry Coordinators, and Leadership Council for their thoughtful deliberations in guiding our church onward.

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.

Please pray for:

Bob L; Rachel Wi; the Family of Don S; Todd W; Dave and Charlotte L; Sue L; Arlene L; Wendy D & Alberta W; Cindy E; Chuck H; Carol J's Family: Chrissy, Maryann, and Michael



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.




It's with great sadness that we announce the death of **Don Silcocks** who passed away on May 23. Don was the son of Virginia and Sydney Silcocks, brother of Arlene Leyare and husband of Janie Silcocks. Please keep Don's family in your prayers during this sorrowful time.

In Loving Memory

The Diaconate received a donation to the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund to honor and celebrate the life of Robert Earl Ranslow, 87, of Blackstone, Mass. who passed on June 6, after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was the husband of Barbara (Feddern) Ranslow, brother-in-law of Gail Feddern, and uncle to Christine Feddern, Pamela D'Zurilla, and Mark Feddern. Fondly known as Uncle 'Buzz' to our family, he was beloved by all. This Fund provides emergency relief for people of our church and community.

For the Diaconate, *Gail Feddern*

JULY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Coffee Hour is held each Sunday after worship thanks to the dedication of our Hospitality Team of Rachel, Laura and Janet. Please consider signing up to help with clean up and/ or bring food items for the table. </div>					1 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m.
2 5th Sunday after Pentecost Worship and Communion 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	3 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 	5 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Scrabble Group 1–3 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	6 Chair Yoga 10:30	7	8 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m.
9 6th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	10	11 Choir 5:30 Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m.	12 Treasure Shop Open 9–12	13 Chair Yoga 10:30 Parish Helpers PICNIC 12 Noon	14	15 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m.
16 7th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	17 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m. Finance Ministry Meeting 1:30	18 Prayer Shawl Ministry—10 a.m. Choir 5:30	19 Treasure Shop Open 9–12	20 Chair Yoga 10:30	21	22 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m.
23 8th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	24	25 Choir 5:30 Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m.	26 Treasure Shop Open 9–12	27 Chair Yoga 10:30	28	29 Treasure Shop Open 9–12 Grief Support Group 11 a.m.
30 9th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	31					

JULY & AUGUST

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Collection

- ❖ **Un-Expired Non-Perishable Food Items** (please check dates)
- ❖ **Peanut Butter** (for PKZ)

Thank you!!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
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