



You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating a Service of Recognition of Rev. Mary James as Pastor Emeritus of The First Congregational Church of Wakefield NH, United Church of Christ

Sunday, October 1st, 2023
10:00 AM

Followed by a Reception in the Fellowship Hall

2718 Wakefield Road
Wakefield, NH 03872
(603)522-3189
churchoffice@fccwakefieldnh.org



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 LARRY BRICKNER-WOOD, INTERIM MINISTER
REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS
OCTOBER 2023

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

The Season of Creation

The Christian calendar is made up of a series of seasons, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter being the most familiar. A recent addition is the Season of Creation, a short season which runs from September 1 to October 4. The focus of the season is the spirituality of creation and a theology of the environment. Diana Butler Bass describes the season as follows: "During this time, Christians and those of other faiths are encouraged to read the Bible with our hearts attuned to the Earth and its inhabitants and our hands ready to participate with God in co-creating the future."

In the northern hemisphere, the season of autumn has just officially begun. It is a glorious season, especially here in northern New England. It is a season full of vibrant colors, cooler temperatures, the smell of woodsmoke returning and a time of harvest and festival. Autumn is one of my favorite times of year and provides a subtle and not subtle transition from summer to winter. One of my favorite writers, creators and thinkers offered this quote on her Liminality Journal site last week: "Autumn teaches us the beauty of letting go. Growth requires release—it's what the trees do." Ka'ala

I have been working on letting go since I understood what the term implied. In other words, a long time. It sure is difficult! I talk a better game than I actually practice, as letting go can feel so final and definitive. Even when it is dysfunction, disorder and displeasure I am trying to let go of, it can be challenging. Somehow, I want to cling to what I know even when that is harmful or toxic to my spirit and that of others.

A journey with God takes us through many seasons. Jesus' journey with and for us went through many seasons, both in the calendar of the times and in the ways that people perceived and understood him. Jesus walked with his disciples, friends and followers through changing seasons, of nature, of culture, of political events and in their own lives. One constant through those journeys was this: Jesus stayed with them, never abandoned them, surrounded them with a love they had never known. Even as he journeyed through death and resurrection and the letting go of his physical presence, he counseled that the letting go was not an abandonment. Rather, it was (and is) a release into another state of being and welcoming into our lives the Holy Spirit, the advocate, to be with us always, even in the revolving seasons of letting go which we experience in this life.

This autumn, I invite you to reflect on what you are being called to let go of, to move through, to sit with and explore. We identify our spiritual and faith journeys as journeys precisely because they are ever shifting. They are fluid and winding through steady and solid times along with the rocky and rolling periods of our lives. Jesus did not promise perfection or a trouble free existence in this world. He promised a love that would never diminish and never end and a flame that would never go dark. Jesus delivers. May your journey this autumn bring you ever closer to the One Creator who gives life to all things.

Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood

Welcome New Members!



Jean Miccolo

Hello! My name is Jean Miccolo. I'm excited to be a member of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield. I've been attending services here for over three years and enjoy them a great deal. The congregation is a delightful group of

friendly, down to earth folks who welcome visitors and new members with open arms, and who work together to form a great team to work on a variety of projects to help the church and its members, as well as anyone in the surrounding communities that needs assistance. I am originally from Montpelier, Vermont and I have lived in the Rochester, New Hampshire area for almost 40 years. I love living by the ocean, and close to the lakes region. I worked for the Strafford County Commissioners for 37 years and retired 2 years ago. I have a beautiful 30-year-old daughter who is the light of my life. I look forward to being a part of this wonderful congregation for many years to come!

Andrea Costello

A New Hampshire native, I moved to Sanbornville in 2004 having spent my parenting years in Stratham/Newfields area. I have two sons and three grandchildren. I'm a retired dental hygienist and now spend two days a week with my NH grandchildren Bea and Caleb, ages 9 and 12. We have great adventure together! I spend my free time gardening, cooking, reading, and crafting. I survive the bleak by quilting, I just love working with color! I was previously a member of the Stratham and Lee UCC churches. I'm a strong advocate of social justice and UCC churches live out that value. I live in the woods and love reading about tree "science". I'm convinced that trees will save the planet!



Tongue Drums

Learn something new! The Church has three tongue drums with instruction booklets. We are looking for people who would like to learn this instrument by themselves and maybe add it to a service in the future. You don't have to read music or know a lot about music to learn to play. Let us know and we will get them to you to try it out.

Buddy Dee and Donna Ackerman

Reverend Mary James recognized as Pastor Emerita

On October 1, 2023, Reverend Mary James will be recognized as Pastor Emerita for the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC. Mary will be celebrated and recognized in our Sunday service. She will celebrate with us by offering a sermon on "Community, Communion, Wonder and Love" and by sharing in our sacrament of Holy Communion. A reception to celebrate this recognition will follow in Fellowship Hall.

"Pastor Emeritus(a)" is an honorary title given at the discretion of the Diaconate to recognize the years of service that a pastor, who has retired after faithfully serving the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, NH, UCC, has provided to our community. The pastor has been in ordained ministry for at least ten years and has contributed to ministry both in our community and the wider church. The title does not include any compensation or benefits and, therefore, no formal ministerial duties are required or expected.

The Pastor Emeritus(a) may be asked to preach when the Senior Pastor is away. The Pastor Emeritus(a) may also perform weddings when the Senior Pastor is unavailable. Under no circumstances will the Pastor Emeritus(a) be asked (or allowed) to provide pastoral care or counseling to members of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, NH, UCC. This will be the responsibility of the Senior Pastor or the person providing emergency pastoral coverage when the Senior Pastor is absent.

The position of Pastor Emeritus(a) is held for an indefinite term. Reverend George Harvey is currently a Pastor Emeritus for First Church Congregational, United Church of Christ.

Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood



"New Hampshire Humanities connects people and ideas by funding and supporting statewide programs that inspire curiosity, foster civil dialogue, and explore big questions. We envision a future where people come together to learn about themselves and others, appreciate different perspectives, and promote the common good."

Thank you to NH Humanities for funding the Parish Helpers program, "NH Quilts and the Stories They Tell". We are excited to see an 1890s era Parish Helpers quilt among them!

Joy and Gratitude

Thank you to Linda and Mark Walker and many members of the wonderful Men's group who helped to restore and beautify our beloved Church garden. The incredible amount of rain this Summer created a jungle of weeds, scrubs and trees! The hard work of many is so appreciated. Blessings!

Rachel White



Penny Sale Time

It's time to start thinking and planning for the HARVEST FAIR! One of the most popular (and profitable) components is the Penny Sale. Once again, I will be looking for gift cards for area businesses. There are always those special places who will donate, but for the most part, we depend on YOU to purchase a card or two. Don't worry about duplicates, people love it when we have multiples. This is also a great way to support our local businesses, perhaps the winner will discover a new favorite shop. When you have a gift card to turn in, please give it to me on any Sunday in church or leave it in the Treasurer's box in the Narthex or leave with Andrea in the office. OR perhaps you could offer a special service, like a pot of soup, or knitting lessons, or yard work or just something only you could do for someone else! The sky is the limit, let's get creative!! Thank you so much and see you at the Fair in early November.

Nancy Dee

The Calling and Discernment Ministry

C & D welcomes Joe Palmariello as the newest member of the Personnel Team. Joe joins Dave Schweitzer, Sue Lynn and Barry Truhne. Thank you Joe for stepping up for this ministry!

The Safe Church team is evolving; it will function as an adhoc team under Buildings and Grounds. We thank Annie Gehring, Brian Shipley and Chuck Hodsdon for their time, energy and dedication. We welcome back Buddy Dee, Nancy Dee and Carol Lundgren as they revise and resubmit the safety grant as it goes out to a new round of bids.

Margie Galabrun is looking for people to join her as a delegate to the NH Conference Annual Meeting to be held at the Grappone Center in Concord on Saturday, October 21st. Breakfast begins at 8:00 am with plenary sessions beginning at 9:00 a.m. This is always a wonderful and enriching event -- with great food, too!-- as delegates engage with other churches, consider matters of the well being of the entire conference, and hear outstanding speakers. Our church is allowed four delegates, one of whom should be 25 or younger, plus our pastor. Registration fees are paid by FCCW. Please speak to Margie or to Andrea Selig if you would like to learn more and/or to register!

Connie Littlefield

News from your Leadership Council

Recently, the Leadership Council sponsored two pot-luck dinners to discuss the benefits of hiring a full-time or part-time pastor. Both discussions were well attended and valuable. A third and final informational session is being planned. Please watch for its announcement because we think you won't want to miss it. Soon the issue will be brought to the membership for a vote.

The September Leadership Council agenda was so full it had to be continued into the following week. Issues discussed were—our awarded Homeland Security Grant, problems with the first contractor's bid, the need to reopen the bidding process, the need to re-key the building, the danger posed by diseased and/or dead trees in the rear of the church, on-going furnace and sprinkler issues, and discussion of the future FCCW's pastoral leadership.

Leadership Council meetings are always open to all. Please feel free to attend.

*Margie Galabrun
and Max Gehring, Moderators*

News of Zimbabwe

Our shipping container is being tracked as it makes its way across the Atlantic. I send updates to our Zim team and to the representatives of the Zim churches and organizations involved. It has left the Bahamas and is expected to reach Durban, South Africa on Oct. 1. It is anticipated to reach Beira, Mozambique on October 8th. Then the "fun" begins as the first of two clearance process takes place! I have a detailed spreadsheet ready for the unpacking and reloading coordinators and what boxes go on each lorry to arrive at the intended destinations. They will appreciate my organization but will likely do it Zim style and I will be none the wiser!

I have received message upon message from Zim folks expressing their deepest appreciation for the effort to assist their children, the elderly and the marginalized communities.



Samuel Khumbula and Blessing Sithole are living their best lives at Keene. Both have a rigorous course schedule. Sam, a junior, is the wise older brother to Blessing. Blessing, a freshman, is simply astounded by the care given to international students by skilled professors. Blessing is deeply impressed by the well maintained classrooms,

expansive resources and the library!

Blessing had fabulous news this week. He made the Keene State College soccer team! He said the coaches used a "detailed assessment" and then were "delighted" to welcome him to the team. I see some college soccer games in our future.

Sam, of course, continues to go above and beyond his science heavy classwork. He is working with a professor on a physical chemistry research project, theorizing on the decomposition chemical reaction of the passage of UV light through a complex ion consisting of gold and four chlorine atoms bonded together. (Did you get all that? Thankfully Sam does!)

Sam and Blessing send their greetings to the FCCW church family and are very grateful for our care and our support.

Connie Littlefield

Where Are You?

By Donna Ackerman

Where are you God?

Were you in the sweet breath of that squirming litter of puppies?
Or were you in the trill of the mother loon searching for her chick?

Where are you God?

I thought I saw you soaring over the tall pines, and then again,
I thought I saw you in the ice cream covered face of that little girl.

Where are you God?

Did you walk with me down by the lake as the sun set in its spectacular colors?
Was that you as the hummingbird, dashing in and out of the pink and white phlox?

Where are you God?

Are you the melodic tones sung by the church choir?
Or are you in the thoughtful message lovingly presented by the reverend?

There you are!

You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end.
You are Love and Light.

There you are!

In everything good and possible.
Watching and caring as we stutter-step through this life you have given us.

There you are!

Crying when we cry,
Laughing when we laugh.

There you are!

Never holding back your love,
Never judging when we make mistakes.

Where are you God?

You are Here!

NHUCC Annual Meeting

There is still room for two adults and one person under 25 to attend with Rev. Larry and Margie at the NH UCC Annual Meeting taking place on **October 21st** in Concord. Please see attached flyers and below links for details! If interested in representing FCCW, please contact the church office to register by October 5th. (Please note that this is a hybrid event and delegates can attend remotely if preferred!)

Non Profit Grant Status -- New Bidding

Late last year, thanks to the efforts of Buddy Dee, FCCW was awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Dept. of Homeland Security under a program for small non-profit organizations to address building security matters. The people who worship, gather and use our church building would be best served by improved security products. Working with the Federal Government, as you can imagine, requires a unique way of bidding a project and selecting a contractor. We are in the process of reassessing our needs and rebidding the project as our now former contractor was unable to fulfill the contract. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward and thank you for your patience.

Carol Lundgren, Safe Church

Hazel MacBrien Nursery School News

We are so excited to be back at school with our little ones! September was a fun filled month of activities and just getting to know each other. Our sensory table was filled with red items during our first week and we ended the month with fall acorns, leaves and squirrels. The kids love to find the colored gems in the table. We did an All About Me paper for our school family bulletin board and painted a star for our Welcome Shining Stars bulletin board. The 3s did an acorn rolling painting and the 4s did a q-tip dot leaf to hang on our family tree. We worked on number 1 and letters Ll and Aa. The 3s worked on colors and shapes by crawling through a caterpillar tunnel and then choosing a shape or colored foam leaf and identifying it.

Another fun activity the kids enjoy is playdough this helps build up their fine motor muscles. The 4s worked with 10-frames and patterns using acorn and leaf erasers. We also started tracing their names. Miss Sara and I are so thankful for our beautiful classroom space and for everyone's support!! Thank you to everyone and feel free to peek in and check out our bulletin boards

New Children's Library Books

Thanks to the generous donation of these books by Alison Hayford, our children can open their minds and hearts to people of other backgrounds and recognize our common humanity.

Dreamers by Y. Morales

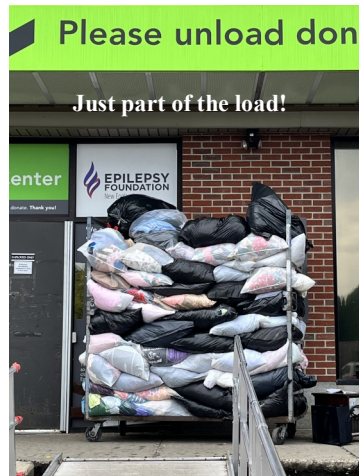
Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez by K. Krull

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African American Tale by J. Steptoe

The Undefeated by K. Alexander & K. Nelson.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

SAVERS Update



Once again, we had a successful outing down to Savers to deliver over 3000 pounds of stuff. That's over 3000 pounds of stuff that was saved from the fate of the dump.

You don't move 3000+ pounds without some serious help. Thank you to all our drivers - Mary Bernier, Carol Lundgren, Margie & Jean-Michel Galabrun, Nancy & Buddy Dee and Julie Kessler & John Griffin - and to all that helped collect, drop off, load & unload vehicles.

We won't have the official amount for a few more days, but it should be over \$400. How great it is to make money while helping the environment by recycling! Watch for our next outing in spring of 2024!

Julie Kessler

NE Quilts and the Stories They Tell

On Thursday, October 12th, Pam Weeks of the NE Quilt Museum will present the program, "New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell." Included in this talk will be a quilt she recently acquired that was made by ladies in Wakefield in the 1890s. These ladies were likely part of the Ladies Sewing Circle, predecessors of the current Parish Helpers. The 1890s quilt is made of individual blocks assembled as a potholder quilt -- each block is signed by the maker. Many of the names are familiar as there are descendants of those women still living in the area. The quilt is amazingly preserved.



The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program is sponsored by NH Humanities and is free of charge and open to the public. Hope to see you there!

The FCCW has had an active women's group since 1857. In 1899, they incorporated as the Parish Helpers and they're still going strong. They have a long tradition of quilt making and as far back as the 1880s, they made the quilts to sell as fundraisers for the church. In honor of the 1890s quilt, the 2023 Parish Helpers queen size raffle quilt was constructed of 1800s reproduction fabrics. Tickets for the raffle will be available at the event.

Carol Jeffery

Celebrations!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Michael Frothingham	21 Ellen Lankhost
11 Gisela Haag	23 Buddy Dee
12 Sally Kratt	24 Cameron Cook
13 Debbie Fogg	25 Benjamin Boggs
13 Caren Kachoris	26 Laura Frye
13 Eric Mercer	26 Connie Twombly
15 Maureen Bridget Szirbik	28 Alfred Canney
15 JoAnn Owen	29 James Connell
19 Brian Shipley	29 Diana Peckham
20 Bill Goodwin	30 George Frothingham

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

7 Tom & Jan Stanley
8 George & Priscilla Frothingham
8 Tom & Lynn Weeks
9 Mark and Julie Evenson
10 Russell & Sharon Baldwin
13 Chuck & Joanne Dolbear
20 John & Lynn Shaffer
23 Ron & Rachel White

Thank
you

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the cards, calls, messages, visits and delicious food sent my way during my unexpected medical adventure. Your prayers and many kindnesses are greatly appreciated as I continue the journey.

Connie Littlefield

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

We believe that prayer is powerful! During this time of transition in our church, let us pray for the Diaconate, 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:

Harriet W; the family of Todd Woods, Bob L; Rachel Wi; Dave and Charlotte L; Sue L; Arlene L; Cindy E; 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.


Hospice Information Available

If you would like to learn more about Hospice, the CareGivers Self-Care Group had a wonderful meeting with RN and Hospice Coordinator from Cornerstone VNA, Rochester - Carol Tubman. Carol left us with some pamphlets explaining both the Hospice Program (end-of-life) and Palliative Care Program (chronic long term conditions). If you would like more information, please speak with Carol Lundgren. Remember, the CareGivers Group meets the first and third Mondays of the month from 9:30 -10:30 in the Parish Helpers Room. It is open to the public - all persons caring for or caring about someone are welcome!

Carol Lundgren



OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>18th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship and Communion 10 a.m.</p> <p>Rev. Mary James Pastor Emerita Recognition and Celebration</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Scrabble Group 1–3 p.m.</p> <p>Diaconate Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Chair Yoga 10:30</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Treasure Shop Open 9–12</p> <p>Grief Support Group 11 a.m.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>19th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour</p>	<p>9</p> <p>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY</p> <p>Choir 5:30</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Chair Yoga 10:30</p> <p>Parish Helpers Presentation "NE Quilts and the Story They Tell" 1 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Grief Support Group 11 a.m.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>20th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Choir 5:30</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m.</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Grief Support Group 11 a.m.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>21st Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Leadership Council Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Choir 5:30</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Grief Support Group 11 a.m.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Choir 5:30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>HALLOWEEN</p>				