

STEEPLE VIEWS

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



REVEREND DR. JAMES L. MILLS, SR., PASTOR
REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS
REVEREND MARY A. JAMES, PASTOR EMERITA
NOVEMBER 2025

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Love and Light

Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.

Throughout history, hate and darkness have driven people and communities to terrible violence. It's easy to let othering and demagoguery take hold, but as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." The only way to defeat hate is with love and light.

Love knows no boundaries and has the power to overcome even the deepest, darkest hatred. It is an undeterred force that unites us rather than divides us. We have seen time and time again the incredible resilience and strength of individuals and communities that come together in the face of hate and darkness, showing love and compassion towards one another. Love is not weak but a courageous and powerful force that can conquer even the most seemingly impossible situations.

Together, in this moment and in the moments to come, we can create a ripple effect of love and light, spreading it to those who need it most. The more we choose to respond to hate with love, the more we will see darkness fade away. In this moment of division and tension, let us be the light and love our world desperately needs.

*"Above all, maintain constant love for one another,
for love covers a multitude of sins." 1st Peter 4:8*

Ladybugs



It's that time again when ladybugs seem to find their way into our house. They are just trying to find a warm place for the winter. It is interesting that I see one up in the corner near the ceiling, then a few minutes later

there are a dozen crawling along the wall. How did they get in? Where is the leak? It makes me wonder just how weatherproof our windows and doors are. If ladybugs are getting in, what else is moving through these cracks and crevices. I looked online as to how to deal with these little red and black fellows. One article said I could vacuum them up. No, not going to do that. Another said I could seal up any cracks around the foundation and other points of entry. Nope, I'm okay with allowing our house to breathe. We lived in a house in Alaska that was so airtight that we discovered mold on various services and on my shoes stored under the bed. As soon as another house became available, we moved. Nobody messes with Donna's shoes. Another article said I could scoop them up and take them back outside, but I'm sure these determined little creatures would find their way back. I have noticed that they are predominantly on the south side of the house. I guess because of the sunshine that draws them to warmth.

As I watch the maneuverings of these tiny invaders, I think of the books by James Harriot and the hymn by Cecil Frances Alexander; "All Creatures Great and Small, All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Things Wise and Wonderful, And the Lord God Made Them All". These words, per se, are not found in the Bible. But Psalm 104:25 speaks of creatures in the seas that are great and small. And Psalm 148:10 tells us of all kinds of land and flying creatures that God has made. With the changing seasons comes the need to prepare. We split and stack wood just like squirrels gather acorns, and ladybugs seek a more conducive environment. We are all part of this marvelous world. We are all creatures Great and Small. So, I think I'll let the ladybugs winter with us and tend to the cleanup in the spring when temperatures become more accommodating.

Prayer: Dear Spirit, thank you for all the creatures, great and small, that you have provided. Thank you for the abundant life you have given us as we transition from summer warmth to winter chill. And God, watch over those creatures less fortunate.

Donna V Ackerman

Gift Baskets!

Our annual Harvest Fair is fast approaching (will be held on Saturday, November 15th). There are many parts to the fair - one of them being baskets! While I have numerous items already, I need some additional help to complete many of these baskets.

I'm reaching out to our church family to purchase an item or two to help in the effort. To that end, I've put together a bulletin board that can be found in Fellowship Hall on a tripod stand with a basket below it. On the board are tags containing exactly what is being requested. If you are so inclined, I ask that you take one or more tags, make the purchase and return the item(s) as soon as possible (and definitely on or before Sunday, November 9th).

Any questions can be directed to Julie Kessler (julielouisekessler@gmail.com or 603-871-8066)

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Any questions can be directed to me, Julie Kessler (julielouisekessler@gmail.com or 603-871-8066)



The Penny Sale!

Have you checked your wallets and junk drawers for old gift cards yet? It's not too late! I will happily take them off your hands to use in the Penny Sale at the Harvest Fair. This has proven to be a popular and very effective way to raise funds for the church. Amount doesn't matter and if you are not sure of the amount, I'll just label it "Surprise". It's all in good fun. Thanks.

Nancy Dee

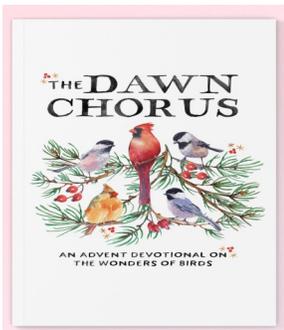
Faith Formation

Faith Formation classes meet regularly on Tuesdays at Noon – typically in the Parish Helpers Room. Our gatherings are hybrid - in-person at church with a Zoom option. Note that a decision may be made to do a Zoom-only class if weather is a concern.

November Faith Formation classes will continue with our informal discussions based on a selected set of devotionals (four or five per week). These devotionals will be pulled from a variety of sources packaged in a word document and sent for your reading pleasure each week. In addition, I would be happy to include any devotional favorite you may stumble on!

And Advent! Advent starts on November 30th Please consider joining us starting the first Tuesday of Advent - December 2nd. We will be using both a SALT study ("The Dawn Chorus - An Advent Devotional on the Wonders of Birds") and the Advent devotional from Stillspeaking Writers' Group ("Soon and Very Soon").

About "The Dawn Chorus"



A devotional for families of all shapes and sizes, "The Dawn Chorus" will fill your Advent season with joy and astonishment. After all, songbirds know a thing or two about singing into the darkness, and looking to the light.

About "Soon and Very Soon"

The theme acknowledges our need for radical hope, and encourages us to prepare for God's best.

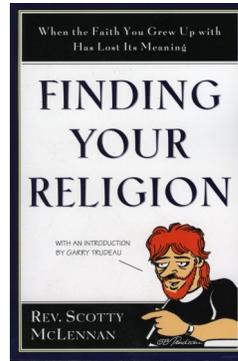


Please contact Julie Kessler if interested in finding out more or would like a copy of either of the Advent devotional booklet. julielouisekessler@gmail.com or 603-871-8066)

Pancake Breakfast For HMNS

November 1st from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in our Fellowship Hall. Blueberry, Chocolate Chip or Plain pancakes with sausage, coffee and juice. Prices are \$9 adults and \$6 for kids under 14; under 5 are free. Family price—2 adults, 2 kids for \$25. Proceeds benefit the Hazel MacBrien Nursery School.

Library News



"Finding Your Religion" by Rev. Scotty McLennan (S-J)

"Starting with my own experiences in college in the 1960s and early 1970s, I have learned a great deal about how people lose and find their own religion. I've come to see it very much as an ongoing process that never stops. For many people, the faith they grew up with loses its meaning during adolescence. Others who never had any faith in childhood begin exploring religion for the first time in adolescence or young adulthood. I've come to realize that there are identifiable stages of spiritual development that people go through, no matter what their religious tradition is or isn't. Just as we grow emotionally and intellectually over the years, so we grow spiritually, if we allow ourselves.-- from the book.

Thanks to Donna Ackerman for donating this book.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

Hazel MacBrien NS News

During the month of October we worked on letters Aa for apples, Pp for pumpkins and Cc for candy corn we also introduced number 9. We made ghosts, bats and jack-o-lanterns for our school bulletin boards. The sensory table had apple pie theme for Aa week, water, basters and firefighter ducks for #9 week and we ended the month with cauldrons, spider rings, bats and other halloween manipulatives. Both classes went to McKenzie's Farm for our annual apple picking field trip, members of Wakefield Fire Department came to talk to us about fire safety and show us their equipment and truck and we went on our trick-or-treat parade to the local downtown businesses. Some of the fun activities we did throughout the month were making patterns with apple erasers, rolling a die, identifying the number and then putting that many spider rings on a pencil, exploring with spider web slime, painted with red, yellow and green paint to make beautiful apples, squish painted with red and yellow to make orange flames, used squirt bottle fire extinguishers to extinguish different color fires, sorted hot and cold items, practiced stop, drop and roll and stay low and go under the "smoke", played musical shape pumpkins, did a shape spider match game, explored with playdough and seasonal cookie cutters and enjoyed our awesome fenced in outdoor space to find colored leaves and use magnifying glasses. We are looking forward to the rest of the fall season!

Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund—Just a Little Bit of Help

There are many people whose lives take unexpected turns and help is needed. Thankfully, there are people like the Parish Helpers, and members and friends of our community of faith that are open to the needs of others. The **Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund (FDDF)** is available to provide temporary emergency financial assistance to individuals and families in need within our church and community. Payments are made for varying reasons including electric, heat and utility assistance, telephone, rent and medical emergencies. Sometimes just a little bit of help is all that is needed to overcome difficulty.

FDDF was established at the request of Henry “Hank” Feddern, my late husband. Having personally experienced the caring support of others in our own time of need, Henry thought it was important to create a fund to help others. Henry was a Deacon Emeritus of the **First Congregational Church of Wakefield** and passed away in 1995.

Reverend George Harvey helped me greatly with this project by presenting the FDDF proposal at a church meeting and with church approval, the **Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund** was established. However, in time the initial memorial gifts were depleted and my small donations were not enough to support an active Fund. As a result, Reverend Mary made a plea to our Christmas Eve congregation explaining the purpose of this local community mission. She did such a wonderful job and the congregation responded generously. FDDF was saved to continue its mission to this day!

The **Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund** is not part of our church budget. It is funded solely by donations from family, church members and friends; the Parish Helpers; donations received from families in memory of and/or in honor of their loved ones; and is also presented as one giving option for Christmas Alternative Gift Giving.

If you would like to make a donation, checks should be made to the ‘First Congregational Church of Wakefield’ with ‘**FDDF**’ in the memo line and a note of explanation if desired. Donations can also be made using a debit or credit card on our website, fccwakefieldnh.org. Simply scroll down and click on the word donate, then choose Feddern Discretionary from the dropdown menu and follow prompts.

If you have a request for emergency financial relief for yourself or someone else, please contact FCCW’s Congregational Life Administrator (CLA), Andrea, at our church office, 603-522-3189. Andrea will refer the request to our Pastor or the Diaconate chairpersons. Any requests are considered with the utmost discretion and confidentiality.

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” Galatians 6.

COOKIES!



Our church has a reputation for our Amazing and Famous Cookie Walks! And we will once again feature it at the Harvest Fair on November 15th. What we need is COOKIES! We have sold up to 100 bags of cookies in the past. It takes a lot of cookies to fill that many bags! We are asking YOU to help make that happen. Please plan to bake a few dozen (5?) cookies – about 3” in diameter or smaller—and bring them to us on Friday, Nov. 15 after 3 p.m. or early on Saturday, Nov. 15th before opening at 9 a.m. Please label your cookies and let us know the main ingredients and if they contain nuts. Thank you for your part in making our fair a success!

Carol Jeffery

Fundraising Status Update

Going forward, whenever we've completed another fundraiser, the Fundraising Status graph will be updated and posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. While the picture here is too small to see the detail, you'll know what to look for on the bulletin board. This will give you the amount made for each event and the amount still needed to reach our goal of \$12,000. Check it out!

Julie Kessler

Current Fundraising Status (as of 10/25/2025)

Budgeted Amount to Raise: \$12,000



News from Zimbabwe

Construction to rebuild the Daisy Dube Home is well underway. Higherlife Foundation, a philanthropic organization, is supervising the construction of three of the four cottages. PKZ director Vrante Mahlupeko reported that they have at least 12 skilled workers on each of the buildings in the rush to get them done before rainy season. Amazing! Once they have completed their work, PKZ will move in and begin the construction of the 4th cottage. George and I have booked our tickets for the February Mission Trip. While many folks have expressed a strong desire to go, the timing is not working out for them. However we have 4-5 others from Fergus Falls, MN and from MA who may be joining us.



Vrante also used some precious food security funds to assist 30 families in Makondo Village. Corn meal, oil, salt, and beans mean that these families will have basic subsistence for a few weeks. If you have access to Facebook, find my page or the PKZ page and witness the joyful celebration as the recipients demonstrate their appreciation and gratitude to God and to PKZ. Currently approx. 65% of all Zimbabweans are food insecure.

Our child sponsorship program renewals will be happening throughout November and December in anticipation of the new school year starting in January 2026. If you are interested in assisting a child who wants to attend school or would like more information about how the sponsorship program works, please speak to Ann Bilo-deau or to me. Child sponsorship changes the trajectory of lives by restoring dignity, self worth, self confidence and above all, hope.

Blessings, Connie Littlefield



Blast From the Past

The following paragraph is taken from "A Brief Financial History" by Richard E. Wilson, FCCW Treasurer dated February 1994.

"There has passed much interesting material from when Brock's Plywood Sales was known as Brocky's and Eldon Richards worked as a carpenter rather than grocer. Once upon a time, Sam Paul shoveled, swept, played the furnace like a virtuoso, lit the candles and pulled the bell cord for \$10 per week. Remember when Guy Bourrie flared forth from the pulpit and no one dared doze? We have seen to the needs of A, E, I, O and U Khim from Cambodia. And then there were the clowns who took over the Sunday service. We all sold ourselves into slavery to finance the Russell's sabbatical year. There have been long sessions to try to figure out in what direction the church is going and equally long discussions on the direction for the handicapped access ramp to be going. The congregation has enjoyed Tom Barker as Art Linkletter during children's sermons. We have travelled from a stern-looking, soft-hearted Esther to a liberated Jennifer. We've tried a young Guy and an experienced George. Many friends have come and gone."

Church membership in 1993 was 237, with an average attendance of 102. Today's numbers are about half of that.

Total income for the year 1955 was \$3,786; 1993 was \$72,718; 2024-25 \$171,314! December 14, 1980 was the first Sunday with Cindy Eggleston as organist.

Nancy Dee

Insurance Loss

Friends: As the liaison for the Church to our insurance company, I must inform you that we have experienced a financial loss of \$15,900. As some may recall, the Church was awarded \$25,000 in the form of a Federal Security Grant to upgrade FCCW exterior with cameras and communication strategies in the event of an emergency. The money did not come to us – but would have if the Contractor had done the work he promised and the job was satisfactorily completed. This happened in 2022-23. Our insurance company has denied our claim under the term of “voluntary parting” with \$15,900, though FCCW’s claim is: it should be covered as “breach of contract” AND “theft by deception”. The matter is NOT closed yet as we continue to examine definitions and options. If you would like to know more or to discuss options, please contact Carol Lundgren at carollundgren94@gmail.com 978 807-4041. Thank you.

Carol Lundgren

NOVEMBER 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--|-----------|--|
| | | | |  | | 1 ALL SAINTS DAY HMNS Pancake Breakfast 8–11 a.m. |
| 2 21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship and Communion 10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 3 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30 | 4 Faith Formation 12 noon | 5 Chair Yoga 10 a.m. Diaconate 5 p.m. | 6 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m. | 7 | 8 |
| 9 22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 10 Choir 5:30 | 11 VETERAN'S DAY Faith Formation 12 noon Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m. | 12 Chair Yoga 10 a.m. | 13 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m. Parish Helpers Meeting 1 p.m. BPLOA Meeting 6 p.m. | 14 | 15 HARVEST FAIR 9 a.m.—1 p.m. |
| 16 23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Leadership Council Mtg. | 17 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m. Finance Ministry Meeting - 1 p.m. Choir 5:30 | 18 Faith Formation 12 noon Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. | 19 Chair Yoga 10 a.m. | 20 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m. | 21 | 22 |
| 23 LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 24 Choir 5:30 | 25 Faith Formation 12 noon Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m. | 26 Chair Yoga 10 a.m. | 27 THANKSGIVING DAY  | 28 | 29 |
| 30 1st Sunday of Advent Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour | | | | | | |

Celebrations!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Kim Cornell | 19 Dana Margolis |
| 4 Gail Feddern | 20 Mary Beth Cook |
| 4 Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood | 22 Donna Lewis |
| 5 Vincent Mangano | 23 Ann Bilodeau |
| 8 George Ackerman | 25 Lauryn Robinson |
| 14 Pam Wiggin | 29 Catherine Britton |
| 16 Julie Margolis | 29 Rev. Mary James |
| | 30 Chuck Hodsdon |

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4 Skip & Sharon Theiling

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

We believe that prayer is powerful!

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:

Pat A. and family; Mjo M. and Family; James C; Brian T; Anne and Joe P; Dave L; Gerald B; Lois B; Sara E; Nancy B; Cindy E; Our sister church in Zimbabwe, Rufumiso UCCZ

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.

Home Needed Temporarily

Friends, I am working with a young man who is injured/recovering from an accident and surgery. He's making good progress with physical therapy, but needs a place to stay temporarily.

If you know of a location that might be available, please contact me and I'll do the rest! Thanks so much for holding this young person in your prayers and for thinking about possible options. Carol Lundgren 978 807-4041 or carollundgren94@gmail.com

Carol Lundgren

Bake Sale

It's almost time to fire up the oven for our Harvest Fair on Saturday, November 15.

Maybe you have some old family recipes to share. We would love to sell your sweet breads and yeast breads, as well as, 9" and 5" pies of any kind. We will provide 9" and 5" disposable pie plates, as well as mini loaf pans to hold your delectable treats. We will have a drop off time beginning at 3:00 on Friday, November 14th. Thank you in advance for supporting our church. We couldn't do it without you!

Our Newest Member



It's official! Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr., our new settled Pastor, was called in May and as of Sunday, October 26th is officially a member of our church. Welcome to the fold, Rev! We're so glad you're with us!

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form
Due by November 17th

Please use the form below for ordering your Christmas Poinsettia Plants. Orders must be placed before **November 17th**. Checks are made payable to: The First Congregational Church of Wakefield, please notate Poinsettia in the memo. Order forms and payments may be left in the Administrator's mailbox located in the church narthex or mailed to the address listed below.

Name of Donor(s): _____

In Memory or In Honor of: _____
(Please circle one)

Single Poinsettia Plant ___ @ \$14.95 ___ Red ___ White

Double Poinsettia Plant ___ @ \$24.95 ___ Red ___ White

Plants may be picked up after Christmas Eve Service Please contact Rachel White at 603-520-2316 with questions.

*Thank You for helping to make our Sanctuary especially beautiful this
Christmas Season!*

First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC
2718 Wakefield Road
Sanbornville, NH 03872

Parish Helpers News



Our next Parish Helpers meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13, at 1 p.m. We will welcome as our guest speaker, Jonathan Balanoff, President of the Acton/ Wakefield Watershed Alliance. AWWA is one of the many organizations the Parish Helpers donate to. It will be interesting to hear how our contribution is helping to protect and restore the water quality of the lakes, ponds, rivers and streams of Wakefield, New Hampshire and the border region of Acton, Maine.

A successful season! The Parish Helpers Treasure Shop had a banner season this summer from Memorial Day to Indigenous Peoples day. We could not have been so successful (our best year ever!) without the hard work of the volunteers who worked in the shop—receiving donations, pricing, placing, cleaning, setting up and taking down, many dump runs! We spread good will in the community with many people coming in frequently—sometimes just to say hello. Thank you to the parish helpers who gave of their time. And an especially huge thank you to Rachel White and Carole Doughty for taking the reins and leading the team. We look forward to the next season to see what treasures we'll have to offer!

Carol Jeffery

Last Chance Raffle Quilt



The drawing will happen at the conclusion of the Harvest Fair on November 15th. The quilt is queen size and is called "Summer on the Pond".

If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, now's the time! One chance is \$5 or 3 for \$10. To purchase your tickets ahead of the Fair, see Ginny Schweitzer or Carol Jeffery.

Note to Parish Helpers: please be sure to turn in your \$ and ticket stubs ahead of the Fair.

Food Pantry Needs

Now, more than ever, the Wakefield Food Pantry needs our help. Special requests for November are: Cake Mixes and Frosting, Brownie Mix, Canned Pie Filling, and Hot and Cold Cereals. Cash donations are always welcome. Every little bit helps.

First Congregational Church of Wakefield

2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH (Fellowship Hall)



Harvest Fair

Saturday, November 15th, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Come check out all the great items in our Penny Sale - featuring local business gift certificates!

Proceeds to benefit the good work of our church!

Churchart.com

- ❖ Gift Baskets Galore
- ❖ Bake Sale
- ❖ Cookie Walk
- ❖ Soup Luncheon
- ❖ Quilt Raffle
- ❖ Penny Sale
- ❖ AND SO MUCH MORE!



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