

**Come Celebrate
Reverend Larry
Brickner-Wood
on 6/29 at 10AM!!**

UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE



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



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

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The Pastor's Page

Beloved FCCW Family and Friends,

In this exciting moment of anticipation, as we prepare to embark on our ministry and life journey together in just a few days, I find myself reflecting on the sacred invitation that God presents to us: the call to authentically engage with one another and the world around us. Since my last visit, my heart has been stirring with one pointed question that we are tasked to answer together. It is the question of "Who is God calling us to be now?" This question is not merely an intellectual exercise; it is a profoundly spiritual inquiry that resonates in the heart of our community. As we ponder this together, it is crucial to recognize that the essence of our work comes not from a place of uniformity but from embracing our unique selves. Our authentic identities will serve as the substratum upon which we build a ministry that is truly reflective of God's diverse creation.

The beauty of an authentic community lies in our ability to celebrate and respect the myriad paths that have brought each of us here to this beautiful church nestled among gorgeous lakes and mountains. It is within the grey areas of life — the spaces where certainty dissolves, and complexity flourishes — that we find the opportunity to practice radical hospitality. This radical hospitality calls us to embrace one another's differences and to enter into our "What's Next" without the pressure to conform or change. Such an attitude is not just an ideal; it is a commitment to the messy and beautiful work of building ministry and relationships that honor individual journeys while nurturing our collective mission. By meeting each other where we are, we cultivate an environment where vulnerability can thrive and where each voice is a vital and necessary part of the chorus that glorifies God.

As we step into this new chapter, our "What's Next," let us be intentional about ridding ourselves of any remnants of insecurity that suggest we must hide or alter our true selves to be part of the wider community. Each one of us is a beloved child of God, inherently worthy and deeply valuable. I encourage you, beloveds, to embrace your authentic selves with courage and confidence as we navigate the complexities of life together. In this space of acceptance and love, we will not only discern who God is calling us to be but also manifest a vision of ministry that reflects the radical love of Christ. Together, let us commit to this journey of self-expression and communal discernment, trusting that in our authenticity, we will uncover the profound ways God is inviting us to engage with one another and the world.

Rev

Hazel MacBrien NS News

For the first week in June we worked on number 3 and our theme was oceans and shells. We had blue salt and seashells in our sensory table. The morning class did a sea pattern paper, a shark color match activity and an I spy dry erase find and circle paper and they explored with shells and playdough. The afternoon class did a roll and graph shell activity, a farm or ocean sort, seashell math and explored with playdough and shells.

The second week in June we introduced letter Xx and our theme was pirates and treasure; x marks the spot. The sensory table had wooden treasure boxes, gems, spoons and treasure maps in it. Our fours class graduated on Monday, June 9th and we had the graduation here at school. The kids sang a few songs for their families and got their diplomas. We ended the celebration with a yummy cookie donated by Lovell Lake Village Market. It's always hard to see them go but we are super excited for them to move on to the next step in their education journey! The 3's class did a cut and glue pirate pattern paper, rolled a die and used gold coins to give a pirate that many coins, did an I spy pirate sheet and played pirate bingo. The 4's class made number towers using unifix cubes, cut 4 rectangles apart then glued them together to make a parrot puzzle, measured different pirate items using unifix cubes and then determined which one was longer and which was shorter and did a count the room activity.

Both classes joined Miss Sara and me at the Nick playground in Wolfeboro to celebrate a great year and have some fun on the slides and fields.

Thank you to all of you for another great year! We truly appreciate your support and smiling faces whenever we see any of you!! We are blessed to have a home here and we are happy to come to school and enjoy the beautiful sunshine shining through the big windows in the classroom

Warmly, Jen & Sara

Parish Helpers

The **Parish Helpers Annual Picnic** will be held on Thursday, July 10 at Nancy Dee's house at 134 Deer Ridge Road, Wakefield. Please bring a pot luck dish for the luncheon (but not a dessert as the dessert and beverages will be provided by the hosts.) If it is difficult for you to bring a dish, please come anyway! There's always so much food! Directions and more details will be forthcoming via email.

The Treasure Shop is in full swing! We need everyone's help this season. Be sure to stop by and sign up to work in the shop. And we'll be finalizing plans for the Village Fair which will be on August 9th. Hope to see you all there!

Carol Jeffery

Invitation to Celebrate Larry



This coming **Sunday June 29, 2025** will be our last Sunday with our Interim Minister Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood. It will be hard to say goodbye but we are most joyful for Larry's retirement!

Please come join us for his last service at 10:00 am. And then stay for a lovely light luncheon in Fellowship Hall provided by our fabulous Parish Helpers.

Annual Meeting Sunday



Time for Celebration! On Sunday, June 22, we celebrated our ONA (Open and Affirming) Anniversary, welcomed four new members—Patty and Paul Burbank, Celia Randall, and Tracy Hynes Frechette. We thanked and dismissed the Search and Call Team and held our Annual Meeting!

Co-moderators Margie Galabrun and Judy Trepal facilitated the meeting where the congregation voted to approve the LC proposed budget and accept the Service Animal Policy. Acknowledgment was made of Ministry Annual Reports which can be read on our church website at [Annual Reports](#).

It was an uncontentious and productive meeting and we went forth with blessings into the new fiscal year.

Taking a Break

The Faith Formation discussion group will be taking a break for the month of July.

And the Prayer Shawl Ministry will not meet during July and August. It is hoped that knitting will continue over the summer and they'll be shawls to bless in September.

Hope you'll enjoy some "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer! And everyone will be relaxed and rearing to go come Fall.

Our New Settled Pastor!

On June 10, 2025 the posting below was sent to media groups. We are most blessed to have REV joining us!

“The First Congregational Church of Wakefield, NH, United Church of Christ is pleased to announce the August arrival of our new Pastor, The Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.



“Rev. Mills attended Episcopal Divinity in Cambridge, MA, received his Master of Divinity from Boston University, and his Doctor of Ministry from Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA. His doctoral dissertation centered on returning citizens from long-term incarceration.

“Rev. Mills grew up in the AME (African Methodist Episcopal Church). He came to Ministry as a 2nd career, being installed in the Transforming Word Cathedral in 1999. He began his association with the United Church of Christ (UCC) about 20 years ago through his work with The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM). Rev. Mills wrote, “I have come to value and respect the UCC because it tries to live what it preaches. It has a social justice lens in which it lives and breathes as I do.”

“We are so excited to have Rev. Mills join us. We invite you to come, meet him, and journey with us. **His first service will be on August 3rd, 10:00 am**, at the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC, 2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH 03872.”

“Make the Circle Wide”

Dear Church Family and Friends of FCCW: As you may know, new advocacy work has opened a door to a new group of people (for me). People who are without shelter, right in our town. In reaching out for help, several of you have responded lovingly with financial assistance. You are a blessing to these people for their basic needs to be met.

We continue working together as we are climbing the mountain but have not yet reached a completely "safe place" yet, but much has been accomplished:

Two bank accounts have been opened one for each. Critical expenses are being paid as money is available. I am managing their money at this time.

(Continued)

> A car was purchased for one and a second car is found and awaiting a bit of fundraising to secure.

> A 35' camper has been purchased and installed in a campground for safe shelter until the end of October when the camper will need to be relocated for the winter.

> Two of these beloveds (one from each family) now have jobs. One is a meaningful full time job and the other is part time, but both will assure more stability.

> Several organizations in Town have been approached and some have responded with a donation! Blessing this process.

> We have established one Go Fund Me page for one couple and it is beginning to show promise. Search on the following link: GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-a-brave-couples-path-to-stability> . Since Go Fund Me takes 3% of any donations, I also encourage people to write checks directly to me with the words "A Hand Up" in the memo line. Send to church or me: Lundgren, 94 Grenier Rd., Wakefield, NH 03872.

> Anyone wishing to donate to the person who is a "senior" can write "Senior" in the memo line of a check. The accounts are kept at separate banks to assure I don't goof up!

> The "senior" person was housed for the winter by a friend; now, that person has been welcomed for another stay in another home in town -- also a benevolent kind soul. We are searching hard for low income housing. It's not easy as you probably know.

> The "senior" person also has an adult son with a disability. He is also temporarily housed but has JUST been approved for a disability benefit. Hooray!

> The Salvation Army has kindly raised our Town's allowance so more food vouchers will soon be available.

> The Wakefield Food Pantry has been "right there" for these people! Our own Marilou MacLean (Pantry Director) is so "in tune" with the need!

Please continue prayers for lives to turn around, be safe and hope filled. Thank you for your love, support and generosity.

Carol Lundgren

Welcome New Members



Gary and Joan Peresada became members of our congregation on June 1. They were lifetime residents of Connecticut and moved to New Hampshire in 2020 to live in their retirement home on Olde Pine Road, East Wakefield. They love New Hampshire and enjoy boating on Pine River Pond,

camping, and hiking. Gary loves to snowmobile, drive his Mustang, and work on his never ending “to do” list. He is a retired Manufacturing Engineer and worked in several companies that manufactured commercial aircraft seating, soda dispensers, electric motors, prototype windmills and controls for aircraft carriers. Joan enjoys reading and trying new recipes. She retired from The Hartford Insurance Group where she was an Operations leader specializing in licensing, commissions, quality control and system conversions. She is currently working as a part time remote consultant. Gary and Joan have 1 son, 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren all under the age of 2, and 1 additional grandson on the way.



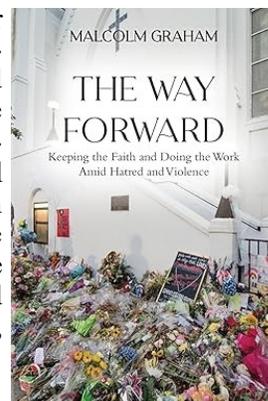
Evan and Betsy McDougal joined our church on June 15. Evan is a native of Springvale, ME and Betsy grew up in West Groton, MA. They met at Moore Army Airfield, Fort Devens, MA. Evan was a fixed wing/helicopter pilot with the 10th Special Forces Group and Betsy was the Airfield Commander’s Secretary. Evan has had a varied

career including being an Army Aviator, a Coast Guard Search and Rescue Pilot, co-owner of a family-owned apple business, an Airport Manager, a Manager of Airport Planning and is currently a Real Estate Agent with Costantino Real Estate in Ossipee, NH. Betsy was a homemaker for many years as they traveled around the country with the Coast Guard. Later in life, she worked as a bookkeeper and spent several years working in the geriatric healthcare field. She now works with Evan as his Administrative Real Estate Assistant.

Between military and civilian life, they moved several times during the past 43 years. They have a passion for remodeling homes and completed four major home renovations. Their home on Lovell Lake was purchased in 2011 and they began living there in 2016. They love the community of Sanbornville and feel very blessed to live so close to their two adult children and their families, which includes two precious grandchildren.

Library Spotlight

In *The Way Forward*, the author Malcolm Graham shares a personal journey of loss, grief, and resilience, deeply rooted in the heart-breaking tragedy at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. This poignant narrative is a powerful testament to the strength of the human spirit and the enduring power of love, faith, and community.



This book offers a compelling exploration of the complex interplay between faith and forgiveness. It challenges the reader to examine their own understanding of these concepts, particularly in the context of racial injustice. The author's struggle with forgiveness is a profound journey that questions societal norms and calls for a deeper understanding of the systemic racism that perpetuates violence and discrimination. Source: Amazon

Connie Littlefield told us about this book in her recent sermon.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

Every Little Bit Helps!

Here are a few simple ways you can help FCCW save on our purchases at STAPLES.

- Don't throw away your **Used Ink and Toner Cartridges**. Please drop them off in the Church Office and we will recycle them through our account at STAPLES and receive Rewards for them.
- When making a purchase at Staples you can ask that they apply the REWARDS of your purchase to the Church Account by providing them the Church phone number [603-522-3189](tel:603-522-3189). How easy is that!
- If you have any coupons that you are not using, please drop them off at the Church Office and we can use them to help save money on purchases!

Every little bit helps!

Janice Brejwo, Finance Team

PKZ News

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your wonderful donations for the humanitarian shipping container. We have peanut butter and ibuprofen galore, filing cabinets stuffed with medical supplies --orthopedic "stuff", washable, reusable, sanitary pads, toothpaste (1000 or so complimentary tubes came our way just recently), bandages, medical tubing and more, approx. 1300 dresses from the Dress A Girl Around the World program of Southern Maine, assorted tools, all kinds of clothing, shoes, sewing machines, durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, crutches, walkers), bicycles, school and athletic supplies, infant clothing and baby blankets, linens, choir robes donated by the North Conway church for Rufumiso and more. I *might* have exceeded my cubic space allotment -- ok so I am closer to 300 cubic feet than 250 cubic feet. I really tried to control myself when a nearby organization offered reading books thinking I was only going to take a few boxes. When I saw the boxes had not been opened, I ended up with *at least* 38 boxes. So much for self-control! Yet it will all be a blessing and I am optimistic that all can be squeezed on the container.

Looking for some fun and inspiration? The container will be loaded at Spaulding High School beginning at 9 am on Tuesday, August 19th. Groups from all over New Hampshire and Massachusetts with one or two from Vt will be participating. Hopefully, student volunteers will be there to do most of the heavy lifting. Donna Ackerman is our inside-the-container coordinator as she has an eye for how things should be packed. Sam and Blessing should be back in action as her side kicks. We will need help loading Brian Shipley's trailer the day before from Elizabeth's garage.

The pastor of our sister church at Rufumiso sent his warmest congratulations on the calling of Rev. Mills, "wishing him all the best in Wakefield." He continued by writing, " We have received with much appreciation the money sent with Mr. Vrante Mahlupeko. We are really grateful and appreciate so much the gesture. It will go a long way in our plan to have the parsonage habitable by the end of 2025. Our history will not be complete without mentioning the friends of the Wakefield Church. May God bless our dear friends and grant them the desires of their hearts." He went on to explain that their committee purchased floor tiles and cement for part of the house with the donations they received.

"Pass our kind regards and seasonal greetings to all the dear friends over there." Rev. Farai Mtisi

Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of so many!

Connie Littlefield

What is PKZ?

FCCW has partnered with its sister church, Rufumiso UCCZ (United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe), located at Birchenough Bridge since 1998. The Zimbabwe Team is an energetic and enthusiastic group which facilitates this partnership. Over the years, FCCW Mission groups have traveled to Zim developing cross-cultural relationships and unwavering friendships. We operate under the umbrella of Project Kuchengetedza Zwiwanikwa (PKZ). For more information go to www.projectkz.org

Summer Pen Pals

This summer FCCW will have a pen pal at Horton Center. George Ackerman will be coordinating this program and more information will be coming. Meanwhile here are some of Ava-Graces' favorite things:

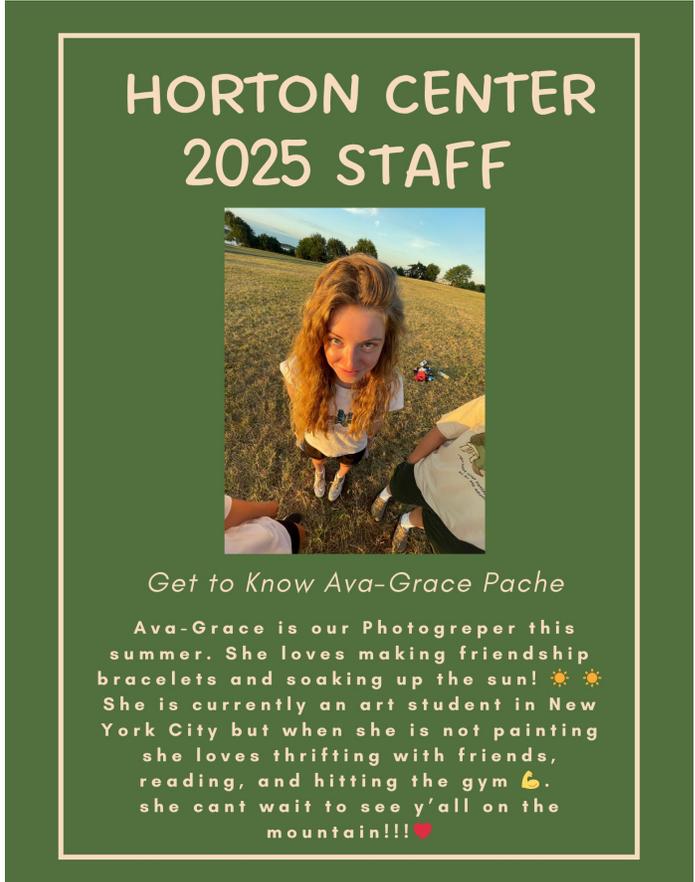
Favorite Color - Pink

Favorite Snack - Mangos

Favorite Candy - Anything chocolate (Amond Joys)

Favorite Drink - Lavander Match Latte

She is super excited to get to know us.



**HORTON CENTER
2025 STAFF**



Get to Know Ava-Grace Pache

Ava-Grace is our Photogreper this summer. She loves making friendship bracelets and soaking up the sun! ☀️☀️ She is currently an art student in New York City but when she is not painting she loves thrifting with friends, reading, and hitting the gym 🏋️. she cant wait to see y'all on the mountain!!!❤️

Celebrations!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

4	Buddy & Nancy Dee
15	Curt & MaryBeth Cook
17	David & Ginny Schweitzer
24	Jean-Michel & Margie Galabrun
30	Jim and Allison Hayford

Village Fair

AND FAMOUS

★ COOKIE WALK ★

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

SPONSORED BY THE PARISH HELPERS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

(ACROSS FROM THE WAKEFIELD INN)

2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD, WAKEFIELD, NH

Save the Date—the Fair is coming soon. Spaces are available for crafters/ vendors to rent. Call the office at 603-522-3189 for more information.

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

We believe that prayer is powerful! During this time of transition in our church, let us pray for the Diaconate, the Officers, and Leadership Council for their thoughtful guidance in moving 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:

Rev. Mary and family; Carol J family—Maryann and Chrissy; Rev (Rev. James Mills); Anne P & Family; The Fogg Family;; Dave & Charlotte L; Gerald B; Lois B; Sara E; Nancy B; Richard W; Bob L; Cindy E; Our sister church in Zimbabwe, Rufumiso UCCZ

The 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.

WITH
sympathy



Please hold loving thoughts for Harriet and her children, Nathan and Rachel, as they come together to honor the life and legacy of Dick Wilson.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at our church on Saturday,

June 28th at 11 a.m. Calling hours are at Peaslee Funeral Home in Sanbornville on Friday from 4 to 6 pm.

You can see the full obituary at:

<https://www.peasleefuneralhome.com/obits>

Durable Medical Equipment

If you or someone you know has a need for a wheelchair, bath seat, walker or other type of DME, please contact Bobby at 603 702-5433. The Lions Club is now managing these important needs for the community.

JULY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	3 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m.	4 Independence Day "4th of July" 	5 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
6 4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	7 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30	8 Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m.	9 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	10 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m. Parish Helpers Picnic 12 NOON	11	12 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
13 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	14 Choir 5:30	15	16 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	17 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m.	18	19 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
20 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	21 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30–10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30	22 Ukulele Club 6–7:30 p.m.	23 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	24 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m.	25	26 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon
27 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	28 Choir 5:30	29	30 Treasure Shop Open 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	31 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m.		