

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
MAY 2026

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

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.

Grace and Peace be yours, FCCW,

The month of May marks the one-year anniversary of FCCW voting me in to become its next settled pastor. Getting to know the FCCW family has been a wonderful experience. When I realized it had been a year since the vote and two months shy of one year since I officially started ministry here on Wakefield Road, I began reflecting on this ministry faith journey.

I remember, early in my ministry, during a period of financial uncertainty, some of the faithful gathered to seek comfort and guidance through prayer. As we voiced our concerns, one member gently suggested, "**Let us pray that the money holds out.**" However, an older lady, Lucille Baldwin, wise and seasoned in her faith, softly yet confidently interjected, "**Oh, no! We need to pray that our faith holds out.**" In that transformative moment, the significance of faith became vividly more apparent to me than ever before. It dawned upon me that faith is not a mere abstract concept, but a tangible force woven into our hope and sustained by unwavering belief.

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it is essential to cultivate an unwavering faith that extends beyond specific desires or outcomes. Throughout our journey, we are bound to encounter various needs—whether financial stability, extra time, or greater unity among those we love. Instead of offering prayers solely for material provisions or specific results, it is wiser to tap into the wellspring of faith within us. This, indeed, is the most hopeful place to begin invoking divine grace and guidance.

I find comfort in my unwavering belief in God's inherent goodness. As spiritual beings, we have been blessed with the gift of faith, which empowers us to shape our future with purpose and grace. The simple act of choosing to believe in the immense possibilities within us deposited by the divine ignites a flame of faith that can guide our decisions and actions, even in the face of adversity.

My prayer, FCCW, is that it becomes evident to each of us that faith is not just an abstract concept or blind belief. It is a powerful force that infuses our lives with meaning and purpose. By anchoring ourselves in faith, we can navigate the storms of uncertainty, rise above challenges, and walk with unwavering confidence on our journey toward fulfillment. Therefore, let us engrave the importance of faith in our hearts and minds, and may it serve as a constant reminder of the tremendous potential within us to manifest a brighter, more purposeful future.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence which is not seen."—Hebrews 11:1

News of Zimbabwe

Great progress is being made on the PKZ cottage for the children at Daisy Dube. If you are on Facebook you may have seen the exciting work from trenching, to compacting the foundation, to the walls going up! I am very excited that Simon, one of the youth who grew up at the home, had the opportunity to attend vocational school and is now a mason on the project!



The expenses continue as we face the need for more bricks, more cement, and eventually trusses for the roof. So we have a double fundraiser coming up in June. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 20th, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.** We will have our delicious PKZ Team Pancake Breakfast as well as a Gold Fundraiser!

What's a Gold Fundraiser?

You bring in your old or unwanted gold, silver, and platinum jewelry or sterling silver flatware and serving pieces. Our friends from Tailored Collectibles Advising will be off in a corner in the Fellowship Hall to provide free, no-obligation evaluations while you, hopefully, enjoy breakfast.* If you decide to sell, you'll receive payment on the spot. 5% of the total of what TCA buys will be donated by Tailored Transition to PKZ for the Daisy Dube building project. Wow! A win-win! I can attest that I had items I thought had very little value – broken necklace, an old class ring I had not worn for 50 years, stuff I thought was costume jewelry, along a couple of unmatched earrings. I was delighted to accept \$650 for things I never used. *And it all went to Zimbabwe so that George and I could do more good work!*

Tailored Collectibles Advising accepts:

- Broken or tangled gold chains and necklaces, single earrings
- Unwanted gold and silver jewelry
- Gold and silver coins
- Sterling silver flatware and serving pieces
- Platinum items

**People do not need to stay for the pancake breakfast if they only wish an evaluation. Please pass the word around to family, friends, and neighbors!*

Bless you, Connie Littlefield

It's that Stewardship Time of Year Again; and We're Excited!

As we enter this Stewardship season, we are excited to be sharing our joy with you! And we are very grateful that some of our fellow FCCW members and friends will be sharing their personal messages and testimonies with us all during the month of May, imparting what Stewardship means to each of them and the importance of supporting our church.

Each of our commitments to FCCW are deeply personal, reflecting how we prayerfully choose to support our church through acts of service, financial gifts, and prayer. Our stories, such as those we may hear from our fellow members during this month, remind us of the power of collective commitment. Echoing the messages we've heard from the Pulpit, in Leadership workshops, Bible study, and during Prayers of the People—messages of Christian love, the strength of community, and our shared dedication to FCCW—we invite you to make a commitment—whether through volunteering, financial support, or prayer—to help FCCW thrive.

During this upcoming week, please check your inbox for a shared message from Stewardship detailing ways you can participate and support our church's mission. In Christian Love,

*Chris, Ken, Judy, Carol, Rev
Stewardship Ministry*



Stewardship Ministry—Rev, Ken Ballinger, Chris Feddern, Judy Trepal, Carol Lundgren

FUNdraising

First Up—May 16th--**Pride Day Cookie Walk**—This is what we're known for—Last year, a guy told me "This is the only reason I come to Pride Day, Your Homemade Cookies". So, of course, we need lots of cookies, all different kinds, just please label your container "with nuts", or "no nuts". Bring them to church on Friday afternoon. If you want your container back, please put your name on it. You can also drop them off at the tent, by 9:00 am Saturday morning. We will also be looking for people to be there to sell the cookies. There are usually several of us, spread between the FCCW tents, but we will especially need a few during the parade, which is 11:30ish to 1:00.

Next is the **Service Auction**, date to be determined, but probably in June. Thank you to those who have donated already. I have 17 items on my list so far. The last one, 10 years ago, had 40+ items, so we really need to increase that number! The sooner, the better, so we can start advertising. We intend to offer online bidding to encourage more participation outside of our congregation.

A sampling of offers: Computer assistance; Guitar Lessons; Baked Goods; Housework; Chauffeured Round Trip Ride to C&J Bus in Dover; Guided Hike; Pontoon Boat Cruise of Pine River Pond; Dinner Party; 4 hours of Tractor Work; an Italian Dinner delivered to your house; One Room Painted!! What can you come up with? I'd love to see some gardening advice, or perhaps a kayak tour on one of our many lakes, maybe some fresh picked garden vegetables.

Please let me or Julie Kessler know what you decide to do. Nancy Dee Nancy.dee2018@gmail.com
Julie Kessler Julielouisekessler@gmail.com

Nancy Dee

There's a Place for You

Are you wanting to become more active in our church, but don't know how? Perhaps you are new to the church or just looking for a change of pace?

We have a unique church structure of ministries which is built on individuals' interests and talents. Some of our ministries have been highlighted in recent issues of the Steeple Views. You can also learn more from our website. Go to [Who We Are](#) for a list of active ministries. If you want more information, check in with Rev or moderators, Margie Galabrun or Judy Trepal.

Outreach News

Mjo McCarthy's 2026 White Lake Ultra run is happening! MJo will be running around White Lake beginning Saturday, May 2nd at 7:00 a.m. Our amazing endurance trail runner will challenge herself for 24 HOURS, finishing on Sunday, May 3rd. Once again, MJo is running to benefit the people of Zimbabwe and all funds will go toward the building of the Daisy Dube children's cottage at Mt. Selinda. We can support MJo by our monetary gifts, by showing up at White Lake to cheer her on during one of her laps, and with our love and positive vibes as she runs after recently having surgery! MJo epitomizes resilience, perseverance and athletic grit. Let's support MJo, a relentless advocate for a wonderful cause!

In March Carol Lundgren gave a thoughtful and important presentation to the Parish Helpers that dealt with aging well and about being proactive by having critical documents in order. One of the documents was a packet called *File of Life*. A *File of Life* includes a form with critical information that is placed in a magnetic pouch on our refrigerators. This is extremely helpful for first responders and hospital emergency staff by providing instant, critical info in the event of an emergency. It is a benefit to each of us knowing we will have provided life saving information in a medical emergency. The Outreach Ministry wants to provide these packets to our congregation. The Parish Helpers have provided financial support to make this possible. Each person who is interested will have a card for their home and one for their wallet in the very near future. Thank you to our wonderful Parish Helpers!

Our next 5 for 5 offering is Strengthen the Church, which takes place on or near Pentecost Sunday, May 24th. The funds raised support the work of our NH Conference and National UCC Ministries by strengthening and supporting congregations, providing leadership development, and supporting a variety of youth ministry programs.

Connie Littlefield



Outreach Ministry—Patty Burbank, Maxi Schultz, Andrea Costello, Jeanne Miccolo, Pat Anderson, Connie Littlefield, and Ann Bilodeau.

Preserving the Legacy of Our Church Sanctuary

Reflections on one of Our Historic Stained Glass Windows and the Yeaton Family by Rev. Dr. Nancy Spencer Smith, church archivist and President of the Wakefield Brookfield Historical Society

Our Church Sanctuary is blessed to retain four of the original smaller stained-glass windows. Unfortunately, the central Good Shepherd window and two of the smaller windows were lost in the Church fire. Today, just to the left of the replacement-stained-glass Good Shepherd window- one can see one of the four original memorial-stained-glass windows. This window honors the memory of George A. Yeaton and was donated by his mother, Mary Ann Yeaton (Mrs. Samuel Yeaton).

Artistic and Spiritual Significance

All four of these smaller windows share a similar style and execution. Each features a prominent religious symbol—such as a cross, crown, bible, or harp—paired with a gift of nature like a flower or fruit. Alongside these symbols, the name of the person being memorialized and the donor's name are inscribed. Sunday after Sunday, my gaze would rest on the Yeaton window, prompting a desire to learn more about the Yeaton family's story.

Discovering the Yeaton Family History

Research into this Yeaton family is made easier with reference to Beth MacRury's *Footsteps of Pride to the Past*. However, it was from his obituary of May 24, 1899, that a picture of a life dedicated to Wakefield unfolded. Born on Christmas Day of 1843, George was unmarried and dedicated his life to the town affairs—serving as town clerk, selectman, town treasurer, state legislator. His obituary writes glowingly of his exemplary conduct as a public servant being a man of “the strictest integrity and uprightness in both public and private life. He ran the store next to church and later the store, across the street, next to the town hall. His home, the Yeaton home, was on the hill not far from the Wiggin cemetery, and being members of this Church, the Yeaton's had set aside a room in their home for church meetings when needed. This home burned in 1903 from a fire that originated from an ash barrel that was unfortunately put into the stable while it contained some live coals. The entire Yeaton belongings, containing years of priceless objects collected by the Captain in his many years to the Orient were destroyed. Mary Ann died 5 years later having lost her husband, Samuel, their son George and their worldly possessions.

Nearly eighteen years ago, I happened upon a remarkable discovery, in the attic of my home, a diary written by Mrs. Samuel Yeaton. The diary chronicles a journey

that began in 1867, undertaken by Mrs. Yeaton, with her husband Captain Samuel Yeaton, their son George, and several passengers. They were sailing “around the Horn” on their way to San Francisco and eventually China to return home by the end of the year. The handwriting was neat and legible, so I was able to begin typing this diary onto my computer.

A favorite passage in this diary has reverberated through my memory since I carefully typed it out for future generations to read “*How I would like to see a May flower today. I suppose the snow has nearly disappeared at Wakefield and the grass will soon be green. Summer will come and go before I see Wakefield again.*” The date on this entry was April 30, 1867, and here I am at the end of April 2026, some 159 years later, rereading what Mary Ann had written. Even more amazing was the fact that I had just that morning been May flowering in the field behind the Anchorage, an early Yeaton home. Clearly, Mary Ann and I, so many years later, were sharing the fragrance and memory of sinking to ones knees, as in prayer, to expose the delicate delight of these precious mayflowers, tinged in pink and white while emitting what my Dad used to call “the best fragrance ever!”

How amazing that awareness and curiosity can lead us into a glimpse of small but important events in the life of early forebears – the Yeatons – and how the preservation of our history continues to enlighten and educate us about the truth and mystery of connectivity.

Rev. Dr. Nancy Spencer-Smith



**WAKEFIELD-BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:
EXPLORING THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF WAKEFIELD CORNER**

ITS HISTORY, ITS RESIDENTS, ITS MYSTERIES

PRESENTED BY NANCY SPENCER SMITH, LONG-TIME RESIDENT

MAY 12, 2026 – 7:00 PM

AT

1ST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD, WAKEFIELD, NH

Celebrations!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 Sarah Connell | 17 Bridgette Gehring |
| 7 Dalton Ostrye | 18 Lance MacLean |
| 10 Sophia Moran | 19 Cindy Eggleston |
| 11 Sharon Baldwin | 23 Marc Galabrun |
| 11 Wayne Robinson | 27 Nancy Dee |
| 13 Nicholas Gatchell | 28 Luke Evenson |
| 14 Scott Frothingham | 29 Scott Twombly |
| 17 George Ackerman Jr. | 31 Brittany Frothingham |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

| |
|---------------------------|
| 3 Barry & Evelyn Truhn |
| 13 Charlie & Ann Bilodeau |
| 24 Chip & Karen Hagy |
| 29 Rob & Kelly Druge |
| 30 Richard & Linda Messer |

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:

Jan S; John S; Susan D; Sarah M; Brian T; Gerald B; Lois B; Nancy B; Cindy E; Our sister church in Zimbabwe, Rufumiso UCCZ; Pastor Ruzana and the Louisiana detainees.

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.



Our deepest sympathy goes out to —

Connie Littlefield on the death of her brother, Ronald Mollica on April 20th.

Carol Jeffery on the death of her brother, Thomas Tarallo on April 16th.

Please keep Connie and Carol and their families in your prayers.

Thank You

On behalf of the Wakefield School District (Paul School), we all want to thank you for the amazing food and item donations you made for the students. It is so appreciated! The students and staff are grateful for your gratuity and contributions!

Tyler Ramos, *Family Liaison*

Home Communion Visitation

In 2026 Rev and the Deacons will resume Home Communion Visitation. If you know of someone who would like a visit, please let Deacon Ken Ballanger know at kballinger@arkionls.com

Thank you

Treasure Shop Opening Soon!

Our fabulous Treasure Shop team, led by Rachel White and Carole Doughy have been busily preparing the shop for opening this month! Opening day for the season is Saturday, May 23rd. The store hours will be Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 to 12 noon until October! Come often to find your treasure!

We love your donations of sellable goods! They can be dropped off during open hours or contact Rachel or Carole for other arrangements.

Earth Day

Risen Savior,
you are always mistaken for a gardener
not only on one particular day,
but every day and especially the one
that we name as Earth Day.
We grieve the animals and plants
become extinct, commit ourselves
to those endangered,
and call our churches to advocacy
for all human beings threatened
by the air we breathe, water we drink,
and the ground on which we walk.
Now the green blade rises,
of our commitment to garden for you.
Amen.

Maren Tirabassi

Gratitude!

A heartwarming thank you to all the Church family folks who donated Easter plants in memory or in honor of loved ones. Our beautiful sanctuary looked like a lovely Spring garden!

Blessings, Rachel



Parish Helpers

The Parish Helpers enjoyed the presentation from George Ackerman and Connie Littlefield at their last meeting. Always interesting and entertaining, they



spoke of their recent visit to Zimbabwe—George's first visit there.

Coming up in May is our Annual Meeting and Luncheon. It will be held again at the Knotty Pine restaurant on Thursday, May 14, at 12 noon. As has been in the past, we will order from a limited menu planned especially for our group. Please let Ginny Schweitzer know if you plan to attend.

Wakefield Pride Day will be on Saturday, May 16. We will have a booth and will be display and sell raffle tickets for this year's quilt. We can use some help with that—please let Ginny know if you can take a shift on Pride Day.

The Treasure Shop is opening for the season on May 23. Get your calendars out and stop by the shop to sign up to help!

Carol Jeffery

Library News

Falling Upward (S-J)
By Richard Rohr

A fresh way of thinking about spirituality that grows throughout life In *Falling Upward*, Fr. Richard Rohr seeks to help readers understand the tasks of the two halves of life and to show them that those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down" are the only ones who understand "up." Most of us tend to think of the second half of life as largely about getting old, dealing with health issues, and letting go of life, but the whole thesis of this book is exactly the opposite. What looks like falling down can largely be experienced as "falling upward." In fact, it is not a loss but somehow actually a gain, as we have all seen with elders who have come to their fullness. Source: Amazon

Thanks to the person who donated this book to our library.

Linda Petkunas

MAY 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|--|-----|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 White Lake Ultra Run—7 a.m. to 7 a.m. Sunday |
| 3 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Worship and Communion 10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 4 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30 | 5 Faith Formation 12 noon | 6 Chair Yoga 10 a.m. Diaconate Meeting 5 p.m. | 7 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m. | 8 | 9 |
| 10 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 11 Choir 5:30 | 12 Faith Formation 12 noon Historical Society Program 7 p.m. | 13 Chair Yoga 10 a.m. Pizza and Uno 5:30 | 14 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m. Parish Helpers Luncheon—noon BPLOA Meeting 6 p.m. | 15 | 16 WAKEFIELD PRIDE DAY |
| 17 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Leadership Council Mtg. | 18 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30 a.m. Finance Meeting 1 p.m. Choir 5:30 | 19 Faith Formation 12 noon | 20 Chair Yoga 10 a.m. | 21 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m. | 22 | 23 Treasure Shop Opening Day 9 to noon |
| 24 PENTECOST SUNDAY Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour | 25 MEMORIAL DAY Choir 5:30 | 26 Faith Formation 12 noon | 27 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m. | 28 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m. | 29 | 30 Treasure Shop 9 to noon |
| 31 1st Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour | | | | | | |

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