

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
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JUNE 2026

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.

This month, we celebrate Juneteenth, a federal holiday since 2021 that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. It is celebrated on the anniversary of June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger read the proclamation of freedom for enslaved people in Galveston, Texas.

In our times, there is a concerted hyperfocus on simplifying and whitewashing the more shameful and discomforting chapters of our shared history, an effort that extends to our public spaces and conversations. People commonly experience a sense of dissatisfaction and inadequacy when they confront their reflections in the mirror, grappling with the imperfect images that stare back at them. This struggle with self-perception is mirrored on a larger scale in the ongoing debates in over 40 states regarding the content and boundaries of education, mainly focusing on sensitive subjects such as race, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

The issue of erasure transcends our borders, manifesting in various forms of abuse suffered by refugees, migrants, and marginalized populations at the hands of smugglers, traffickers, and even government entities. The erosion of individual identity and worth in places like Ukraine paints a stark picture of the repercussions of deliberate and systematic erasure. It underscores the critical importance of maintaining a heightened awareness of the need for inclusivity and equity across all facets of society. Failing to address deeply ingrained biases and systemic discrimination not only impedes progress but also squanders the potential for meaningful change and advancement. It is incumbent upon the church, upon you, and upon me, as a collective society and as individuals, to actively create a more equitable and compassionate world. The weight of responsibility lies with each of us to navigate these complex issues with a clear-eyed focus on justice and unity, recognizing the enormous significance of our actions in shaping the course of humanity at this pivotal juncture we find ourselves in today.

When mentoring young preachers and hopeful pastors, I give them some of the wisdom given to me, one of which is, **"Either you are a chaplain to the empire or a prophet of God speaking truth to power and giving hope to the vulnerable."**

Stewardship Update

From the Heart To those who have already submitted a pledge commitment—whether by email or through the offering plate—please accept our deepest thanks. Your generous response is a blessing to this church and a beautiful witness to God’s faithfulness among us. We are truly grateful for the prayerful love and commitment you have shown as we prepare for the Church’s Annual Meeting and for our ministry works that lie ahead.



Pledge Status For the 2026–27 fiscal year, the proposed budget includes \$152,000 in pledged support, which is \$12,000 more than this year’s total. As of May 19, we have received \$93,000 in pledges. These commitments are more than numbers—they are an expression of faith that helps sustain our ministries and supports essential needs such as building maintenance, operating expenses, our Congregational

Life Administrator, and our Pastor. As we near the Church’s Annual Meeting, timely pledges are especially important because they help us plan faithfully and responsibly for the year ahead. Through your generosity, God’s work continues to be carried forward in and through this church.

Your pledge truly matters, and every gift is a meaningful part of our life together in Christ. If you have not yet submitted your commitment, we warmly invite you to prayerfully consider doing so as soon as possible and send a confidential email to fccwassistanttreasurer@gmail.com with your pledge amount. Your timely response will be a great help as we finalize plans for the coming year. Thank you for strengthening the ministry, mission, and witness of our church through your faithful giving.

Chris, Ken, Carol, Judy, and Rev
Stewardship

The Steeple Views is a publication of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, NH UCC. For more information on articles you read in the Steeple Views, contact the editor, Carol Jeffery, at steepleviews@gmail.com or call the church office at 603-522-3189.



www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC

FCCW Service Auction—June 13 SAVE THE DATE

The FCCW Service Auction will be held on June 13 at 6:00 p.m. Grab dinner before you come, and we will have dessert waiting for you. You will soon receive an email with a list of auction items and minimum starting bids, so you can decide what you would like to bid on. If you are unable to attend in person, please contact Nancy Dee before June 13 at nancy.dee2018@gmail.com. Let her know which item(s) you want to bid on and your maximum bid. Any advance bid will serve as the opening bid. If no one bids higher, you win. If another advance bid for the same item is higher, you will receive a call and have the option to increase your bid. There will be no calls during the auction.

View the list of services being auctioned here:
[Service Auction Items](#)

Nancy Dee and Julie Kessler

FUNdraising

Our FUNdraising Team, ably led by Nancy Dee and Julie Kessler, works tirelessly to fill in the gaps in our budget. From bake sales to service auctions, fairs, and soups—it all adds up! Let’s support their efforts—plan to attend the June 13th service auction! Thank you Nancy and Julie for your enthusiasm and leadership.

Current Fundraising Status (as of 5/19/2026)

Budgeted Amount to Raise: \$12,000



Parish Helpers

It's a busy time of year for the Parish Helpers. We held our **Annual Meeting and Luncheon on May 14th**. There was very little business as officers have one more year to serve. We reminded the membership that there will be positions open for the next term (2027—2029) and asked that members think about participating in leadership. In the past, officers (esp. the President) would serve one or two terms. Ginny is on her 15th year and Carol is on her 17th year. Might be time for a change!



We unveiled the 2026 Raffle Quilt and distributed tickets to the members to sell (or buy for themselves). We ask that members consider stepping up to help sell more tickets this year. We do pretty well with sales, but could do a lot better with some extra effort.

Our quilt this year is a King/ Queen size 94" x 104". Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and are available from any Parish Helper or at the Treasure Shop.

The opening of the Treasure Shop on Saturday, May 23, was a huge success! We took in more than ever in sales as items were streaming out of the shop and into the hands of happy shoppers! We find ourselves low in inventory for some things such as the bedding selections. We could use more donations of sheets, blankets, quilts, afghans and such. **And we can also use jewelry donations.** So while you're doing your spring cleaning, see what you could part with! You can drop donations off during open hours on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

The schedule to work at the Treasure Shop is at the Treasure Shop. Please stop by and sign up!

The next Parish Helpers meeting is on June 11 at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We're planning on having some fun and hope you'll be there to join in!

Carol Jeffery

Hazel MacBrien Nursery School News

In the first week of May, we introduced the number 3 with a caterpillar and butterfly theme. Children practiced number matching, patterns, life cycle concepts, counting activities, simple math, and butterfly-themed art, with a fantasy-themed sensory table for exploration.

In the second week of May, we worked on Qq with a farm life theme. Children enjoyed a farm sensory table and practiced following directions, sorting, movement, patterns, shapes, beginning sounds, graphing, number work, syllables, and memory games.

In the third week of May, we introduced Ww with a watermelon theme. Activities included shape, number, counting, and fine motor practice, along with bulletin board projects, playdough exploration, and a water-themed sensory table. Both classes also enjoyed participating in the annual Wakefield Pride Day parade and visiting with HMNS families.

In the fourth week of May, we worked on Zz with a zoo animal theme. Children practiced movement, letter recognition, beginning sounds, counting, patterns, math, and building activities, with additional zoo-themed sensory and playdough exploration.

The weather in May was cold and rainy, but on the beautiful sunshine and warm days we We enjoyed our amazing fenced in play area! We are so thankful for our outdoor space and FCCW's continued support of HMNS!!

Library News "He Sets the Captive Free"-

By Corrie Ten Boom
R-B (Biography)

"It is not only behind barbed wire or prison doors that there are prisoners. There are prisoners of sin, prisoners of lust, prisoners of wrong philosophies, prisoners of circumstances, prisoners of self. There are prisoners everywhere. I pray this book will help you too to lose your life for Jesus' sake so that you may gain it. Jesus said that those whom He makes free are free indeed. Whether decent or indecent sinners, we all need Jesus. " Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch watchmaker, Holocaust survivor, and Christian humanitarian who helped save hundreds of Jews during World War II and later shared her message of forgiveness worldwide.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

Notes from Zimbabwe

Thank you to all who donated to MJO's amazing 64 mile endurance run at White Lake. When all donations are received, MJO will have raised \$2383.00! Amazing!



The cottage for the Daisy Dube Children's Home is going gangbusters! Construction is now at the lintel level – that piece above doors and window frames at which the roof trusses shall be placed. PKZ has a dynamic team of five workers led by Maxwell Makuyana, who is extraordinary. The supervisor of the large, professional organization, Higher Life Foundation which built the administration building and three of the cottages, recently sent the following message to our PKZ Director Vranthe Mahlupeko Jambaya after visiting the work site.



“Mr. Jambaya, you are already doing a great job. We spent \$120,000.00 per cottage excluding geysers and gutters. Your guys are moving fast and they are doing great. We had as many as 60 workers. You have a small number of workers and your guys are working 4 faster and more effectively. Prices have increased yet you are keeping up. Well done.”

Before we saw the actual building, we anticipated needing \$50,000.00. After seeing how BIG, it actually was, I realized we needed closer to \$80,000. Right now, we are at the \$68,000 mark (WOOHOO!) and we have a double fundraiser on **June 20th – our traditional yummy pancake breakfast and a tantalizing gold fundraiser happening concurrently.**

With the **gold fundraiser** you can 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 on-site to provide free, no-obligation evaluations. If you decide to sell, you will receive payment on the spot. 5% of the total purchases made during the event will be donated to PKZ! I had an old class ring unworn for decades, single earrings, a broken necklace and a couple of things that I thought were worthless and was surprised to receive \$645.00! A win-win! So clean out the old stuff in your jewelry drawer and come and enjoy some pancakes!

Vranthe has been busy with the building project, overseeing the installation of a septic system at the Humani Clinic, distributing food to 43 food insecure elders at Rusitu Village, and coordinating the payments to schools for school fees and uniforms for 34 of our 37 sponsored students.

In these chaotic and challenging times, our Zimbabwe ministry remains strong and vibrant! God bless you all for support of these programs and people.

Connie Littlefield

2026-2027 Leadership Council Proposed Budget For Annual Meeting

In preparation for the FCCW **Annual Meeting taking place on June 28th**, the 2026-2027 Leadership Council Proposed Budget and Budget Summary were recently distributed by email. They are also posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin boards. Hard copies are available by request from the church office.

Prior to Annual Meeting, please take time to review the coming year budget. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask. No question is too trivial. Each year at Annual Meeting, per our Bylaws, the budget for the coming fiscal year is voted upon by all church members who are present. There is always a review and discussion time before the vote is taken.

Now is your chance to have your say. I hope to see you at the meeting. Come and take part in this very important activity of our beloved church.

Janice Brejwo, Finance Coordinator

Celebrations!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Molly Rose Szirbik	16 Cathy Koukal
4 Nicholas Legere	16 Julie Leyare
6 Julie Kessler	17 Janet Carr
6 Ron Kratt	20 Cameron Currier
9 Kevin Connell	21 Connie Littlefield
9 Carol Lundgren	21 Dorothy Smith
11 Steve Michalsky	22 Jean Ball
14 Erin Perkins	25 Kaylee Fogg
15 Gina Golden	25 Ron White
15 Adam Koukal	30 Seth Fogg
16 Frank Frazier	

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

5	Ryan & Mjo McCarthy
15	Phil & Connie Twombly
20	George & Donna Ackerman
21	Wayne & Lisa Robinson
26	Sid & Susan Girardin
26	Ken & Carol Jeffery (50 years)
28	John & Sarah Duplinsky
29	David & Jan Fairchild

Music Camp

Music Camp is fast approaching, this is one of the most rewarding and fun activities that FCCW does for the community. Music Camp is a spin off from Vacation Bible School (VBS) that was popular many years ago. Our Church always participated with the other church's in town for VBS to happen. Under the leadership of Jan Stanley and with help from many volunteers, music became part of the Camp experience.

Music Camp introduces our Church and the love of Christ to the greater Wakefield area. Many of these families do not have a church that they attend regularly, some have found a home and comfort at FCCW.

If you have a child, grandchild or neighbor child that would like songs, music, arts/crafts, snacks, games and meeting new friends have them sign up. Deadline for sign ups is 7/14/2026. Camp is from 9am to 12noon starting July 20 thru July 24. See the Church's website for sign up information and best of all like God's love it's free.

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.

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.

For the month of June, Faith Formation classes will be 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 file, and sent for your reading pleasure each week. In addition, I would be happy to include any devotional favorite you may stumble on! . For more information or if you'd like to join the class, contact Julie Kessler (julielouisekessler@gmail.com or call 603-871-8066)

Pledge Report?

As we approach the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, some of you may be wondering how much more you have to go to complete your pledge. If you're in that position, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at fccwassistanttreasurer@gmail.com and I'll be happy to supply you with a current report.

Julie Kessler, Assistant Treasurer

JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30	2 Faith Formation 12 noon	3 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m. Diaconate Meeting 5 p.m.	4 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m.	5	6 Treasure Shop 9 to noon
7 2ND Sunday after PENTECOST Worship and Communion 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	8 Choir 5:30	9 Faith Formation 12 noon Ukelele Club 6 p.m.	10 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	11 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m. Parish Helpers 1 p.m. BPLOA Meeting 6 p.m.	12	13 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Service Auction 6 p.m.
14 3rd Sunday after PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	15 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30 a.m. Finance Meeting 1 p.m. Choir 5:30	16 Faith Formation 12 noon	17 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	18 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m.	19 JUNETEENTH	20 Treasure Shop 9 to noon PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND GOLD FUNDRAISER 8 a.m.—11 a.m.
21 4th Sunday after PENTECOST FATHER'S DAY Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	22 Choir 5:30	23 Faith Formation 12 noon Ukelele Club 6 p.m.	24 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	25 End 68 Hours of Hunger Volunteer Meeting 10 a.m.	26	27 Treasure Shop 9 to noon
28 5th Sunday after PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. ANNUAL MEETING Coffee Hour	29 Choir 5:30	30 Faith Formation 12 noon				



Pancake Breakfast & Gold Fundraiser

**Saturday, June 20, 2026
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

First Congregational Church of Wakefield,
2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH

blueberry, chocolate chip, pumpkin and traditional pancakes will be served with scrambled eggs, sausages, coffee, tea, juice and hot cocoa. *Takeout orders will be available! Adults \$9 Kids (under age 4 eat free!).*

THANK YOU!

**Proceeds to Benefit the Daisy Dube Children's Village Building Fund
We need a roof!**

Gold FUNDRAISER



Do you have unwanted, broken, or old gold and silver jewelry sitting unused in a drawer? Or sterling silver pieces that you know you'll never polish? Put your forgotten treasures to good use by supporting Friends of PKZ! Join us for a special Gold and Silver Buying Fundraiser. It's a win-win: you get money for your items, and Tailored Collectibles Advising will donate 5% of every purchase directly to Friends of PKZ.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH

8AM-11AM

2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH

How it works

- 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 on-site to provide free, no-obligation evaluations.
- If you decide to sell, you'll receive payment on the spot.
- 5% of the total purchases made during the event will be donated by Tailored Transition to Friends of PKZ.

What We Accept

- Broken or tangled gold chains and necklaces
- Unmatched earrings or single earrings
- Unwanted gold and silver jewelry
- Gold and silver coins
- Sterling silver flatware and serving pieces
- Platinum items
- Costume jewelry - there just may be some gold and silver mixed in with what you think is "junk"

Questions or Need more info?

**Connie Littlefield
603-268-5445**

THIS FUNDRAISING EVENT WILL BE HELD
CONCURRENT WITH OUR PANCAKE BREAKFAST
TO BENEFIT THE DAISY DUBE CHILDREN'S HOME IN
ZIMBABWE.

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



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Following the Worship Service