

STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



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JULY 2026

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.

Keep Pushing

We have all heard the saying, “We are more powerful together,” and few truths are as evident in both life and faith. In a world that often seems determined to divide us, it is easy to become focused on our differences instead of our shared humanity. Yet the things that unite us far outnumber the things that separate us. When division takes center stage, it drains our energy, strains our relationships, and leaves us weary from the constant effort of holding everything together.

That weariness can slowly affect more than our daily peace; it can also chip away at our faith. The pressures of life, unanswered questions, disappointments, and injustices can make it feel as though we are being tested from every direction. Little by little, we may begin to doubt ourselves, one another, and even God’s presence in our lives. But even in those seasons, we must remember that faith was never meant to be carried alone.

God has placed people along our path to remind us that we are part of something greater than ourselves. Scripture assures us that the Lord is a light on our pathway, guiding us step by step. Sometimes, we need a visible reminder of that truth—a note from a friend, a cherished card, a smooth stone, or some other small keepsake that tells the story of God’s faithfulness. These simple gifts can help us look beyond our circumstances and remember that we have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord.

As we continue walking together as a church family, may we choose unity over division, encouragement over exhaustion, and faith over fear. Let us be the kind of people who lighten one another’s load and strengthen one another’s hope. As the old saying reminds us, “The more hands, the lighter the load.” And when we carry life together with Christ at the center, we discover that our faith—and our strength—are constantly renewed.

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23*

Hazel MacBrien NS News

It's so hard to believe that another school year is wrapping up! The cool weather this past month has felt more like April, yet here we are at the end of the year. We've really enjoyed the sun and warmer weather we've had for the start of June!

During the first week of June, we worked on number 8 and our theme was ocean life. The sensory table had kinetic sand, shells, buckets, shovels and different sand molds in it for the kids to explore with. The fours class made jellyfish and the threes class made starfish for our; "Our class is so stinkin' cute!" school bulletin board.

The morning class fed the whale numbers, did a sea creature size sequencing activity, a fish color match memory game and sorted mommy to baby sea creatures. The afternoon class did a roll and graph shell activity, a sea animal pattern paper, did rhyming clip cards, a roll and color paper, 10-frame number towers and parquetry block ocean theme pictures.

For the second week of June, we introduced letter Xx and our theme was pirates. We had gold coins, plastic gold pots, rubber sea animals, shells and gems in our sensory table. The 3's used gold coins to match the correct number on the pirate ship, did a pirate pattern paper, and played pirate bingo. The 4's did a parrot number puzzle, used unifix cubes to measure various pirate pictures and a follow directions color pirate scene paper.

Our fours class had graduation on Monday, June 8th and we ended the school year with having both classes at the Nick playground. It was a great year and we hope everyone enjoys a little summer break before school starts back in September!!

Thank you to FCCW for another fantastic school year! We are so so so thankful for your support

Jen and Sara

Parish Helpers

The **Parish Helpers Annual Picnic** will be held on Thursday, July 9th 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! We'll be finalizing plans for the Village Fair which will be on August 8th.

Directions and more details will be forthcoming via email. Hope to see you all there!

The Treasure Shop is in full swing! We need everyone's help this season. Be sure to stop by the shop and sign up to help.

Carol Jeffery

LIBRARY CORNER

A Brown Girl's Epiphany (S-J)

By Rev. Aurelia Davila Pratt

Source: Amazon

With the powerful voice of a woman, pastor, mother, and advocate, Rev. Aurelia Dávila Pratt gives us the compassionate nudge and tools we need to access our inner authority. By stepping out of harmful belief systems informed by white supremacy and scarcity, we can step into healthy paradigms of abundance, liberation, and power. *A Brown Girl's Epiphany* is a love letter to all of us in need of guidance on our journey. Honest, vulnerable, and humble, Pratt imagines a world where the walking wounded become the fully healed and liberated, where our inner work becomes the starting point for creating heaven on earth.

Thanks to Andrea Costello for donating this book to our library.
Linda Petkunas

FCCW Annual Meeting Recap

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, June 28, 2026. Lasting only 20 minutes, we may have set a record for the shortest Annual Meeting ever. 42 people were in attendance.

Janice, Brejwo, Ministry of Finance Coordinator, presented a clear and concise explanation of the Leadership Council's proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. There were no questions or concerns. A hearty round of applause followed the unanimous vote to approve the \$205,157 budget, our first balanced budget in 10 years.

In other business, George Ackerman suggested that we mention the people who have joined us throughout the year, as well as those who are mentioned in remembrance. The recommendation was accepted with consensus.

I wish to thank the members of the Ministry of Finance for all their dedicated work. I also wish to thank Congregational Life Administrator Andrea Selig for picking up so much of the work as we currently continue without a Clerk.

To all who have stepped away from positions held throughout the past year, Thank you so much for your contributions! Please know that we appreciate everything you have done, and we're looking forward to you sharing your spiritual gifts in a whole variety of ways in the future.

For those who continue to selflessly serve in various ministries, Thank you! Your offerings of time and talent do not go unseen.

To Julie Kessler who agreed to take minutes at this Annual Meeting, Thank you!

Full minutes will be prepared and available soon. Blessings to all!

Margie Galabrun

News of Zimbabwe

Thank you to all who supported the June Pancake Breakfast and Gold/Silver Fundraiser. We earned more than \$3,000 to help with the building effort at the Daisy Dube Children's Village! The roof is now in place and the crew is moving to installation of the windows, electrical wiring and interior plastering.



John Hodsdon, Chuck's son who is a science teacher in Danvers, MA, coordinated a Global Kids Project that involved 6th grade students teaming up with students from around the world to learn about one another's cultures. Eighteen of our students from Zimbabwe participated via WhatsApp. In a wonderful surprise, the Danvers 6th graders held a fundraiser for the Daisy Dube cottage and raised more than \$1,000. What an unexpected blessing!



On June 16 PKZ celebrated The Day of the African Child by distributing more than 100 dresses at Samhusta Primary School. Reusable sanitary pad kits were also distributed at Samhusta and Chimana Secondary Schools benefiting 113 girls. These two distributions -- made possible by the humanitarian shipping container -- bring hope, dignity, self-respect and empowerment to vulnerable youth.

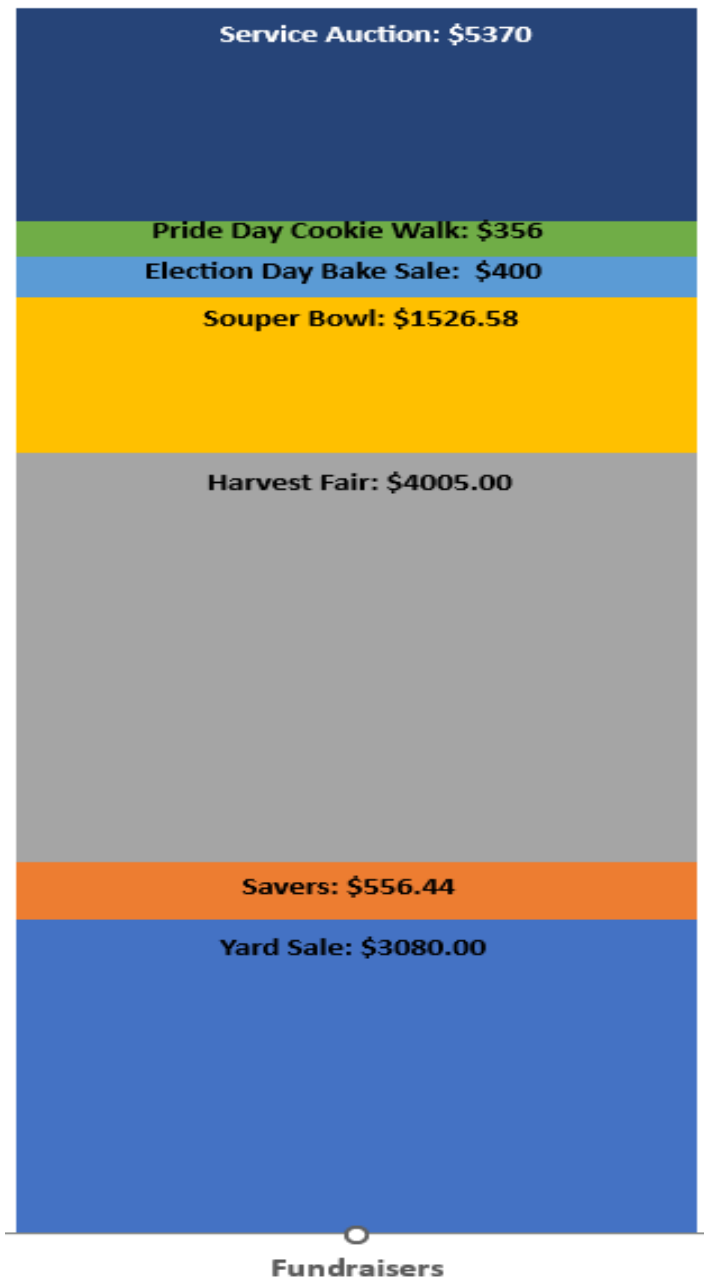
Thank you for being part of this amazing network of love!

Connie Littlefield

FUNdraising Update

Happy to report that the Service Auction on June 13 was a rousing success!! The current number raised is \$5,259.00. This is fantastic. It had been 10 years since the last one and we had no idea how successful it would be. Thank you to the donors of a lot of awesome services, and Thank you to the buyers of those awesome services. I think most of the people involved were both donors AND buyers. We couldn't do it without YOU!!

What a great way to end our fiscal year. We had set a goal of \$12,000. We were concerned about the loss of our Savers collection in June, but the Auction put us over the top by about \$3,000 for a total of over \$15,000!



*Many thanks,
Nancy Dee and Julie Kessler*

Celebrations!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

Adult Faith Formation

Happy Summer! See you in September!



FREE Kid's Music Camp
Please spread the word!

Come to FCCW's FREE Kid's Music Camp
July 20th-24th, 2026, from 9am-12 noon
for ages 6 & UP!

Includes Music Training, Crafts, Games, Songs,
Snacks, & FUN!!

REGISTER HERE:
FOR 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.

Giving Stock to FCCW

Are you looking for an easy win-win way to give a gift to FCCW? The church is now able to receive donations of stock through direct transfer from your brokerage account. Matter of fact, we just completed a transfer from a church member. It was a very smooth process. You may specify how the money will be used by the church. The donation will be full market value of the stock at the time of transfer, and there are various tax benefits associated with this kind of transaction!

Since everyone's financial situation is different, you should check with your financial advisor or accountant to understand the benefits of donating stocks directly to the church, and whether this will work for you. Your financial advisor will need a form from us that Janice Brejwo (nutterislander83@gmail.com) can provide to you. Stock donations can be made anytime during the year.

Please ask if you have any questions or just want to learn more about this easy way to give a gift to the church.

The Finance Team



JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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.  LIKE US ON facebook www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC			1 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m. Diaconate Meeting 5 p.m.	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY  Treasure Shop 9 to noon
5 6th Sunday after PENTECOST Worship and Communion 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	6 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30	7	8 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	9	10	11 Treasure Shop 9 to noon
12 7th Sunday after PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	13 Choir 5:30	14 Deadline for Music Camp Sign UPs Ukelele Club 6 p.m.	15 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	16	17	18 Treasure Shop 9 to noon
19 8th Sunday after PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour LC Meeting	20 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30 a.m. Choir 5:30	21	22 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	23	24	25 Treasure Shop 9 to noon
Kids' Music Camp— Monday thru Friday 9 a.m.—Noon						
26 9th Sunday after PENTECOST Worship 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	27 Choir 5:30	28 Ukelele Club 6 p.m.	29 Treasure Shop 9 to noon Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	30	31	

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JULY

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Collection

- ❖ **Spices – Salt, Pepper, Mrs. Dash, Garlic Powder, etc.**
- ❖ **Condiments & Salad Dressings - Mayo, Ketchup, Mustard, Relish, Ranch, etc.**
- ❖ **Boxed Pasta Salads**
- ❖ **Cold Cereal**

*A HUGE
Thank you!!*



Church Art food1067Scnp