

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF WAKEFIELD, NH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

*The Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr., Senior Pastor*

The Reverend George Harvey, Pastor Emeritus

The Reverend Mary James, Pastor Emerita



**ANNUAL REPORTS**

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 28, 2026

11:00AM

# **First Congregational Church of Wakefield United Church of Christ**

## **An Opening and Affirming Church**

We publicly covenant to welcome into full life and ministry of our church all persons of all sexual orientation, gender identities, gender expressions, physical and mental abilities affirming all are created in the image of God.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

## **Covenant of Congregation**

We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the Word and the Will of God. Our purpose is to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As our forebears did, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the realm of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

## **Mission**

Hearing God's Call. Growing in Love and Care.

## **Vision**

We believe that God is calling us to do serious leadership development work among lay members, in order for us to walk together in faith with a strong core of spiritually formed persons with leadership gifts, potential, and experience.

We believe that God is calling us to make a shift from the attitude of paying dues/taking collection to that of learning the deeper meaning of intentional giving, offering, and stewardship as the spiritual practice of growing in generosity.

We believe that God has called us, in a fully dimensional open and affirming way, to deepen our practice of children, youth, and adult Christian formation in order to provide opportunities for growth in faith, both to those who are new to the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ, and those who have been involved over time.

We believe that God is calling us to many forms of service and outreach, and the practice of radical hospitality in the spirit of Christ; we therefore seek to grow as faithful servants, reaching out in service and love to one another and to people beyond our congregation in the wider world.

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**Recognition of Leaders**

# **ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**June 28, 2026  
(In person and Zoom)  
11:00am**

Call to Order

Opening Devotion

Moments of Remembrance

Meeting Etiquette and Process

Approve Annual Meeting minutes of June 22, 2025

Acknowledge Receipt of Annual Ministry Reports

Other Business

1. Proposed Budget for 2025-2026

Janice Brejwo – Coordinator Ministry of Finance

Moments of Blessings Shared

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**June 22, 2025**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WAKEFIELD, NH - UCC**  
**(In person and Zoom)**

**Calling Meeting to Order and Quorum Confirmation - Margie G**

Annual Meeting called to order and confirmed a Quorum

**Opening Prayer - Rev. Larry BW**

Offered an opening prayer of wisdom, vision, clarity, understanding, love, graciousness, kindness, compassion, courage and peace.

**Moments of Remembrance - Rev. Larry BW**

Edna Berry  
Nancy Drew  
Thomas Dube  
Elizabeth Fogg  
Shirley Laffler  
Maureen McCarthy  
Bea Smith  
Brian Smith  
Dennis Smith  
Douglas Soares  
Beatrice Tibbetts

**Reciting of Poem: "We Remember You"- Rev. Larry BW**

**Meeting Etiquette and Meeting Agenda Changes - Margie G**

Friendly reminder to listen and respect all perspectives. We strive to reach consensus in all our decisions, making insofar as we are able.

Please address all questions and comments to the moderators.

We will be taking a hand count twice today. Once to approve the budget and another to approve the Service Animal Policy.

The meeting agenda changed slightly, instead of moments of blessing shared, we'll be hearing a brief reflection from Reverend Larry, followed by a blessing and dismissal of the Search and Call Committee.

**Attendance Confirmation – Margie G**

42 in person and 2 on zoom, totaling 44.

**Prior Membership Meeting Minute(s) Approval – Margie G**

- The Annual Meeting of June 30<sup>th</sup> – LC reviewed and recommends acceptance.
- The second Membership Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> - to increase the budget in order to hire a full-time pastor.
- The third Membership Meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> - to accept a call of Reverend Mills.

***There were no concerns or objections, and all meetings were accepted by consensus.***

### **Acceptance of Ministry Reports – Margie G**

Offered an explanation about our structure for new members. Our structure consists of 3 groupings: Officers, Ministries, and Auxiliary Organizations. Following is a list officers who have submitted reports.

Officers:

|                 |                                                       |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Reverend:       | Larry Brickner-Wood                                   |
| Co -Moderators: | Margie Galabrun and Judy Trepal                       |
| Clerk:          | Open Position - CLA/Andrea Selig handling temporarily |
| Treasurer:      | Nancy Dee                                             |
| Asst. Treasurer | Julie Kessler                                         |

Ministries and Coordinators:

Leadership Council

Endowment Governance Committee, George Ackerman

Fundraising Team, Julie Kessler and Nancy Dee

Honorary Sage, Titia Bozuwa

Hospitality Team, Rachel White and Laura Fry

Safe Church Team, Jim Hayford

Arts Ministry, Buddy Dee and Donna Ackerman

Visual arts, Rachel White

Musical Arts, Cindy Eggleston (voice choir) and Kevin Connell (bell choir)

Building and Grounds, George Ackerman

Calling and Discernment, Connie Littlefield

Christian Outreach and Wider Church, Ann Bilodeau

Fellowship Café, Margie Galabrun

Shepherd's Program, Rachel White, Jean Miccolo and Andrea Selig

Zimbabwe Team, Connie Littlefield

Communication Ministry, Carol Jeffery

Sound Team – Kaylee Fogg, Nathan Fogg,

Steeple Views Newsletter – Carol Jeffery and Andrea Selig

Diaconate, Jo Szirbik and Ginny Schweitzer

CareGivers Support Group, Carol Lundgren

Prayer Chain Group, Harriet Wilson

Faith Formation, OPEN

Adult Faith Formation, Julie Kessler

Youth Faith Formation, OPEN

KIWIs (Kids Meeting In Wakefield), not currently meeting

WAY (Wakefield Adult Youth Group), Morgan Gehring

Mary Cox Memorial and Children's Library, Linda Petkunas

Music Camp, OPEN

Personnel, Joe Palmariello

Stewardship, Chris Feddern

Finance and Memorial Gifts, Janice Brejwo

The Parish Helpers', Ginny Schweitzer and Carol Jeffery

Search and Call Committee, Titia Bozuwa, Buddy Dee, Margie Galabrun, Morgan Gehring, Judy Trepal  
PERT (Pastoral Evaluation Review Team), Chris Feddern, Frank Frazier and Ginny Schweitzer  
Men's Fellowship, George Ackerman

***There were no questions or concerns, and all Ministry Reports were accepted by consensus.***

### **2025/2026 FCCW Proposed Budget – Janice B**

The budget process begins in February/ March, then LC begins reviewing and discussing each Ministry budget in April. The final LC Proposed budget is provided to the members for approval at the Congregational Annual Meeting in June. Thanks for all the pledges so far! Please continue to email Assistant Treasurer Julie Kessler with pledges.

#### **2025/2026 Budget Overview:**

The income projection is now \$176,050, which is an increase of \$30,500 over the current year's budget. This large increase includes a \$18K increase in pledges and one-time gift of \$10K from the generous Parish Helpers.

The overall expense portion of the proposed budget increased by a little over \$10K, which is slightly more than a 5% increase. Most noticeable change in the budget is the compensation for all employees are now listed under Personnel. Prior to this budget, the pastor's compensation was included under the Diaconate budget and the organist's salary was included in the Arts budget.

Most Ministries kept budgets flat this year. Buildings and Grounds increased slightly, and the Church Office went down slightly. The Relocation and Search and Call expenses were all paid in the current year, and thus removed from the new budget.

The projected gap between income and expenses for 2025/2026 is \$29,042 (shortfall). The current year had a carryover of nearly \$16K plus a \$10K draw from the parsonage fund to meet the expenses. The Parsonage Fund was created from the sale of the parsonage in 2008 for \$184K. Current balance is approximately \$222K of which approximately \$38K is appreciated value. This money is invested in the United Church Funds, which fluctuate depending on the market. Income generated by the funds is sent to FCCW each quarter and recorded as Housing Interest on the Budget and Treasurer's Report. Funds from the sale of units in five of the last eight years came from appreciation only, not the original principal amount. During each Annual Meeting, the Membership approves use of money from the Parsonage fund if needed.

Currently estimating \$8-\$10K in cash available in FCCW checking account at the end of the fiscal year (6/30/25) for carry over. To cover the remaining \$19-\$21K to fill the projected \$29K gap, LC proposes additional monies be taken from the appreciated portion of the Parsonage Fund.

Margie G

FCCW Members must vote to approve the proposed 25/26 budget with \$205,092 for expenses including a gap of 29,042.



**2025/2026 FCCW Proposed Budget was approved without any questions or concerns.**

### **New Service Animal Policy Review - Margie G and Judy T**

Originally this was started by Personnel/David S for an employee requesting to bring a dog to work for safety. A Pet in the Employment Place Policy was created for a three month trial, but was never adopted because the employee left. Since then, more requests to have animals in the building arose so LC asked Safe Church to create a policy. Safe Church, along with Mary Bernier and Harriet Wilson created the following proposed Service Animal Policy for review and approval by the congregation.

### **POLICY**

*The Church will ensure that individuals with disabilities who use service animals are able to participate fully in Church activities and services, while also maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all. Only service animals will be allowed in the building.*

### **PROCEDURES**

These procedures outline the guidelines for accommodating individuals with disabilities who use service animals at the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, NH (FCCW). They are drawn from New Hampshire [RSA Chapter 167-D](#) and [Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#) (ADA). Section 307 of the ADA explicitly states that Title III does not apply to religious organizations, including places of worship like churches.

FCCW, as an open and affirming congregation, honors all persons and allows service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the church where the public is allowed to go. The text of these laws has been adapted to fit the requirements of FCCW.

### **How “Service Animal” Is Defined**

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Examples of such work or tasks include:

- guiding people who are blind
- alerting people who are deaf
- pulling a wheelchair
- alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure
- reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications
- calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack.

Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

### **Service Animals Must Be Under Control**

A service animal must be under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual’s disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal’s safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

### **Other Specific Rules Related to Service Animals**

When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals. When a person who is allergic to dog dander and a person who uses a service animal must spend time in the same room, such as a classroom or a meeting room, they both should be accommodated by offering them, if possible, different locations within the room or different rooms in the church.

A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove their service animal from the premises unless: (1) the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or (2) the dog is not housebroken. When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, Staff must offer the person with the disability the opportunity to participate in the church without the animal's presence.

At FCCW events that sell or prepare food, service animals must be allowed in public areas even if state or local health codes prohibit animals on the premises.

People with disabilities who use service animals cannot be isolated from others or treated less favorably than others.

People with disabilities who use service animals may be charged for any damages caused by themselves or their service animal.

Staff are not required to provide care for or supervision of a service animal.

***After some discussion and input from the congregation about how this policy may require revision in the future or need to be assessed on a case by case basis, the New Service Animal Policy was approved by consensus.***

### **Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood's Farewell Reflections**

Rev. Larry BW thanked FCCW for a wonderful 2.5 years which has been a joy and a blessing and a delightful way to end his ministry. He encouraged the congregation to embrace change and trust in the Holy Spirit, emphasizing that the church's future is bright due to its 250-year history and strong spiritual foundation. He highlighted the congregation's willingness to explore and experiment, which will be valuable with their new dynamic pastor, Reverend Mills. FCCW advised the congregation to communicate their thoughts and preferences directly to the pastor, rather than through others, to avoid unnecessary drama and maintain a positive community environment. He ended his reflection with a poem he wrote...

*Jesus lives here in the smiling faces that find you the moment you enter  
the warm embraces of friends, family, and folks who just found their way in,*

*in the sacred spaces where your heart can slow. And acts of service and kindness, generosity, and gratitude. Jesus lives here.*

*The Holy Spirit lives here to open and open hearts that welcome change and embrace the good work of those who came before in the prayers that flow out from sanctuary, song, and home, and from the healing grace of disciples who believe in their power.*

*In the vision that shines hope into the future, and light into the darkness in the courage of those who guide into the future. The Holy Spirit lives here.*

*God lives here in the agape that flows like water in the wisdom shared across centuries and gently passed on to those to come.*

*In the community of believers who search for every sheep and every pig and the gathered community who know their faith can move mountains.*

*God lives here, grace lives here, hope lives here, joy lives here, love lives here. Jesus lives here.*

#### **Dismissal and Appreciation of the Search and Call Committee - Rev. Larry BW**

The meeting focused on the dissolution of the Search and Call team, which had been active for over two and a half years. The team was praised for its hard work and dedication, highlighting their successful recruitment of Reverend James Mills as the new settled pastor. The team, consisting of Judy Trepal, Titia Bozuwa, Joe Palmariello, Buddy Dee, Margie Galabrun, and Morgan Gehring, was formally discharged from their duties.

#### **Adjournment of Meeting and Gratitude to Rev. Larry BW - Margie G**

The meeting was adjourned by thanking Rev. Larry for all that he brought to us during this interim period of time, and especially for his help to the Search and Call team.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Andrea Selig – FCCW CLA

**Officers:**  
**Annual Report of the Minister**  
**Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.**  
**2025-2026**

**Executive Pastoral Theme and Pastoral Focus**

Across the months covered, FCCW's pastoral project was shaped by a consistent call to prayerful discernment—centered in the question “What’s Next?”—and by a faith that actively engages the realities of injustice, community need, spiritual formation, and congregational care. This theme appeared through worship planning, sermon series, educational rhythms, and pastoral initiatives led in partnership with the diaconate and lay leaders.

Executive Summary

Date: June 1, 2026

To: The Leadership Council and FCCW Congregation

From: Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr., Senior Pastor

Subject: Executive Summary — Pastoral Annual Report (September 2025–June 2026)

Dear Leadership Council and FCCW Congregation,

Grace and peace to you. I am pleased to present this Executive Summary, which synthesizes our monthly pastoral reports for the period from September 2025 through June 2026. Throughout this season, our pastoral work has been guided by a shared call to prayerful discernment—articulated in worship and preaching through the question, “What’s Next?”

***1. Worship and spiritual formation progressed through the liturgical year.***

We entered Advent, Black History, Lent, Women Her(His)story, Holy Week/Easter, and subsequent teaching and pastoral focus with intentionality. Our worship rhythms included evening Bible study centered on “Love,” ongoing reflection on faith lived in real time, and a follow-through teaching arc addressing White Christian Nationalism through continued worship moments.

***2. Pastoral care and congregational life were strengthened through diaconate-led ministry.***

We continued to deepen communion ministry practices and clarified how communion distribution functions as a diaconate ministry. We also implemented a membership care system designed to support systematic awareness and compassionate follow-up. Memorial and bereavement care remained a significant part of our communal life, and the congregation's support through deacons and parish helpers reflected Christ's care ***in difficult seasons.***

***3. Justice and community engagement remained integrated with our faith witness.***

Our leadership joined community-facing worship and witness efforts, including MLK Day justice-focused activities and participation in immigrant justice initiatives. We also pursued partnership conversations with community stakeholders through local outreach relationships and the New Hampshire Council of Churches, strengthening our capacity to serve needs identified in our surrounding communities.

***4. Discipleship structures and youth engagement advanced, with clear learning.***

Faith formation support was actively reviewed, especially where coordination needs were identified. Additionally, youth and young adults' ministry moved from conversation into intentional listening gatherings and planned engagement rooted in discovering what young people need to make worship meaningful.

Looking ahead, our priorities include continuing to address ministerial standing outcomes, implementing scheduled diaconate prayer and study, refreshing congregational communication tools (including pew cards), rolling out the new member class, and continuing to refine faith formation support—while also deepening youth listening and expanding outreach partnerships.

With gratitude for your leadership and partnership in ministry, I thank you for your continued love and faithful service.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr.

Senior Pastor, FCCW

**Officers:**  
**Annual Report of the Co-Moderators**  
**2025-2026**

Greetings from your co-Moderators Margie Galabrun and Judy Trepal.

Our named duties are to preside at all called Membership and Leadership Council meetings. We also serve as ex-officio members of all ministries and hear updates from those ministries through various reports and Leadership Council gatherings.

Our long-standing Congregational roots (and bylaws) ensure that the Congregation has decision making authority. Membership Meetings can be called whenever necessary, but every year an Annual Meeting must be called to discuss various matters, and to vote on an annual budget. Between Membership Meetings, the Leadership Council is authorized to act on behalf of the membership.

This year there were ten Leadership Council meetings. Our practice of listening more attentively and seeking consensus through discussion is improving. Each of the members of the Leadership Council takes their responsibility of representing the church very seriously. In addition, we held a Leadership Council workshop to see where and how we could improve our efforts on your behalf.

Judy and I had quite a time tag-teaming this year as we took turns being away. I so appreciated working with Judy, and I am thankful for her stepping in where and when she was needed. Unfortunately for me, she wants to find something that will be a better fit for her. I know she'll find what she is looking for and we will all benefit from it.

Thank you, Judy. And thank you congregation for a great year.

Margie Galabrun

**Officers:  
Annual Report of the Clerk  
2025-2026**

We currently do not have a clerk. The duties are being carried out by the Congregational Life Administrator Andrea Selig.

The annual year report is for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025

**Number of Active Members: 106**

**Death of Members\*: 1**

Glenna Nelson

**Death of Friends of Church: 6**

Janet Carr

Joseph Cawlina

Caroline Kinville

Arlene Leyare

Lynn Watts

Richard Wilson

**Marriages: 0**

**Baptisms: 1**

Cora Alice Theresa Hernandez

**New Members 8**

Patty Burbank

Paul Burbank

Tracey Hynes-Frechette

Betsy McDougal

Evan McDougal

Gary Peresada

Joan Peresada

Cellia Randall

**Moved to Inactive by Deacons: 10**

**Removed by Member Request: 1**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Andrea Selig - FCCW CLA

**Officers:**  
**Annual Report of the Treasurer**  
**2025-2026**

Per the bylaws, the complete financial year report will be available in August.



## **Annual Report of Leadership Council: 2025-2026**

It's always a pleasure to report on the work of the Ministry of Leadership Council. The Leadership Council consists of the Officers of the Church and the coordinators of each of our Ministries and includes a representative of the Parish Helpers. The Leadership Council acts as the body of the church between duly called meetings of the Congregation and always acts with the entire congregation in mind. A quorum of 10 is required to transact business at our meetings.

At monthly gatherings of the Leadership Council, we review previous council minutes, accept monthly reports from the Treasurer and the Pastor, and act on items of business that arise between meetings. It's also a time when we share information between Ministries. Our meetings are normally held on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall following our worship service and a brief time of fellowship. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom. If you are not currently being notified of the meetings, please contact [balchlaker@gmail.com](mailto:balchlaker@gmail.com) to have your name added to our email list.

Margie Galabrun, Moderator

**Leadership Council:**  
**Annual Report of the Endowment Governance Committee**  
**2025-2026**

The Endowment Team is not currently active.

**Leadership Council:**  
**Annual Report of the FUNdraising Team**  
**2025-2026**

It's been another busy year for FUNdraising!

We started with our annual August Yard Sale which, for the first time, did not include a furniture sale. The thought being that there really isn't enough profit for the tremendous amount of energy getting and then getting rid of heavy furniture pieces. We did have our familiar outdoor yard sale tables, a bake sale, Sanctuary clothing sale, "Cool Stuff Boutique", etc. Our efforts raised over \$3000!

Gathering all the Yard Sale leftovers and putting out the call for bagged soft goods, we set up a SAVERS drop off for late-September. That added another \$560 to our fundraising efforts. Unfortunately, our using SAVERS as a fundraiser going forward has gotten more "interesting" given that our go-to-SAVERS down in Newington has closed. Now to do a SAVERS run means going additional miles (over an hour drive vs 45 minutes) giving us pause as to just how cost effective this fundraiser might be.

And then there are our awesome bakers! Yard Sale and Harvest Fair (I'll get to that) bake sales aside, we had two other bake sale events: March: Town Election bake sale held in the Library/Town Hall connector area that is the entrance/exit for all voters; May: Pride Day Cookie Walk. The combined total for these two bake sales was well over \$750!

We also had our annual November Harvest Fair that included our ever popular Penny Sale, a jewelry table, breakfast and lunch servings, Gift Basket table, and of course (!) a bake sale table AND a cookie walk. This helped our fundraising efforts by adding over \$4000.

And what would FUNdraising be without our now famous annual Souper Bowl Weekend. We set new records on this one: 20 cooks making soups, chilis and chowders. We ended up raising over \$1500.

In addition, we have one more FUNdraiser to go before the end of this fiscal year. We're bringing back the Service Auction! As of this writing, we have 45 donated services/items that will be auctioned off on June 13<sup>th</sup>. And to make sure we get people to participate who may not be able to make it to the live auction, we're opening up early bidding. With fingers crossed, we're hoping that money made on this event will bring us up to (and hopefully over!) our budgeted amount of \$12,000!

Now we're looking forward to some more FUN in the new fiscal year!

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kessler

**Leadership Council:  
Annual Report of the Honorary Sage  
2025-2026**

There is no report for this year.

**Leadership Council:  
Annual Report of the Safe Space Team (Ad Hoc Group)  
2025-2026**

Members of Safe Church for this period are: Buddy Dee, Nate Fogg, Jim Hayford, Carol Lundgren and Jim Hayford. This group also has a group of Advisors: Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Building & Grounds Coordinator: George Ackerman, Co-moderators: Margie Galabrun and Judy Trepal, Tech Advisor: Alan Bernier, Deacon: Josephine Szirbik, Finance Liaison: Nancy Dee.

Safe Church is an “ad hoc” group formed several years ago by Leadership Council to work in concert with Building and Grounds.

The following is our Annual Report respectfully offered:

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Lundgren

**Annual Report of Ministry of the Arts:  
Annual Report of the Visual Arts  
2025-2026**

Flowers provide happiness, peace and create a space of beauty. The two alter tables are perfect for displaying floral arrangements.

For the Christmas holiday season, our sanctuary was decorated with traditional garlands, wreaths and window treatments. Twenty-three magnificent poinsettias adorned our sanctuary and provided a colorful and spirited atmosphere.

The Easter season celebrations began with waiving palms, and the beautiful array of tulips, daffodils and lilies offered the appearance of a spring garden!

Our church family and friends purchased the plants in honor or in memory of loved ones.

Outside the large containers were bursting with vibrant annuals. This presentation created a friendly and welcoming greeting.

Embrace a moment to reflect the simple beauty of flowers!

Respectfully submitted,  
Rachel White

**Ministry of the Arts:  
Annual Report of the Musical Arts  
2025-2026**

Thank you to the members of the Congregation for supporting the Arts and Music Ministry. Our Church always looks beautiful thanks to the hard work of Rachel White. The seasonal changes are a gift as our Church year unfolds. Rachel's artistic ability inside and outside the Church we are thankful for.

In the past year since the Rev. has joined us more music and glory to God is celebrated more than ever before. This year we celebrated Cindy Eggleston's forty-year anniversary of playing the organ at our Church. We dedicated the Choir loft in her honor for her countless hours of preparation for Church services, commitment to the choir, and assisting with Bell choir. The children of Wakefield know her through SCAMP and her years of teaching. Thank you for your willingness to share your gifts.

We welcomed a new organist, Beverly Woods to share the workload and to give Cindy a well-deserved break from time to time. Beverly is truly a musical artist; she plays many instruments and has blessed us once with special music. I am sure Beverly will play something special in the future.

Our budget has changed as the Organist salary line has been moved from Personnel to Arts and Music. There is a minor increase in some line items due to anticipated cost changes

In closing Donna and I feel blessed to be able to lead this ministry for the joy Arts, Flowers and Music brings to our beloved Church.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna V Ackerman  
Buddy Dee

## **Annual Report of Ministry of Building and Grounds 2025-2026**

Once again, a great big thank you to all those folks that help over the course of a year to keep our church up and running.

Here is a list of some of the work that required attention over our past 12 months. The list is in a random order, sort of like the work required here.

- The furnace was worked on and four zone valves had to be replaced.
- A picket fence was built along the south side of the building. This has provided a safe space for the nursery school students to play outside.
- Gardens were weeded and mulched.
- Driveway levelled up.
- Weekly cleaning by Laura.
- Chandelier was all cleaned before our Christmas season.
- All of the annual inspections were completed and passed.

Submitted by George Ackerman



## **Annual Report of Ministry of Calling and Discernment Ministry 2025-2026**

We are in need of a Coordinator for the Calling and Discernment Ministry.

We would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Connie Littlefield for her many years of excellent and dedicated service to this ministry!

## Annual Report of Ministry of Christian Outreach and Wider Church 2025-2026

*“As we move through the world, we make a statement, whether we intend to or not. The words we speak and the tone in which we use are the music we choose to play in the world. Some of us fill the space with passionate arias, others with healing hymns. We are all called to contribute.” -The Daily Om*

Members of the Outreach Ministry are Ann Bilodeau (Ministry Coordinator), Connie Littlefield, Andrea Costello, Jean Miccolo, Patty Burbank, Maxi Schultz and Pat Anderson.

The Outreach Ministry facilitates the following programs through the 5 for 5 Giving Program of the United Church of Christ (UCC):

1. Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is the primary financial support that funds the NH Conferences and the national UCC. These funds enable UCC initiatives in leadership, justice, and congregational growth, connecting local churches to wider mission efforts as well as the search and call process. This offering is to help strengthen local churches through workshops and program, supports pastors, church educators, and seminarians; provides resources for worship and stewardship; connects us with mission partners around the world; makes possible church camp experiences at the Horton Center; and helps us stand for justice and work for peace, *and so much more*.
2. One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering held during the Lenten season. This Lenten offering of the United Church of Christ supports disaster recovery, refugees and development activities. Congregation members are asked to reflect on their blessings in life and make donations to support this cause. This year's theme was *“Our Love Offering to the World.”*
3. Strengthen The Church was accepted on Pentecost Sunday and supports the expansion of ministry and growth of the United Church of Christ's local congregations and helps the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the needs of local communities.
4. Neighbors in Need was held in October and supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for Indian Ministries, justice and advocacy and direct service projects supported by Justice and Witness Ministries.
5. The Christmas Fund was taken in December. This fund has provided direct financial assistance to UCC ministers, church workers, and their families for over one hundred years. It helps provide pension and health premium

supplementation to low-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants, as administered by the Pension Board.

The Outreach Ministry engaged in several impactful programs, each dedicated to serving the congregation and strengthening our relationship within the community and beyond.

- The Outreach Ministry facilitated the Alternative Giving Program during Advent with options to support The Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund, Child Sponsorship through PKZ, and Heifer International.
- The Fair Trade Café program, coordinated by Margie Galabrun, offers Fair Trade products in the Fellowship Hall. This gives everyone a chance to promote ethical and sustainable trade and enjoy delicious coffee, tea, and chocolate!
- The monthly Food Pantry donations, coordinated by Jo Szirbik with Marylou MacLean, provided essential support and assistance to community members in need.
- Pride Day activities are organized by dedicated volunteers with strong support from the entire congregation. Involvement in Pride Day demonstrates FCCW's community engagement and is a way to show non church affiliated residents who we are!
- The Shepherd Program is a collaborative effort coordinated by Rachel White, Margie Galabrun, Harriet Wilson, and Jean Miccolo. This initiative focuses on providing rides to medical appointments for those without transportation.
- We have reached out to a variety of individuals representing organizations in the Greater Wakefield area to learn about any unmet needs and how the Outreach Ministry may be supportive.
  - Amber Marcoux, Wakefield Welfare Director
  - Starting Point, an organization providing services to victims of sexual and domestic violence
  - Brianna Valdepena, Paul School Guidance Counselor, leading to donations for the Care Closet to meet student needs
  - Alyssa Hall, Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department
- Outreach invited members from the NH Conference Immigration and Refugee Support Group to FCCW to provide needed information on immigrant and refugee issues, sharing personal stories and outlining ways we could support local immigrants. During the event, speakers detailed their advocacy work, which includes assisting families navigating the immigration process, connecting refugees with essential resources, and raising awareness about their challenges. Shortly thereafter we would be inspired to launch a letter-writing initiative to detainees when a MA resident and Zimbabwean pastor was detained at Richwood Prison in Louisiana. Many of the women responded with heartfelt messages, describing how our letters helped them feel “seen”, less isolated and

more hopeful. The ongoing compassion and support of the letter writers have made a real difference in their lives, and they express deep gratitude for our outreach.

*The FCCW Outreach Ministry is more than just a set of programs but rather a testament to what a community can do when moved by love. This report highlights our collective efforts, but it cannot fully capture the spirit of kindness each person brings to the programs highlighted. Thank you for choosing to serve and/or to give, for seeing the needs of our neighbors, and for meeting them with such grace. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support as we step into a new year of service.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Miccolo and Connie Littlefield

**Ministry of Christian Outreach and Wider Church:  
Annual Report of the Fellowship Cafe  
2025-2026**

Many years ago, our Congregation decided to support Equal Exchange in their efforts to support small farmers throughout the world. Equal exchange is a worker owned co-op in Massachusetts that is dedicated to helping organize, train and support small farmer co-ops, thereby helping small farmers improve their circumstances and families' lives. By stocking our little coffee/tea/chocolate shop and buying fairly traded and organic products, we are part of a grand solution.

Speak with Margie if you would like us to stock anything in particular.

You can read more about Equal Exchange by picking up a brochure in the Café, or by visiting them on-line. [Fairly Traded Coffee, Chocolate, Tea & Snacks – Equal Exchange](#)

Margie Galabrun

**Ministry of Christian Outreach and Wider Church:  
Annual Report of the Shepherd Program  
2025-2026**

The Shepherd Program is a long-standing outreach program that has been operating for over 41 years. It was designed to provide rides to medical appointments for people who, due to medical reasons, are unable to drive themselves.

When a person needs a ride, they call the church office and speak with Andrea Selig, our Congregational Life Administrator. Andrea forwards the ride request to both Rachel White and Jean Miccolo. Rachel locates and assigns a driver and then confirms that with the rider. Often an additional reminder and confirmation is required because some just need that little bit of additional help. Jean tracks of all ride requests, riders, drivers, and mileage.

We currently have 23 active drivers. This past year, 17 of those faithful drivers have driven 3,972.50 miles, providing 76 rides to 13 out of the 30 active riders listed in our system.

These statistics speak of a community with NO public transportation. We do our best to meet a small percentage of assistance that is needed to provide rides to all those eligible for the program.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful drivers. Without them, this program would not be possible. The folks needing rides are so grateful to have this program available to them. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a Shepherds Ride driver, please have them contact Rachel White.

It's a joy and an honor to serve this program.

Jean Miccolo and Rachel White

**Ministry of Christian Outreach and Wider Church:  
Annual Report of the Zimbabwe Team  
Project Kuchengetedza Zviwanikwa  
2025-2026**

Our Zimbabwe/PKZ Ministry continues to do big and wonderful projects with the support of FCCW members and many others outside of our community.

- The big story for the past year was the fire at the Daisy Dube Children's Home in July 2025 and our commitment to build one of the four family style cottages to be part of the now renamed *Daisy Dube Children's Village*. PKZ has raised close to \$68,000 as of this writing. This is phenomenal! People responded immediately and with such benevolence! Approximately \$23,000 came from donations outside of FCCW and an additional \$20,000 from one donor. The remaining \$25,000 was gratefully received from FCCW members. Initially, the plan was to raise \$50,000 but when we saw the actual size of the building during the February mission trip, we realized it would not be enough, so the new goal is \$80,000 and will include solar panels for efficiency. Our building team is amazing; I am extraordinarily proud that it includes a laborer with a disability (deaf and non-speaking) and a young adult who grew up at Daisy Dube and went to vocational training for masonry!
- 2025-2026 included the last of the humanitarian shipping containers. Twenty-five organizations throughout New England contributed tools, clothing, shoes, medical supplies, school supplies, sewing supplies, athletic supplies and more! New import regulations make it no longer economically feasible to continue this endeavor however we are proud of the impact the previous 18 or 19 containers have made on the people of Zimbabwe!
- George Ackerman and I, along with two friends from Fergus Falls, Minnesota, embarked on a mission trip to Zimbabwe in February 2026. We visited our sister church at Rufumiso, attended worship, painted the parsonage, and renewed old friendships while building new ones! We engaged in rudimentary site work on the children's cottage, visited Mt. Selinda Hospital and Mt. Selinda High School. George taught Science lessons in three different classrooms at the secondary school level in Chipinge and at Mt. Selinda. We met with many of our sponsored children, distributed clothing and school supplies, saw the ongoing work of the Humani Clinic, and enjoyed a game drive. Importantly, we lived side by side with our Zimbabwean kindred.
- The work at the Humani Medical Clinic continues. Plumbing fixtures, an underground piping system, a septic system and fencing surrounding the clinic have been installed with a grant by the Fergus Falls Rotary. We look forward to the day when people in the surrounding villages no longer must suffer and die

from treatable and preventable diseases like malaria, cholera, diabetes, and high blood pressure leading to strokes.

- Twenty-nine individuals are responsible for the sponsorship of thirty-seven youth and young adults from Grade 1 through university. Twenty-two are FCCW members and seven are from outside our community. One of our students had been homeless and living on a cardboard mat with her family near a busy grocery store. That family now has a decent place to live due to the compassion and generosity of two of our church members.
- The twenty-four children at the Daisy Dube Children's Home at Mt. Selinda received supplemental food items monthly including a variety of sources of protein, vegetables, and lunch box treats. We also provide infant formula for the newborns, something beyond the reach of many in Zimbabwe due to costs. The Original Church of Wrentham, MA provides most of the support for this program supplemented by Alternative Giving donations.
- Approximately seventy-five extremely vulnerable women and their families in two rural villages – Chipangayi and Rusitu --received emergency food aid through our food security program.

We extend our deepest appreciation to PKZ Director Vrante Mahlupeko, who is on the ground in Zimbabwe and oversees and coordinates all these programs. He also manages many requests for support and carefully advises us on what we can and cannot take on.

Special recognition goes to the extraordinary Mjo McCarthy for running 64 miles (103 km) completing her 24-hour Endurance Run in May at White Lake and raising more than \$2,000 for the Daisy Dube rebuilding project!

The PKZ Zimbabwe team has held two pancake breakfasts, and a gold fundraiser is being planned at FCCW to raise funds for the Daisy Dube building project.

*As you can see, there are so many people involved in Zimbabwe mission projects. We are extraordinarily grateful for your support and for every heartfelt donation. It is the compassion and generosity of each and every one of you who makes these projects become a reality and changes the lives of others.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Littlefield



## **Annual Report of Ministry of Communications 2025-2026**

The Communication Ministry is charged with overseeing an open flow of information for and about our Church and its Ministries within the congregation and the community. Avenues of communication include:

**Steeple Views:** The Steeple Views newsletter is published monthly with most copies (approximately 150), sent by email. A small number is printed and mailed. We encourage people to **sign up for emailed copies** to save the costs of paper and postage. Steeple Views is available on the church website as well. Many thanks to editor, Carol Jeffery, and to the Ministry Coordinators who provide material for the newsletter each month. Thanks to CLA Andrea Selig for coordinating the printing and mailing of hard copies. If you have internet access and are not yet receiving the Steeple Views by email, please email me at [steepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:steepleviews@gmail.com) and you will be added to the email distribution list. If you have a change of email or snail mail address, please let us know.

**E-mail updates:** Although technically it's a function of the church office (not the Communications Ministry) – there is a fine line there – I'd like to acknowledge CLA Andrea's role in sending out email updates of church activities and for keeping us current with very creative "FCCW Happenings" notices every week and for her part in printing and mailing hard copies of the Steeple Views.

**The Tech Team:** Provides audio and visual support for in-person worship in the sanctuary as well as online worship. Sunday services can be viewed via Zoom, Facebook Live or in-person. Once broadcasted on FB Live, the videos can be found on our church FB page and can be accessed anytime. They can also be found on our YouTube Channel at [FCCW YouTube](#). Leadership Council meetings, other ministries, and congregational meetings can meet in a hybrid model in person or via Zoom utilizing the OWL (Zoom enhancement equipment). Many thanks to Nate Fogg who can be found in the "sound booth" most Sundays along with Kaylee Fogg and to the other team members Donna Ackerman, Barry Truhn, and Frank Frazier. Thanks to the behind-the-scenes help from Mjo McCarthy, Alan Bernier, and Frank Frazier. Thank you all!

### **Sound Team – Year in Review**

There was a substantial sound system upgrade in 24-25 with a new audio mixer and remote-control camera installed by Jeff Spires.

During the 25-26 years we upgraded the video mixer and hired Jeff Spires to perform an audio mixer tune-up. A microphone was added to the sound booth due to all 5 wireless microphones being used during each service.

Wireless microphone 1 (WL1) is used by Rev.  
WL2 is currently being attached to a bell choir table to pick up an overall sanctuary sound.  
WL3 is mounted to the choir music stand to pick up the overall choir sound.  
WL4 & WL5 handhelds are used by deacons for prayers and concerns and other deacon 'non-pulpit' duties,

### **Sound Team - Moving Forward**

Rev would like a video monitor on the rear sanctuary wall (under the sound team window) for his use. Install should only require a video monitor (TV) with a wire to a video splitter in the sound booth. The plan has been presented to the leadership council and will be implemented early into the upcoming church fiscal year.

The sound team would also like to replace the original projector and screen, which blocks a stained-glass window, and provides two video monitors (TVs) in the front corners of the sanctuary. When a fully thought-out plan is devised with associated cost, the sound team (Communication Ministry) will present a formal proposal to the leadership council.

Providing an up-to-date user's manual is also a goal for this coming year. We will also dig up blackmail worthy information about some tech savvy parishioners to convince/coerce and/or otherwise trick them into becoming more familiar with the use of the sound system. Nate and Kaylee enjoy their roles on the sound team but cannot guarantee being available each and every week.

**Website:** The church website is [fccwakefieldnh.org](http://fccwakefieldnh.org). It's an excellent source of information about our church. It is kept current with events and links to worship by Carol Jeffery with technical support by Frank Frazier and Mjo McCarthy. You can find information about church history, by-laws, and annual reports as well as current and past Steeple Views and information about upcoming events. Donations can be made through the website as well.

**Social Media:** Our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC)) is a great way to share photos and keep up with church happenings. It is accessible to our over 600 followers and to the public. We also use the **FCCW Connections Group** for sharing and for planning among members of the group. It is a closed group and not visible to the public. If you wish to be part of the group, search FCCW Connections and ask to join.

The Facebook group, **Wakefield Wonder and Grace: Church on the Web** offers inspiring messages and has over 120 followers. [www.facebook.com/groups/WakefieldWonderandGrace](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WakefieldWonderandGrace). If you have a Facebook

account, you can request to join the group. Thank you to Donna Ackerman, Ann Bilodeau, Connie Littlefield, and Carol Lundgren for administering the group!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Jeffery, Communications Ministry Coordinator  
and  
Nate Fogg, for the Sound Team

## **Annual Report of Ministry the Diaconate 2025-2026**

This report covers the year from **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**. Diaconate members during this period were Jo Szirbik, Gail Feddern, Harriet Wilson, Ginny Schweitzer, Evy Truhn, Julie Evenson, Anne Palmariello, Ken Ballinger, Jeff Perkins, and Donna Ackerman. Jo & Ginny serve as co-coordinators.

Just before the end of June 2025, we bid a fond farewell to Rev Larry Brickner-Wood who had been serving as our interim pastor. Rev James Mills began his ministry with us in August, and it been wonderful getting to know him and work with him in the ministries of this Church. On the few occasions Rev was not able to be with us, we were fortunate to have Rev Mark Rideout lead us in worship. Connie Littlefield and George Ackerman also led a service describing their visit to Zimbabwe.

The deacons continue to reach out to all our members and friends offering support, a friendly ear, and prayer. The prayer chain remains very active, via both email and text. (See separate report.)

The Diaconate administers the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund with Rev Mills. The April 30, 2026, balance in that fund was \$6,396.66. We received donations so far this year totaling \$6,397.52 (**THANK YOU EVERYONE**) and have provided \$6,819.06 in assistance to date during 2025 – 2026; these payments covered such things as gas cards, food, emergency housing, medical supplies, and utilities. Assistance is offered primarily to our members and friends in Wakefield and Brookfield, and to our parishioners in other communities. We are fortunate to be able to access the George A Wentworth Trust for the needs of women in Brookfield and Wakefield.

Over the past year, we have assisted during regular and special worship services, funerals/memorial services, and the reception of new members. We look forward to baptizing a family over the summer (date to be determined).

Blessings to this congregation!

Harriet Wilson, Diaconate Recorder  
Ginny Schweitzer and Jo Szirbik, co-coordinators

**Ministry of the Diaconate:  
Annual Report of the Caregivers Support Group  
2025-2026**

For 13 years, our church has "hosted" a twice monthly gathering of individuals who are also caregivers to a loved one. On average there are 5 to 12 attendees. Some folks are our own church beloveds and others are beloveds from the community and beyond. At times we welcome professional people to speak with the group, giving important insights from their expertise. It is an honor for us to gather in this way, recognizing the challenge and joys of providing care, love and support when things are challenging.

Facilitator, Carol Lundgren

**Ministry of the Diaconate:  
Annual Report of the Prayer Chain  
2025-2026**

The purpose of the prayer chain is to create immediate intercessory prayer for anyone in need. We have a very active email and text process through which we share the requests/needs for prayer. If you feel a need for prayer for yourself or others, please email Harriet Wilson ([dhwilson39@gmail.com](mailto:dhwilson39@gmail.com)) and she will forward your request to the rest of the group.

All prayer requests are kept strictly confidential, and no one is put on the prayer chain without their permission. This prayer power is available to anyone and everyone – you need not be a member of this congregation.

Thanks to all our prayer chain members! Bless you for being part of this important outreach. We currently have 37 praying members on the email portion of the chain, and at least 12 on the text portion. That's a lot of prayer power!

If you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact the Coordinator, Harriet Wilson ([dhwilson39@gmail.com](mailto:dhwilson39@gmail.com)). We'd love to have you! You may join either the e-mail or text chains (or both). Just let Harriet know your email address and/or phone/cell number.

Harriet Wilson

## **Ministry of Faith Formation: Annual Report of the Adult Faith Formation 2025-2026**

### **Annual Report for Adult Faith Formation – Tuesday, Noon Class**

The 2025-2026 church year has seen us work through numerous studies, including:

Starting in the fall, we decided to pick up with our informal discussions based on a set of devotionals (four or five per week). These devotionals were pulled from a variety of sources, packaged in a word file, and sent weekly a couple days prior to Tuesday's class. In addition, I happily included devotionals that any class participants may have stumbled on.

Come December, we took a break from our weekly devotional discussions to jump into our Advent studies. These were based on two devotionals to help prepare our hearts and minds for the joyous birth of Christ. They included:

#### **#1 – SALT Study: The Dawn Chorus - An Advent Devotional on the Wonders of Birds:**

Description: *"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."*

**#2 -- UCC's StillSpeaking Advent Devotional: Soon and Very Soon.** As we typically do for Advent and Lenten studies, we started the class with the "main" study – and then turned to **Soon and Very Soon** whose theme acknowledges our need for radical hope and encourages us to prepare for God's best.

Our Advent study continued into the first week of January at which point we decided to pick up with the weekly set of various devotions.

This took us to Lent where we opted for a triple-duty study that included:

#### **#1 – The Hymns of Easter**

The "Hymns of Easter" is a heart-warming devotional inspired by some of history's most cherished Easter hymns. The class experienced a fresh perspective on the hymns you've sung your whole life now set to personal reflections in this 40-day devotional journey.

The hymns included the Hallelujah Chorus, Christ the Lord is Risen Today, He Lives, The Old Rugged Cross, Blessed Assurance, How Great Thou Art, and Amazing Grace.

**#2 -- UCC's StillSpeaking Lenten Devotional: Outgrow.** Once again, we looked to UCC's StillSpeaking Writers for their ever popular, ever meaningful Lenten Devotional.

**#3 – SALT Study: Coming Back to Life.** We started Lent in winter, and this study leads us from Ash Wednesday through Easter – ending in Spring. With the study, we watch the world wake up!

At the end of Lent, we opted to pick up with our weekly discussions of a variety of devotions. This format will see us to the end of June, the end of this fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kessler



**Ministry of Faith Formation:  
Annual Report of Youth Faith Formation  
2025-2026**

There is no report as we are in active search for a coordinator.

**Ministry of Faith Formation:  
Annual Report of Youth Group (KIWI - Kids in Wakefield Interacting)  
2025-2026**

The KIWI youth group is not actively meeting.

**Ministry of Faith Formation:  
Annual Report of the Mary Cox Memorial and Children's Libraries  
2025-2026**

Regular contributions to SteepleViews were submitted highlighting authors and books included in our collections and they were promoted on the mobile shelving unit in Fellowship Hall. Some new books were purchased, and members of our congregation donated some as well.

The children's library has been inventoried, and the listing is being edited.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Petkunas

**Ministry of Faith Formation:  
Annual Report of Music Camp  
2025-2026**

There was no Music Camp held in 2025 due to scheduling conflicts, but we look forward to its return in 2026!

Buddy, Connie, Evy & Donna

## **Annual Report of Ministry of Finance and Memorial Gifts 2025-2026**

Another active year for the Ministry of Finance has come and gone so quickly. We are fortunate none The Ministry of Finance is still humming along after another busy year. We are happy to announce that two new members have recently joined our team. Welcome to Jean Miccolo and Patty Burbank! We are very happy they made the decision to work with our team.

Our monthly ZOOM meetings continue to take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 1pm. You are welcome to join us at any time to listen, learn, and offer your insights. We are fortunate to have Rev and ministry liaisons, including Ron Kratt (B&G) and Ken Ballinger (Stewardship, Personnel, Diaconate and Endowment), at most of our meetings. We couldn't do the church's business without everyone working together.

Projects of special notes beyond the usual daily, monthly, annual activities this year:

1. We set up an exciting new way to give a gift to FCCW. We can now accept stock donations! It is a win-win for both sides. Ask if you want more information on this tax saving strategy.
2. We disposed of and replaced the leased copier which provides savings to the church. A special thanks to Nancy Dee and CLA Andrea for their perseverance with this "not so simple" task!
3. Alan Bernier, our tech guy, along with Nate Fogg, has begun the task (also not so simple) of consolidating the church telephone system under Spectrum. This will provide another cost savings to the church budget.
4. Financial plans and projects are already in the works for FCCW's new fiscal year beginning on July 1.

Leadership Council 2026-2027 Proposed Budget and Summary have been distributed. Our financial situation is improving as we edge closer to a balanced budget. We urge all Church members to take a little time to review and think about the budget in preparation for the discussion that will take place at the Annual Meeting on June 28th. Your voice is welcome and needed.

A quick reminder: if you have not yet submitted your 2026-27 pledge, you can send it, preferably by email, to Julie at [fccwassistanttreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fccwassistanttreasurer@gmail.com). If that does not work for you, put it in the Sunday offering plate or mail it to the church to the attention of the assistant treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bernier  
Janice Brejwo, Coordinator  
Patty Burbank  
Nancy Dee, Treasurer

Julie Kessler, Assistant Treasurer  
Jean Miccolo  
Harriet Wilson

**Annual Report of Ministry of Historian/Archivist:  
2025-2026**

FCCW would like to extend a warm welcome to Nancy Spencer-Smith who has agreed to be our next Historian/Archivist. We look forward to her expertise in this important ministry and her full report next year!

## **Annual Report of Ministry of Personnel: 2025-2026**

The Personnel Committee now comprises of:

Joe Palmariello

Ken Ballinger

Gloria Ballinger

Our office leader, Andrea, excels in multitasking, running all aspects of the office as well as doing so much for all of the many groups of the church. She supports our new settled Pastor and does it efficiently and always with a smile. We are grateful for her hard work and feel blessed to have her.

Respectfully,

Joe Palmariello

Personnel Coordinator

## **Annual Report of Ministry of Stewardship: 2025-2026**

This year's stewardship theme, "***Anchored in Love, Guided by Faith, Journeying toward God's Purpose,***" captures the spirit of our congregation. It reflects a church rooted in Christ's love, strengthened by shared faith, and called forward together in service to God's purpose.

A meaningful highlight of the year was the witness of FCCW members who shared personal reflections on what church and stewardship mean in their lives. Their testimonies underscored the importance of supporting FCCW through service, financial gifts, and prayer, while affirming our shared values of Christian love, community, and faithful commitment.

The proposed budget for the 2026–27 fiscal year includes **\$152,000** in pledged support. These commitments are essential to faithful and responsible planning for the year ahead. We offer heartfelt thanks to all who continue to share their ***time, talent, and treasure*** in support of FCCW's ministry. Every act of service and every pledge strengthens the mission, ministry, and future witness of our church.

The Stewardship Ministry team includes Rev. Dr. James Mills, Sr., Ken Ballinger, Carol Lundgren, Chris Feddern, and Judy Trepal. Special thanks are also extended to Julie Kessler, Assistant Treasurer, for her support and service.

Faithfully submitted,

Chris Feddern, on behalf of Stewardship Ministry



## **Annual Report of The Parish Helpers 2025-2026**

first women's fellowship group of FCCW gathered in 1857, it was in 1899 that they incorporated and named the group The Parish Helpers, Inc. The Parish Helpers has carried on the heritage of women's fellowship and community service for 127 years. The purpose of Parish Helpers is to offer the local area women the opportunity to cultivate the spirit of Christ in every area of human endeavor beginning with our lives and reaching out into our homes, communities and wider world to make it better in all ways God intends.

We offer areas of support and financial assistance to our FCCW church and its mission locally and around the world. We hold receptions for church families who have lost family members and celebrate them. We participate in local events like Pride Day and operate a very successful Treasure Shop in Wakefield's historic town hall during the summer months. Customers are delighted to peruse our shelves for hard-to-find items of all kinds! We had an amazing year at the Treasure Shop. Because of the success, we were able to present the church with a \$10,000 donation towards the new minister's salary. We are truly blessed.

This year we conducted a full schedule of monthly meetings. We hold the meetings on the second Thursday of the month featuring yummy desserts, catching up on the news, conducting a brief business meeting and then enjoying a variety of guest speakers who enlighten us on many topics of interest to all. We also run a Parish Helpers Fair each summer and invite vendors of all kinds to join us with a table for a small fee. The fairs are very successful and attract large numbers of interested folks who are also delighted with the food we offer from the kitchen.

Where does our hard-earned money go? We offer a variety of areas of generous support and financial assistance to over 20 areas:

Voice Choir and Bells  
Floral Decorations  
Kitchen Supplies  
Annual Pledge to the FCCW General Fund  
Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund  
FCCW Parish Helper's Scholarship  
FCCW Music Fund  
FCCW Flower Fund  
FCCW Horton Center Camp Fund  
FCCW Cox Memorial Library  
UCC One Great Hour of Sharing

Zimbabwe School Sponsorship (FOOT)  
Wakefield Library Gafney Library  
Lakes Region Humane Society  
White Horse Addiction Center  
NH Women's Fellowship  
Meals-On-Wheels  
Wakefield Food Pantry  
Veterans of the Cross United Campus Ministry  
Wakefield Secret Santa  
Wakefield/Acton Watershed Alliance  
FCCW Music Camp Emergency Fund

We welcome all women from the church and the community to join Parish Helpers.

Respectfully submitted, Ginny Schweitzer, President

## **Recognition of Church Leaders 2025-2026**

### **Officers:**

|                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Settled Pastor  | The Rev. Dr. James L. Mills, Sr. |
| Clerk           | Open                             |
| Moderator       | Margie Galabrun and Judy Trepal  |
| Treasurer       | Nancy Dee                        |
| Asst. Treasurer | Julie Kessler                    |

### **Ministry Coordinators**

|                       |                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Buildings & Grounds   | George Ackerman                            |
| Calling & Discernment | Open                                       |
| Christian Outreach    | Ann Bilodeau                               |
| Communication         | Carol Jeffery                              |
| Diaconate             | Josephine Szirbik and Ginny Schweitzer     |
| Faith Formation       | Open                                       |
| Finance               | Janice Brejwo                              |
| Historian/Archivist   | Nancy Spencer-Smith                        |
| Stewardship           | Christine Feddern                          |
| Personnel             | Joseph Palmariello                         |
| The Arts              | Donna Ackerman, Buddy Dee and Rachel White |

### **Parish Helpers**

**Sage**                      Ginny Schweitzer

**Pastor Emeritus**        Titia Bozuwa

**Pastor Emerita**        The Rev. George Harvey

The Rev. Mary James