

STEEPLE VIEWS

First Congregational Church of Wakefield
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation



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October 2026

The Pastor's Page

Rev. Dr. James L Mills, Sr.

We are living through a time when disagreement is too easily transformed into contempt, hatred, and violence. We have witnessed people entrusted with public authority mistreat migrants and undocumented neighbors—those whose presence is too often reduced to a visa violation, an unlawful entry, an accent, a darker complexion, or an image created by fear. None of these things should place a human life at risk. No child should be incarcerated or subjected to conditions that impose a lifetime of trauma.

The contempt visible in the faces, words, and body language of some government agents toward people who speak differently or look different from them is deeply disturbing. It rightly provokes our moral outrage. Yet even in the face of injustice, we are called to become peacemakers. This is not a passive calling or an invitation to avoid conflict. It is holy work: the work of confronting harm, repairing what has been broken, and making visible the justice and mercy of God amid a wounded society.

In Matthew 5:9, Jesus declares, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Peacemaking is therefore more than a temperament or a preference for calm. It is a divine vocation. It requires courage, wisdom, humility, and the willingness to understand experiences beyond our own. If we are to become bridge builders, community healers, and faithful practitioners of the gospel, we must actively seek out and listen to perspectives different from our own.

Effective peacemaking demands more than passive awareness. It calls us to educate ourselves through reading, watching, listening, conversation, prayer, and honest reflection. We must remain open to the histories, fears, hopes, and lived realities of people whose identities, cultures, faiths, politics, or economic circumstances differ from ours. This kind of learning does not weaken conviction; it deepens our capacity to love our neighbors with integrity.

To be a peacemaker is also to understand that peace does not mean the absence of tension. Genuine peace is not quietness imposed upon the vulnerable, nor is it order maintained through fear. True peace is the presence of justice, mercy, dignity, and right relationship. Justice without mercy can become revenge and retribution disguised as righteousness; mercy without justice can become sentimental compassion that leaves oppressive systems untouched. The work of God requires both: mercy that restores and justice that protects.

The vocation of the peacemaker in the twenty-first century extends far beyond settling disputes. It calls us to help build communities shaped by empathy, truth, accountability, belonging, and hope. In an age marked by division and intolerance, we are invited to embody another way—the way of Christ, who calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to stand with those who are vulnerable.

Parish Helpers

The next Parish Helper meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8th, at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We have invited Reetha Stoddard to speak to us. She represents Starting Point, a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center serving Carroll County since 1981. They maintain a 24-hour support line to listen and provide free and confidential support. They serve all of Carroll County and have the only shelter in the county. A significant number of their clients are from Wakefield which is a hidden issue among us. We hope to hear how the center serves members of our community and how we can support their mission.

The Treasure Shop will close for the season on Saturday, October 10th. If you have not had a chance to volunteer at the shop, there still is time! Contact Rachel to set up your time!

Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Ministry previously brought options to the congregation to contribute to the needs of our community. The congregation generously responded to Wakefield Parks and Rec and the Paul School. The following states an update to their needs.

Wakefield Parks and Rec: The congregation has been donating snacks for children in the summer program. Children were served two snacks a day. Alyssa, the director, is so appreciative and says they haven't had to buy those items all summer. Which means, dollars saved by our donations means more resources for Parks and Recs programming! Now the school is in session, they have an after-school program. Children attending will be given a snack in the afternoon. In addition, the Teen Room is open - a place for older kids to "hang out" and have a snack, which is often microwaveable cups. This results in ongoing relationship with the staff. The needs remain the same - individually wrapped snacks like granola bars, juice boxes and microwaveable cups like mac and cheese.

The Paul School - Our congregation generously donated items for the Care Closet last school year which was

(Continued)

greatly appreciated. Mrs. Valdepena, school counselor, says the Care Closet is currently well stocked, What is needed is healthy snacks such as applesauce cups, individually wrapped pretzels, and granola bars.

Andrea Costello, Outreach

The Value of Volunteers

While completing a evaluation for the NH Humanities program that the Parish Helpers held at our last meeting, I came across a line item to fill in for how many volunteer hours were used to carry out the event. They were looking for a monetary figure and instructions were to multiply the number of hours by \$29.95. I was shocked to see such a high dollar amount put on volunteer hours. So, I looked further into the wonderful world of Google and found that in NH, the amount is even greater - \$35.96.

Think about all of our ministries and all of the hours our church people put into supporting our church and its ministries! It's worth a fortune!

Carol Jeffery, Communications

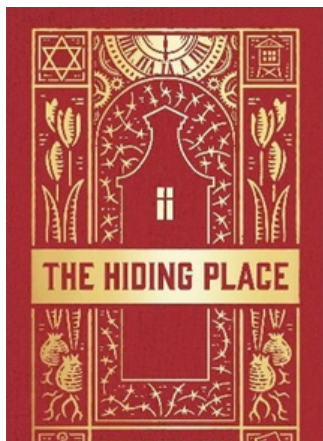


News from the Treasurer

I like to share good news from time to time! At the end of August, just 2 months into our new fiscal year, pledges are up 6 points and the plate collections are up 15 points! We are starting off the year on a positive note. Of course, we all know those oil bills will start rolling in any minute. Enjoy our beautiful fall weather!

Nancy Dee, Treasurer

The Hiding Place



Corrie ten Boom was the first licensed female watchmaker in the Netherlands who became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps, and one of the most remarkable ministers of hope in the twentieth century.

In World War II she and her family risked their lives to help Jews and underground workers escape from the Nazis. In 1944 their lives were forever altered when they were betrayed, arrested, and thrown into the infamous Nazi death camps. Only Corrie among her family survived.

This is her incredible true story--and ultimately the story of how faith, hope, and forgiveness triumphed over unthinkable evil. This beloved book continues to declare that God's love will overcome, heal, and restore. There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still, and no darkness so thick that His light can't break through.

Source: Amazon

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

New Hampshire Conference UCC Annual Meeting 2026

The 2026 NHCUCC Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Geneva Point Conference Center in Moultonborough, NH, with Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as keynote speaker! Please contact the church office by 10/14 if you would like to attend!



PKZ Fall Pancake Breakfast and Jewelry Fundraiser

The next Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24th from 8 - 11 am. You know the menu -- four types of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, juice and hot beverages are yours for just \$9 for adults, \$6 for school age kids and children under 5 eat free! Proceeds will help us get closer to the finish line on the children's home construction project.

But wait, there's more! You may have heard people scored BIG by having old, unwanted, no longer used gold and silver jewelry appraised at the June event. This could be you! See the attached promo to see how it all works and earn some unexpected cash while you enjoy good food and great company at the pancake breakfast!

Connie Littlefield, PKZ

Service Auction Accolades

Jo Szirbik's Italian Dinner was delivered to Mary Soares and her family. "Thank you, Mary, for your very generous donation. It was fun to cook for you! " Mary's comment: "It was SO MUCH FOOD, and very good."



"Nancy Perkins had her first ukulele lesson from Buddy Dee. "It was awesome, Buddy is very patient".

From Joan Sharp—"I have one more pie to make in October."



Betsy McDougal provided her family's favorite dessert- Cherry Jubilee - to Connie Littlefield, who brought it to book club. "It was delicious!"

*A continued thank you to all those who
donated their time and talents to make our
service auction a huge success!*

Notes from Zimbabwe

Recently I was asked to present to a team of NH healthcare professionals regarding the impact of US AID cuts in Zimbabwe. It is extraordinary that 20,000 doctors, nurses and health care workers lost their jobs and that health care prevention programs were eliminated. The Zimbabwe government stepped in to hire some of the medical professionals, but these professionals were unable to survive on low government wages. Thousands of medical personnel resigned and left the country entirely, leaving public hospital and clinics without staffing. The hardest hit areas were HIV – testing, diagnosis and prevention programs, malaria clinics, and tuberculosis programs. When the malaria program was eliminated, the result was an 180% increase in malaria cases in the first 4 months. With tuberculosis there has been a 36% increase in cases with a staggering 68% increase in deaths. HIV, with an exemplary containment rate of 95% with US AID ARV treatment programs in place, is projected to relapse to 55% by 2030.

The lack of US AID impacts agriculture and clean water projects as well eliminating irrigation schemes, community gardens and installation of boreholes. Zimbabwe is a country where 70% of people are food insecure. With a population of 17 million, approximately 12 million people are impacted.

Behind every statistic is a human being – someone who doesn't get treatment for preventable diseases, doesn't have medication, no longer has access to prenatal or other types of health care or a health care worker with little to no resources. It is a person who must walk farther for water or someone who struggles to feed their family. I recall so clearly Samuel's statement when he came to live with me: "It's a different kind of life when you don't have to worry about whether or not you will eat each day." (I know this to be true of members in our greater Wakefield community as well.)

Adding to the stress, prices for fuel are approximately \$8.50 a gallon and the cost of food, goods, and building materials have increased due to transportation costs. PKZ has experienced this first hand as we feed the children at Daisy Dube, provide food for the elderly and of course, in construction of the new home for Daisy Dube Children's Village. The stress is real as more people look to PKZ for medical assistance as well.



October is when the NH Conference celebrates Ukama partnerships. We have been in partnership with Rufumiso UCCZ since 1998. Now that's worth celebrating! While we can't do everything, I am grateful we can do something. Our congregation and members in the greater community have been and continue to be a blessing to our Zimbabwean sisters and brothers.

Connie Littlefield, PKZ



FUNdraising Updates

Ok gang, I think we have recovered from the Yard Sale, which can only mean that it's time to start planning for the HarvestFair, being held on November 14. Please be thinking how you would like to participate. It could be most anything, from baking for the bake sale table to offering to make a soup for the luncheon, or (my favorite) donating a gift card to an area business for the Penny Sale. Most of the restaurants and businesses around are more than willing to donate a gift card. They have marketing budgets for just this sort of thing. So, if you are a regular or an occasional patron, please ask for a small gift card. I will have letters to hand out, if that makes it easier for you to ask. AND, please let me know when you have a donation, so we won't hit them up again.

We will be looking for people to work the fair, as well. Maybe you could help with the luncheon, or the jewelry table, or the cool stuff boutique. So many opportunities! You can speak with Julie Kessler or me.

Thanks, Nancy Dee

Fundraising for 2026-2027 – Target \$12,000

As of 9/22/2026 - \$3422.50

Remaining: \$8577.50

Yard Sale: \$3197.50

Fundraisers

Hazel MacBrien Nursery School September News

We are so excited to welcome our kiddos back to school! Both classes started on September 8th. The new 3's class explored our classroom and got to know each other and their teachers. Last year's 3's who returned as 4's in the afternoon class this year were excited to see their friends! The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed spending some time outside in the fenced area ❤️

During the first week of school we introduced number 1 and our theme was squirrels. Our sensory table had white beans, magnet blocks, pet animal manipulatives, cups and spoons in it for the kids to explore in. The morning 3's painted a star for our school shining stars bulletin board, fed a squirrel the number of acorns rolled, crawled through our tunnel, played bug in a rug, painted a squirrel for our school family tree and played musical name that color squirrel game. The afternoon 4's did a squirrel shape matching activity, worked on 10-frames, did a number sequencing count and paste paper, made an acorn for our school family tree and started our rainbow writing number journals.

The 2nd week of school we worked on letter Ll and our theme was leaves. The sensory table had fabric leaves, plastic colored leaves, squirrel manipulatives, plates and tweezers for exploration. The threes class went on a leaf hunt around the classroom and identified the color of the leaves, did a marble roll leaf painting, found a squirrel hidden behind the shape, explored with playdough and worked on fine motor skills by tracing lines with leaf eraser manipulatives. The fours class made number towers using unifix cubes on numbered leaves, did a cut and paste number scarecrow puzzle, did their letter Ll rainbow writing and did a leaf hunt number find and trace activity.

During the third week of school we introduced number 7 and our theme was acorns. We had kinetic sand, people, plastic acorn manipulatives and small trucks in the sensory table. The 3's class did a musical acorn name that color game, painted an acorn using a cork, explored with shaving cream and acorns and named the color that a squirrel was hiding behind. The 4's class did a roll and color acorn paper, made AB patterns using different colored acorn erasers, did a letter acorn hunt in a bucket of corn, worked on 10-frames and a count and clip number activity.

On the 4th week we worked on letter Aa and our theme was apples. The sensory table, had oatmeal, red, green and yellow pompoms, plates, apple manipulatives and cinnamon sticks for the kids to make "apple pies" with. The morning threes class worked on colors by matching apples, did a shape cut and paste paper, played where is the apple?, walked on our floor balance beam, traced lines with apple erasers and explored with playdough. The afternoon fours class did an apple seed number match, an apple roll and color, an apple themed syllable sorting activity and did apple 10-frames using playdough balls.

Thanks to all of you for welcoming us back! We are so happy to have your support and a beautiful space for our classroom ❤️

Jen, HMNS



Wakefield Parks and Rec is requesting individually wrapped snacks like granola bars, cookies, crackers, juice boxes and microwaveable cups Mac and cheese.

AND

Wakefield Paul School is requesting "healthy snacks" like individual applesauce, granola bars, pretzels.

Thank you!
FCCW Outreach Team



KIDS AGES 8-12
COME JOIN US
FOR SUNDAY
FUNDAY!!

(formerly known as Sunday School)

This takes place on the
2nd and 4th Sundays of
the month!

Celebrations

October Birthdays

12 Sally Kratt
13 Debbie Fogg
15 Maureen Bridgett
 Szirbik
15 JoAnn Owen
19 Brian Shipley
20 Bill Goodwin
21 Ellen Lankhorst
 23 Buddy Dee
24 Cameron Cook
 26 Laura Frye
26 Connie Twombly
30 George Frothingham

October Anniversaries

7 Tom & Jan Stanley
8 George & Priscilla Frothingham
9 Mark and Julie Evenson
10 Russell & Sharon Baldwin
13 Chuck & Joanne Dolbear
17 Alfred & Tammy Canney
20 John & Lynn Shaffer
23 Ron & Rachel White

Steeple Views Update



After 18+ years of producing the Steeple Views with Microsoft Publisher, I found myself having to come up with a new way to do it as Microsoft is discontinuing Publisher. It's been a challenge, to be sure, but with help from CLA

Andrea, we are giving it a try. We may need extra time to get the job done as we are familiarizing ourselves with the new (to us) software. Stay tuned!

Carol Jeffery, Editor

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:

Nancy P's brother and sister in law, Paul and Carol; Pat A; Celia R; the Galabrunns; Jan S; John S; Sarah M; Brian T; Gerald B; Lois B; Nancy B; Cindy E; Our sister church in Zimbabwe, Rufumiso UCCZ; Louisiana detainees: Mahsa Dehzadamedani, Pouria Nazari (Mahsa's husband), Selam Gebre Haile (from Eritrea)

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.

Food Pantry Needs

OCTOBER

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Collection

- ❖ **Stuffing**
- ❖ **Gravy**
- ❖ **Canned Vegetables**
- ❖ **Cranberry Sauce**
- ❖ **Hot Cocoa**
- ❖ **Cereal**

Thank you!!

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bible Study with Rev - 5:30	2	3
4 Worship and Communion 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	5 Caregivers Support Group 9:30 Choir - 5:30	6 Faith Formation 12 noon	7 End 68 Hours of Hunger Mtg. 8 a.m. Treasure Shop 9 - 12 Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	8 Parish Helpers 1 p.m.	9	10 Treasure Shop Last Day! 9 - 12 noon
11 Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Coffee Hour	12 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY Choir 5:30	13 Faith Formation 12 noon Ukelele Club 6 p.m.	14 End 68 Hours of Hunger Mtg. 8 a.m. Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	15 Bible Study With Rev 5:30	16	17
18 Worship - 10 a.m. . Coffee Hour Leadership Mtg	19 Caregivers Support Group 9:30 Choir 5:30	20 Faith Formation 12 noon	21 End 68 Hours of Hunger Mtg. 8 a.m. Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	22	23	24 Pancake Breakfast and Jewelry Fundraiser 8 - 11 a.m.
25 Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Coffee Hour Diaconate Mtg 11:30	26 Choir 5:30	27 Faith Formation 12 Noon Ukelele Club 6 p.m.	28 End 68 Hours of Hunger Mtg. 8 a.m. Chair Yoga 10 a.m.	29	30	31 Halloween

Fall Pancake Breakfast & Jewelry Fundraiser!

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



The FCCW Zimbabwe Team will be preparing a delicious pancake breakfast! Traditional pancakes, with options of pumpkin, blueberry, and chocolate chip, will be served along with scrambled eggs, sausage, juice and hot beverages.

Saturday, October 24th, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The cost is \$9 per adult and \$6 for children (ages 5 and under are free!)

Proceeds will help us get closer to the finish line on the children's home construction project in Zimbabwe!



*Thank you for
your support!*



GOLD AND SILVER FUNDRAISER SATURDAY OCTOBER 24TH 8AM -11 AM 2718 Wakefield Road , Wakefield , NH



Do you have unwanted broken gold, silver or platinum jewelry or sterling silver flatware and serving pieces? Then 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! Tailored Collectibles will provide free on-site, no obligation evaluations. And if you decide to sell, you'll receive payment on the spot!

Acceptable Items include:

- ☐ Broken, tangled gold chains and necklaces
- ☐ Unmatched and single earrings
 - ☐ Gold and Silver Coins
- ☐ Sterling Silver flatware and servicing pieces
 - ☐ Platinum items
- ☐ Costume jewelry with potential gold and silver mixed in !

Questions or Need More Info ?

Contact : Connie Littlefield 603-268-5445

THANK YOU!

***All proceeds will be used to rebuild the
Daisy Dube Orphanage Building in
Zimbabwe!***



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