



STEEPLE VIEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

REVEREND MARY A. JAMES, PASTOR

REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS

PHONE: 603-522-3189

FAX: 603-522-3302

WEBSITE: FCCWAKEFIELDNH.ORG

EMAIL: FCCWAKEFIELDNH@GMAIL.COM

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE . . .

RISE TO THE OCCASION

Blessed Eastertide to all!

Each year, in this glorious season of Easter as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, we are offered anew the conviction that with God, we can accomplish what seems impossible. As new life springs forth from the earth all around us, we are invited by the Easter event to trust that new life can also spring forth from our hearts. God has made our hearts fertile ground; new loves can be planted and grow!

As a congregation, we are now preparing for a wonderful opportunity to be the Body of Christ in a very special way. Hospitality is at the very heart of the identity of the Christian Church, and in August we will be blessed with the carrying out of a ministry of warm hospitality as we welcome our sabbatical minister, The Rev. Albert Mhururu, into our midst.

Some years ago, I was leading a spiritual retreat at a retreat center that had a robust ministry of outreach to people who happened to be homeless. In their little dining area, a striking saying had been carefully painted on the wall: *When the stranger comes, Christ comes.* Let us prepare our welcome of Rev. Mhururu with this in mind.

I have heard from Rev. Mhururu recently, and he is very much looking forward to being here; he is asking all kinds of astute questions about how we do things, and his warm and caring personality is shining through it all. I have had the privilege of meeting him on his two previous visits to the United States, and both Connie Littlefield and Jo Szirbik know him. Our Conference Minister, Gary Schulte, recently returned from a trip to Zimbabwe and considers Rev. Mhururu a friend. Rev. Schulte was delighted when he heard that Rev. Mhururu will be here while I am on sabbatical. Our Deacons and your Pastor are aware that for some, having a minister from another culture has brought about some worries. We prayerfully encourage all to embrace the unique cross-cultural experience that this plan presents to us. Cross-cultural encounter and understanding are crucial elements as we seek to build a more peaceful world. And imagine how he must feel! He will be away from his home and his family for an extended period. We encourage you to open your hearts to him as you would to any new minister in your midst, and to be part of assuring that he has a good experience.

Rev. Mhururu is a kind, experienced and learned ordained minister, as well as a father and a grandfather, and we are a warm and loving congregation. What a great combination! He and we will rise to the occasion (Easter pun intended) and our love of God and one another will deepen as a result.

The Deacons and I will keep you posted as we progress in making our plans. Happy Eastertide!

Blessings and peace,

Mary

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10: 29

TREASURER'S REPORT

WHAT IS MISSION 4/1 EARTH?

Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013

Income:	\$ 91,698.08
Expenditures:	\$ 90,974.13
Net Income (Loss)	\$ <u>723.95</u>

Restricted Funds balance as of February 28, 2013: \$1,531.79

As I write spring is almost here, but first another snow-storm. Alas, it is March. We have used up much of the surplus income for the year, but ended February still ahead by over \$700. March as always means more oil bills, mandatory maintenance inspections and insurance bills. However, I think March will end just fine this year, after all, it ends with Easter!

An excellent way to know what is going on at our church is to attend a meeting. Financial matters (including the annual budget, stewardship, church investments and fund raising) were front and center at the March 17 Leadership Council meeting. I was very happy to see that a few interested church members besides the officers and ministry coordinators attended this time. These members were able to listen as well as express their concerns and provide suggestions relating to the topics under discussion. Leadership Council is meeting again on April 28, right after church. Stop by and see what goes on. I guarantee you a warm welcome.

Janice Brejwo, Treasurer
jbrejwo@roadrunner.com

WAKEFIELD PRIDE DAY, MAY 18TH

Wakefield Pride Day 2013 is practically upon us. Once again we're counting on all of you to make a great church showing. We've reserved an additional booth so we have more room for even more exhibit ideas. If you have any, please direct them to me at mgalabrun@roadrunner.com or 522-6647. I'm hearing murmurings of something especially fun for the parade as well.

Margie Galabrun

For further information about what you read in this newsletter, please email the editor at steepleviews@gmail.com or call the church office. We'll be happy to help!



[www.facebook.com/
FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC)



ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared resurrection witness for Planet Earth during 50 great days of greening up, powering down, and shouting out for the environment! That's **Mission 4/1 Earth!**

"**Mission 4/1 Earth: 50 Great Days**" is about boldly living Jesus' let-your-light-shine proclamation in the Sermon on the Mount: "That they may see your good works!" It is an opportunity to live out our faith — in unity, as one church — for the sake of our fragile planet Earth.

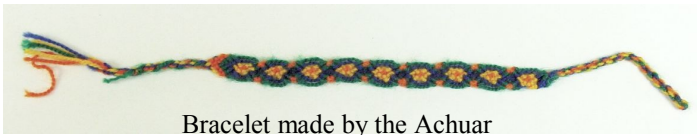
Launching on Easter Monday, April 1, 2013, and continuing through the great 50 days of Eastertide, United Church of Christ congregations, colleges, seminaries, camps and outdoor ministries, and health and human service agencies will join together in a shared mission campaign to:

- Collectively offer more than **ONE MILLION HOURS** of engaged earth care, including clean up, advocacy, education, and behavioral changes that will impact the environment.
- Collectively plant more than **100,000 TREES** locally and globally in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation and the UCC's denominational partners around the world.
- Collectively write and send more than **100,000 ADVOCACY LETTERS** on environmental concerns to elected officials and local and national newspapers.

Mission 4/1 Earth links together four significant events — Easter (March 31), Earth Day (April 22), Arbor Day (April 26) and Pentecost (May 19) — for a sustained, aggressive and collective mission opportunity for the entire United Church of Christ. Together, we will inspire and aspire to what we can accomplish as ONE CHURCH.

Look for more information in your church bulletins and learn what opportunities await you to help our fragile planet.

*In His name,
Donna V Ackerman*



Bracelet made by the Achuar

There is a group of indigenous people called the Achuar who have lived for centuries deep in the rain forest of what is now known as Ecuador and Peru. The Achuar are dreamer people whose dreams are the guiding principles of their lives. They live in harmony with the natural world and with one another. But when oil development began to cause an imbalance in their part of the world, their dreams became troubled.

The Achuar reached out to other indigenous tribes of the area, and eventually caught the attention of the people of the north. Together they created an alliance of people who believe that the dream of our modern society, a dream that places short-term economic gain over the long-lasting interest of the people and the planet, can be changed.

This is a call to “Awaken the Dreamers” throughout the world – while we still have a world to protect. See: www.pachamama.org/

Margie Galabrun

BUDGET DISCUSSION MEETING

All are welcome and encouraged to attend the Leadership Council meeting that will be held on Sunday, April 28, following the Sunday worship service. The focus of the meeting will be the budget for 2013—2014.

HELP NEEDED FOR ONLINE FUNDRAISING

We’re getting really great contributions for our on-line fundraising project. I can take photos, categorize and list items on E-Bay, Amazon and Craig’s List. But I really need help with **pricing**. The only way to know what we should be asking for the donated items is to do some Internet research. We need to know what the item would cost new, how available it is on-line, and what those items are selling for. If a few people would volunteer to help do this, I think it would make this fund-raising project much more profitable. Would you consider spending one or two hours to occasionally help with this type of research? If so, please contact me at mgalabrun@roadrunner.com

Margie Galabrun

In the last Steeple Views, I mentioned the Z Team was beginning to think about a fall shipping container to Zimbabwe. Since then we have had some interesting requests from our Zimbabwe partners including the desire for wedding dresses along with an equally strong desire for athletic equipment (from jerseys to cleats) for the formation of youth athletic programs. (Anyone with connections to athletic programs or athletic directors who might need a place to recycle gently used clothing or equipment?) A list of other needed items including clothing, medical items, eyeglasses, fabric, tools and more may be found in this issue of Steeple Views!

On Sunday April 14, the 2nd year of our decathlon “Put on Your Sneakers for Dzika!” will be held at Spaulding High School. We want to finish Dzika Primary School and this very fun fundraising event will help us reach our goal. We are looking for members and friends of our church to participate on a team of 10 which competes in 10 short, very fun events. Cost is \$10 per person. Perhaps you would prefer to sponsor a “decathlon athlete” or be a scorekeeper for one of the event or provide something delicious for the bake sale table? Please see any member of the Z Team (Ann Bilodeau, Cathy Koukal, Connie Littlefield, Chris Feddern, Jo Szirbik, Jan Stanley, Donna Ackerman, Debbie Fogg or even little Julia) for more information. **(Did I mention it is going to be so much fun?)**

Connie Littlefield

BOOK DISCUSSION

You are invited to take part in a book study by reading *Darwin, Divinity, and the Dance of the Cosmos: An Ecological Christianity*. This will culminate in a book discussion at the First Congregational Church in Rochester on Earth Day, Monday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. See Page 5 (Wider Church News) for more details.

PARISH HELPERS

The Parish Helpers will meet as usual on the 2nd Thursday of the month—April 11— at 1 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Beryl Donovan, Director of the Gafney Library. We look forward to hearing from Beryl about what the hottest new books are this spring and what else is new at the Gafney, including using the downloadable E-books that are offered through the library. Please join us and bring a friend. The Parish Helpers welcome all women of the community. You do not need to be a church member!

Carol Jeffery

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Whole-hearted Giving Stewardship Drive March 3-April 7 – As this issue of Steeple Views arrives, we hope all members and friends who desire to pledge will have done so. On April 7th pledges will be dedicated. Like your personal or family budget, we can only know the income for your church AFTER pledges are received. Many deep discussions are going on about the proposed budget and you are invited to participate. Every voice is valued and needed. Please plan to attend a Leadership Council meeting after church on April 28 to be part of the conversation.

Do you need a Whole Hearted Giving packet? Anyone can give to the work of First Congregational Church. Simply call Carol at 522-8235 and she will be sure to get a packet right out to you.

Fundraising ... Conversations - Thanks to all who came to the two fundraising conversations in early March ... and to those who sent emails with ideas. Do you have an idea to share? Please call Carol – 522-8235.

Are we GREEN enough? The answer is “probably not”. But, we do work at it. For example, we do not use Styro-foam cups or plates in church, we limit the use of paper products, thermostats are turned down when rooms are not in use, lights off when not in use. And yes, we recycle. Can we improve? You bet! Feel free to offer ideas to Carol Lundgren. And if you would like some help planning a better recycling system for your home, give Carol a call – 522-8235.

Circle 227 – Waiting for YOU! Please check out the many new tags on the CIRCLE 227 board in Fellowship Hall. There you will find ideas of items your church needs. Most ideas are small, practical, easy to find and affordable! Toilet paper, trash bags, paper towels, soap pumps, copy paper, gift cards to Staples, Rite Aid, Hannaford – these are just some examples. Take a tag, won't you please? Bless you!

Liberty's Education – thank you so much to all in the congregation and church school who faithfully drop coins into the Liberty Education Fund in the jug in the Narthex. Thanks to these coins, a young orphan goes to school. What a blessing. Spare change won't weigh you down if you drop it in the Liberty jug and it will definitely LIFT him up in mind and spirit!

*Carol Lundgren
Stewardship Ministry*

Creating a bold new future.
Please join us as we explore the possibility of a new global vision built on Environmental Sustainability, Spiritual Fulfillment, and Social Justice.



Featuring ideas/insights from inspiring philosophers, scientists, community leaders and more.

Join us for the **Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium** to gain fresh insight about our world, meet like-minded people, and find hope and inspiration in how we, together, can help create a new future.

We'll look at our biggest challenges and opportunities today:

- The state of our industrial world and the thinking that got us where we are today
- A new dream—new ideas about what really matters—leading to deep connection and surprising solutions
- How you can be part of what's emerging—because you already are!

"This has given me the purpose and drive to change my life. Everyone working for or wanting a better world must see this." - JS, Concord, CA.

Saturday, April 27, 2013
12:45 – 4:00 PM

Wakefield Town Hall, Opera House
2 High Street, Sanbornville, NH 03872
www.wakefieldoperahouse.org

Please arrive by 12:45 to check in; program starts promptly at 1 PM.

Donations welcome, but not required.

To reserve your spot, go to www.pachamama.org and search for workshops in New Hampshire or go directly to:
http://www.pachamama.org/workshops/search/single/?event_id=1056

Questions? Contact:
M. Galabrun
603-522-6647
mgalabrun@roadrunner.com

Hosted by:
The First Congregational Church of Wakefield, United Church of Christ
The Opera House Performing Arts Committee

Awakening the Dreamer Changing the Dream Symposium
Changing the Dream of the Modern World



OUR CHURCH STRUCTURE: TIME TO REVIEW & PLAN

Are you interested in discussing our new church structure? Please join us at noon on Saturday, April 13, at the home of George and Donna Ackerman. We will share a potluck lunch. This is an opportunity to share thoughts about the state of our organization – what is working and what needs reshaping!

We will do some dreaming and planning for our Third Ministry Fair on June 23. This event is organized by the Calling & Discernment Team which includes Mary James, Donna Ackerman, George Ackerman and Jan Fairchild.

CHURCH LIBRARY

Don't forget to browse our shelves when planning on those snowy or rainy "down" days. We have many great titles including Grace by Max Lucado which has received 4 1/2 stars by the readers of Barnes and Noble and Amazon websites. Some of their comments are; A complete blessing, best work yet, inspirational, encouraging, a big word for only 5 letters. How can you pass up reading this?

Celebrations!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Rob Nelson	15 Ginny Schweitzer
4 Karen Hagy	17 Aimee Ball
4 Jean Lloyd	19 Jo Szirbik
4 Julia McCarthy	20 Susan Jacobson
7 David Albro	20 Raenya Morann
7 Barbara Burkham	21 Amanda Boggs
10 Kristin Galabrun	23 Ciera Rose Dee
11 Michael Crew	23 Natalee Royle
11 Michael Weeks	24 Ann Eaton
12 Darlene Clements	24 Molly James
13 Persis Hildebrandt	26 Sarah Kinville
14 Agnes Carlson	28 Dawson Cotreau
14 Elizabeth Heinlein	28 Madison Cotreau
14 Dorcas Knight	28 Del Littlefield
14 Adam Szirbik	29 Lauree Royle

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

1 Ken & Penny Ellis
5 Rick & Cindy Denver
15 Bill & Susie Goodwin (1978)
15 Anders & Nancy Jacobson
22 Carol & Rob Lundgren
23 Scott & Nicky Mercer
25 Nathan & Debbie Fogg
28 Frank & Pam Frazier

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Connie B.	Tom and Barbara T.
Paul T.	George B.
Dot R.	Art W.
Jo W.	Cathy K.
Julia W.	Mackenzie M.

Our global neighbors in places where there is great strife.
 Our servicemen and women
 Our friends in Rufumiso, Zimbabwe
 Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement
 Communities in our area

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY



May 1—Deacons 4:30 p.m.
 May 7—Centering Prayer 4 p.m.
 May 9—Parish Helpers Luncheon 4 p.m.
 May 11—Memorial Service for Vivian Chick 11 a.m.
 May 18—Pride Day
 May 21—Centering Prayer 4 p.m.



Our condolences to the family of Vivian Chick who passed away on March 10. A Memorial Service will be held for Vivian at our church on Saturday, May 11 at 11 a.m. Her obituary can be read at www.peasleefuneralhome.com

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

Be a part of 4/1 Earth, an initiative by the United Church of Christ! From Easter Monday, April 1st – through Pentecost Sunday, May 19th the UCC encourages us to be on a 50 day mission to be **ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared resurrection witness for Planet Earth during 50 great days of greening up, powering down, and shouting out.** How can we participate? The UCC website (<http://www.ucc.org/earth/>) encourages us to consider creative ways to engage in the care of our earth which might include community cleanup efforts, recycling, planting trees, and writing advocacy letters to local officials in concern for our environment culminating in 1,000,000 hours of service, 100,000 trees planted and 100,000 letters written across the nation! Please check out the website which lists many resources, stories and videos of how churches are living out both a spiritual and a lifestyle transformation in respect and reverence for God's creation.

Members of the Carroll-Strafford Association will be taking part in a book study during this time by reading *Darwin, Divinity, and the Dance of the Cosmos: An Ecological Christianity*. This will culminate in a book discussion at the First Congregational Church in Rochester on Earth Day, Monday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. If it is anything like the last one, delicious refreshments and fascinating discussion will take place! Questions? Please see me or Mary.

Connie Littlefield

APRIL 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p> <p>Mission 4/1 Earth Begins</p> <p>Choir 6 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bible Study 12 noon</p>	<p>3</p> <p>eaconate Meeting 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Scrabble 10 a.m.. Weight Watchers—5:30 String Band Beg.—6 p.m. Mixed—7.p.m</p>	5	6
<p>7</p> <p>Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Wholehearted Giving Deadline</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Choir 6 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>Parish Helpers 1 p.m. Weight Watchers— 5:30 p.m. String Band Beg.—6 Mixed —7 p.m.</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>Structure Conversation Potluck Lunch at Ackermans</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Worship and Holy Communion Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour 11 a.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Choir 6 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Scrabble 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 noon</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Monthly Clergy Luncheon PPP—12 noon Special Diaconate Meeting for Sabbatical Planning</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Weight Watchers— 5:30 p.m. String Band Beg.—6 Mixed —7 p.m.</p>	19	20
<p>21</p> <p>Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. SLFF Meeting after Church</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Choir 6 p.m. Earth Day Book Discussion At Rochester UCC 7 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 4 p.m.</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>Prayer Shawls 10 a.m. Weight Watchers— 5:30 p.m. String Band Beg.—6 Mixed —7 p.m.</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>Awakening The Dreamer 12:45—4 p.m. Wakefield Opera House</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Worship and Church School— 10 a.m. Coffee Hour 11 a.m. Leadership Council Budget Discussion</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Choir 6 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Bible Study 12 noon</p>				

Priority items for 2013 Shipping Container to Zimbabwe

FOR THE HOSPITALS:

- Hearing aids with batteries
- Pain relievers - ibuprofen, aspirin
- gauze bandages
- antibiotic ointment
- anti diarrhea medication
- cough/cold medication, Vaporub
- vitamins (children and adult)
- infant formula (powdered)
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap
- sanitary pads
- petroleum jelly

FOR THE SCHOOLS:

- student notebooks
- library books
- textbooks (math, science, reading)
- office supplies
- pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners
- rulers, chalk
- art supplies
- musical instruments
- tote bags for teachers
- Playground toys: i.e., soccer balls, basketballs, jump ropes, volleyballs
- Athletic uniforms and equipment
(There is a high demand for soccer jerseys, bibs, athletic footwear, socks, sports towels, uniform bags, and equipment for soccer, baseball, track, basketball, and volleyball.

TOOLS:

- saws (hand saws or electric)
- nails, any size or variety
- screws, any size or variety
- planes for carpentry
- sandpaper and blocks, clamps
- basic tools (hammer, crowbar, screwdrivers, etc.)
- tools for electrical or plumbing

FOOD:

- Peanut Butter
- Shelf stable milk
- Protein and vitamin powder (mixes with water)

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Bedding (sheets & blankets)
- Reading glasses and sunglasses
- adult bicycles
- stationary, envelopes
- basic books for cooking and sewing
- basic portable sewing machine
- sewing supplies - fabric, zippers, buttons, thread, and sewing patterns for dresses, skirts (ladies, girls) and shorts (boys)
- adaptor plugs and voltage converters
- door knobs, locks
- solar powered lights
- GENERATORS - HIGH DEMAND!

CLOTHING:

- Gently worn clothing for children and infants
- sneakers and shoes in great condition
- rain coats, windbreakers, fleece,
- medium weight jackets
- sweaters, jerseys
- socks for males, females, kids
- new underwear for children and adults
- bras, new or gently worn
- men's suits, shirts, ties

CLERGY

- clergy gowns and shirts
- Theological books
- Bible Commentaries

All items should be securely boxed and all boxes labeled.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD, PO BOX 809
SANBORNVILLE, NH 03872



AWAKENING
THE
DREAMER
SATURDAY
APRIL 27

APRIL LECTIONARY

April 7—Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

April 21—Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30



April 14—Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

April 28—Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35