

# 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

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## ***THE PASTOR'S PLACE . . .***

### **ADVENTURE ACROSS THE DIVIDE**

Advent, that much-neglected and under-observed season of preparation of our hearts for the reality of the Christ child, has begun. Each Sunday, as we light the candle in the Advent wreath for the coming week, we lift up a great element of our faith, in this order: Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.

And yet.

Here we are, in a divided country. The partisan lines have been drawn, and we are reeling from the after-effects of a political season that reached new lows of harshness. We have rigidly taken sides. We have demonized those with whom we disagree, making it hard to name and see the real demons, and harder still to own up to them when they reside inside of us. Awash in exposure to shallow and õsound biteõ news sources, we listen to and read only those with whom we agree. Social media is flooded with fake news; lies, repeated often enough, are heard as truth. The biggest victim may be democracy itself.

Enough.

Who are we in the midst of this, as the Church, the Body of Christ? What is the role of the Church in this particular time of division, and reports of hate crimes---a time in which even family members and friends who voted differently find their relationships torn apart?

We, the Church, are called by our God to bring a healing word of love. We are called to remind everyone that before they were named õDemocratõ or õRepublicanõ they were named Beloved Child of God. We are called to set a wide table and invite everyone to disarm their hearts and pull up a chair. We are called to make sure that everyone has a safe place at the table and has what they need, and to look around and make sure we have given the places of honor to those who are most vulnerable.

If we find ourselves õhating onõ those with whom we strongly disagree right now, we are giving our opponents way too much power over our minds, hearts, and souls. Are you part of the Body of Christ? If so, the way forward is clear: *Do to others as you would have them do to you.* Do this, all the time, every day, no matter what. This will be very difficult, but it will change the world, a person at a time. We are all going to need help with this. Letõs think of it as our ADVENTure, as heart-preparation for the acceptance of the ultimate act of vulnerable love: God coming to us as an infant, born low in status to a poor refugee family, and in great danger, to pour out love.

May you have a disarming ADVENT and a deeply blessed Christmas. May we all see to it that this can be so for every person.

Grace and peace,  
Mary

*Do to others as you would have them do to you.*  
Luke 6:31

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Operating Budget (Non-restricted): July 1, 2016 – Oct 31, 2016

General Income:	\$ 46,860.73
Additional Income Sources:	\$ 12,500.00
Expenditures:	\$(56,424.58)
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,936.15</u></b>

Checking Non-Restricted balance:	<b>\$ 6,354.70</b>
Checking Restricted Funds balance:	<b><u>\$ 1,951.04</u></b>
<b>Total Checking Account balance: 10/31/16</b>	<b><u>\$ 8,305.74</u></b>

This year, Additional Income Sources of over \$63,000 were included in the Income portion of our budget in order to cover the projected expenses. So far we have tapped into these sources for \$12,500, as you can see above. Of this amount, \$7,500 came from unexpended prior year funds and \$5000 from the Alden Young Unrestricted Gift from Dec 2015.

The Harvest Fair held on November 12<sup>th</sup> was once again a very successful fundraiser. As of last Sunday, November 13, around \$2900 had come in. Thanks go to everyone who took part including Chair Ginny Schweitzer, setter-uppers, cooks, bakers, dishwashers, table watchers, gift basket makers, and the disassembly crew. Who have I forgotten? Besides the boost to the budget fundraising line, the Fair was also priceless when it came to cheerful camaraderie.

Advent begins on the last Sunday in November, which of course means Alternative Gifting! What will you give the person who has everything this year?

*Janice Brejwo and Shannon Johnson,  
Co-Treasurers  
[fccwtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fccwtreasurer@gmail.com)*

For more information on articles you read in the Steeple Views, contact the editor at [steepleviews@gmail.com](mailto:steepleviews@gmail.com) or call the church office at 603-522-3189.



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And on Twitter - @wakefieldnhucc  
<https://twitter.com/wakefieldnhucc>

## MEET KELSEY RODGERS OUR INFANT AND TODDLER CAREGIVER



Kelsey lives in Wolfeboro and is currently working as a Teacher's Aide at The Children's Center in Wolfeboro. She has worked as an office assistant at Allegheny College and Lifeguard and Swim Coach for Wolfeboro Parks and Rec. She is a 2015 graduate of Allegheny College in Environmental Science and spent an entire 6 months this year walking the 2,189 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to

Maine! She is Certified in CPR/AED, First Aid and as a Lifeguard. Welcome Kelsey!

### PARISH HELPERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT THE WAKEFIELD INN

The Parish Helpers' annual Christmas Gathering will be held on December 8 at 12 noon at the Wakefield Inn. Chef Christina is preparing a special menu for us for the occasion. Many have already signed up at the November meeting, but if you haven't, please let Carol J. or Ginny know if you are planning on attending so we can give the inn an approximate number. Last minute additions are always welcome! And of course, we will have our annual Yankee Swap, our favorite part! Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10) value and be prepared to have some fun! As always, all women of the church and community are welcome at the Parish Helpers. You need not be a member of the church. Hope to see you there!



### WAKING UP WHITE BY DEBBIE IRVING

If we are white, we can't understand what people of color experience. We may define ourselves as liberal but still have trouble connecting when we reach out to those who have endured prejudice. The author is a white woman who shares the ðahaö moment that shifted her worldview on this issue and changed her life. This book is shelved in the Biography section of the Parish Helpers Library.

*Linda Petkunas/Church Librarian*

## CHURCH HISTORY DISPLAY

On the back wall of Fellowship Hall is an arrangement of archival materials entitled "History Corner" chronicling our church's history. It includes a list of our pastors, a picture of the fire of 1956, a poignant artifact saved from that fire, a picture of the academy we once housed and a drawing depicting the history of our church buildings. Take a moment and review it!

*Linda Petkunas/Archivist*

## "ANGELS AND MORTALS" RETURNS!

It will bring a smile to your face to take part in the popular community-enhancing activity we have come to know and love as "Angels and Mortals." This is very much like a "secret Santa" activity, and all are welcome to take part. It's simple: everyone who takes part is someone's "angel" and someone's "mortal." From December 4th through January 8th (the Sunday closest to Epiphany), angels will pray for their mortals, and do thoughtful little things for them: send a card, bake some cookies, find ways to leave little messages of goodwill and care. At Coffee Hour on January 8th, we will all find out who our angels have been!

If you wish to take part, please be sure to be in church on December 4th. Everyone who wants to be involved will put their name in a basket and also will draw a name that morning. The name you pull will be the name of your mortal. The person who draws your name will be your angel! How wonderful to pray for and do thoughtful things for one another in this way.

We do ask that if you commit to taking part, that you do a good job of being an angel. This is not meant to incur expense, but to be a way to convey thoughtful little messages and tokens of care to your mortal.

If you can't be in church on December 4th, let Mary know and she will put your name in the basket and draw a name for you.

## WINTER COAT DRIVE

We are taking a collection to help with resettled refugees in NH. PLEASE bring coats (hats, scarves, mittens, gloves also welcome) in ANY size to the church by December 1. They must be clean and in good condition please, no torn or stained items.

## DECEMBER ROCK STAR HIGHLIGHTS



The Rock Stars begin the month with comparing gifts. There are gifts of the Spirit, gifts of the Magi, Birthday and Christmas gifts. Why, what and how do we share ourselves by giving? Family Sunday December 11th will feature a pot luck after service and then joyful carolling for neighbors and friends.

Join us for the Rock Star Production of THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS. The pageant this year looks at the meaning of the familiar song. The Rock Stars will explain how it all originated and Wow you with new knowledge. There will be lots of Music, lots of Information and lots of Giving.

Do join us. You may wish to either help with our littlest Rock Stars ages 3 and under in the infant-toddler room. You may prefer being with our young people ages 4 years and older. WE have fun, learn new and time honored stories, and have meaningful projects. The more the merrier! All preparation and supplies are provided. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Call Julie in the office 522.3302 to sign up.

Pot Luck Luncheon and Carolling following worship on December 11th.  
All are welcome to join in the pot luck festive lunch!  
Hope you'll join us even if not carolling!

## FCCW COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD: A FIRST!

There are so many wonderful people in our area who give so much of themselves! Do you know a community helper who deserves recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty in carrying out their volunteer or paid work? If so, let Rev. Mary know. The Vitality Team has initiated a community service recognition award, and our church will honor several people in the course of each year as part of our outreach.

The first recipient of this award will be Debra Wilson, the beloved and kind-hearted Social Worker at Paul School. Debra gives so very much of her time and her heart to her work, and truly shows deep caring for the children and parents. On Sunday, December 11, Debra and members of her family will be with us in worship as we bestow this award upon her and celebrate her for her wonderful work. Please be sure to be there to say "thank you" and "well done" to Debra!

## ALTERNATIVE GIFTING

Once again the Outreach Ministry is offering an assortment of ways to share your abundance in the name of others. So instead of buying another tie or sweater how about buying a card showing the proceeds going to the betterment of others. The choices for alternative gifting are:

**Friends of Orphaned Trust (FOOT)**, this helps children in Zimbabwe with their school fees and uniforms. As you know an education can change a society not just an individual.

**Heifer Project**, this is an international organization that provides various animal contributions that not only sustain the family that receives the animal, but also spreads within their community the opportunity for better food, economy and health.

**Wakefield Food Pantry**, supporting our local food pantry is a strong ministry within the church membership. Your gifting in the name of the Food Pantry spreads your abundance locally.

**Feddern Discretionary Fund**, provides an opportunity for Reverend Mary and others to assist people within the Wakefield community to meet certain financial obligations that due to circumstances have left them monetarily behind.

A display table will be set up in Fellowship Hall. Purchasing a card under the banner of the listed gifting opportunities and sharing that card with a friend or loved one shows that they mean more to you than another item to be returned to the store or worse discarded. Share your abundance with others while sharing your love for others.

*Donna V Ackerman, . Outreach Ministry*

## RELAY FOR LIFE: WAKEFIELD WONDERS

The ÷Wakefield Wondersö is now a registered team of the Relay for Life of Lake Winnepesaukee, with 6 members right now, and lots of room for more! There has been lots of interest in joining the team, thank you so much. But I cannot sign you up. To be an official member, you must do it yourself! Go to [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org) and follow the prompts to join the team. Come January, I would like to have one fundraiser each month leading up to the event on June 3, 2017 at The Nick in Wolfeboro. There are no ÷requirementsö, just do what YOU want to do. FYIö the January fundraiser may be a ÷paint nightö with the ever-popular DoodlinøDi Spaulding, most likely on a weekend afternoon. Stay tuned for details. Any questions, shoot me an email: [buddee10@roadrunner.com](mailto:buddee10@roadrunner.com). Thanks,

*Nancy Dee*

## ALTERNATIVE GIVING FOR ZIMBABWE

For many years this church has provided a wonderful, alternative way of giving during the Christmas season to remember and honor loved ones ó gifts to the Food Pantry, Diaconate Fund, and our sponsored children through Friends of Orphan Trust.

I am making a special plea this year to remember the children of Zimbabwe, children who are living in situations beyond what we can imagine. A donation to fund our children through the **FOOT** program to provide food, school fees, and uniforms, or a donation for food for the children at **Daisy Dube Children's Home** or perhaps a donation to **Dignity!**, a project which provides reusable sanitary supplies and undergarments to girls who otherwise can not attend school for several days each month.

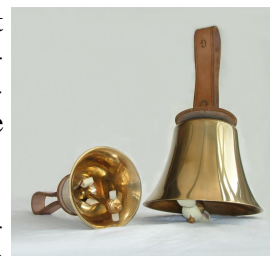
Each of these programs has a long lasting ripple effect and work hand in hand to support a global movement to ensure children everywhere have opportunities for education and to live without fear of lack of food, or discrimination or violence. I am proud of the generosity of this church and how we make a difference.

The Zimbabwe PKZ Team will have special cards available for your alternative giving donations.

*Connie Littlefield*

## THE BELL CHOIR “DIRECTOR'S NOTES”

Our bell choir has been hard at work practicing music for the upcoming Bells in the Village Concert on December 10 (snow date December 17).



We actually began ringing Christmas music in July! Our hope is to give you an enjoyable hour (or so) of inspirational music. Not only will there be our bells and chimes displaying a number of techniques and modalities, but also acoustic and electric guitars, keyboard magic, and special vocal presentations. Our mission is to spread the love of music and the love of Christ's birth through our musical offerings.

The concert will begin at 5:30. Donations will be used to help the Wakefield Food Pantry and the ministries of our church. Hope to see you there.

*Jan Stanley, Wakefield Memorial Bells, Director*

# DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
				<b>1</b> Bereavement Support—11 a.m.  Community String Band 6:30	<b>2</b> Hanging of the Greens 2 p.m.	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> Worship and Holy Communion 10 a.m. Church School Angels and Mortals begins Coffee Hour Bells 5:30 p.m.	<b>5</b> Caregivers' Support Group 12:30 - 1:30	<b>6</b> Bible Study 12 noon  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>7</b> Scrabble 10 a.m.  Diaconate Meeting 4 p.m.	<b>8</b> Parish Helpers Luncheon at noon Wakefield Inn  Vitality Team Mtg. 4 p.m.  Community String Band 6:30 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Tree of Memories Opera House 11 a.m.  Christmas Bells in the Village 5:30 p.m.
<b>11</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> Family Sunday Worship—10 am Pot Luck lunch And Carolling Bells 5:30 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Bible Study 12 noon Centering Prayer 3:30 Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> Christmas Pageant—10 am Coffee Hour  Bells 5:30 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Scrabble—10 a.m. Bible Study—TBD Centering Prayer 3:30 p.m. Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Community String Band TBD	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b> 6 p.m. 
<b>25</b>  <b>Christmas Day</b> Worship 10 a.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Bible Study--TBD  Choir Practice 6 p.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
December 26 to January 3—Pastor Mary on Vacation						

# Celebrations!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Rachel Yazinka	11 Dorothy MacKenzie
1 Tom Stanley	13 Carol Jeffery
2 Shannon Mercer	16 Jeff Ballard
2 Lynn Watts	16 Jay Tamilio
3 Robert Gehring Jr.	16 Barry Truhn
3 Marie Hebb	20 George Harvey
8 David Silcocks	26 Jessica St Pierre
9 Richard Zacher	30 Skip Theiling

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 Arthur & Louise Wheeler
10 Eric & Amanda Boggs
27 Peter & Linda Foss

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF WARREN BERG

The First Congregational Church of Wakefield gratefully acknowledges the many donations from the family and friends of Warren Berg to our church's Memorial Fund. A generous donation to the Feddern Diaconate Discretionary Fund was also received. These gifts are deeply appreciated in memory of Warren.

May God bless you!

*Sincerely,  
Gail Feddern, Deacon*

## WAKEFIELD FOOD PANTRY

December's Wakefield Food Pantry collection is for boxes of Macaroni and Cheese! Let's build a mountain of meals for the Food Pantry!

## FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



We ask your continued prayers and support for those members of our church and wider community who are ill, or who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for their families

Dot R.	Jan F.
Tom and Barbara T.	Donald L.
George B.	George J.
Art W.	Sid S.
Mackenzie M.	Marcia H.
Marcia	Parker V.
Marsha A.	

## AND FOR:

Our global neighbors in places where there is great strife.

Our servicemen and women

Our friends at Rufumiso Church, Zimbabwe  
Residents of the Nursing Homes and Retirement  
Communities in our area

## HARVEST FAIR— A HUGE SUCCESS!

As chair of the Harvest Fair, Ginny Schweitzer would like to thank everyone who baked, cooked, served, donated, set up, cleaned up, manned a table, attended, and purchased items at the Harvest Fair. It was a HUGE success raising over \$3000 (a record) for the General Fund. It was the very definition of a group effort! A special thank you must go to Ginny, though, for taking up the lead to organize the Fair. She did an outstanding job as evidenced by how much was raised, and that the vendors, volunteers and the community at large are already looking forward to next year's Fair. Thank you, Ginny!

Congrats to Luke Evenson!  
Luke collected the largest amount for  
Trick or Treat for UNICEF

## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

We've had the pleasure of welcoming many new members into our church over the past few months. We are pleased to introduce some of them. More to follow in future issues!



**Meet the Berniers** ô Alan and Mary have been married for 35 years, have two daughters the oldest getting married next summer. They moved into their

vacation home on Great East Lake in June of 2015. Previously they lived in Sudbury, MA for 34 years. Alan's career was information technology at Arthur D. Little and later at Boston University. Mary started her career in Public Accounting and then spent 30 years at Bose Corporation. They are happy to be living on a beautiful lake and enjoying being members of FCCW! Welcome!

**Meet Sharon Lafond** ô Our FCCW new resident artist is Sharon Lafond. She has two adult children, Charisse in Rollinsford, NH and Devin in Wellington, CO and 3 lovely granddaughters. Sharon was born in Laconia, NH and moved back to Milton, NH from North Carolina last July. She is retired from teaching after 23 years of teaching in Meredith, Gilford, Beloit and Grover,



MO. She has a Masters of Education and paints many natural subjects especially loons and does collage. She is also a poet, is published and has read her work publicly at a number of Barnes and Noble Bookstores. She is quite active in our church doing all our bulletin boards, banners, face painting during Pride Day and is active on the Vitality Team. Welcome, Sharon!

### MUSIC FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Do you have any musical instruments hiding in your closets, attic, or basement that are in good condition? Are they sitting there just longing to be played? If so, the Paul School can use them and would LOVE to have them for the use of the children at school. Please let Pastor Mary know if you have any instruments that could use a new home!

## HOSPICE TREE OF MEMORIES

One of the most meaningful and expressive events of the holiday season, the Hospice Tree of Memories, is celebrating its annual commemoration at the **Wakefield Opera House on Saturday, December 10 at 11 a.m.** This occasion provides opportunities for family, friends, and neighbors to remember a loved one by placing an inscribed porcelain dove, a symbol of serenity, peace, and tranquility, on a lighted tree. Everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony. To purchase a dove in the name of a loved one, please speak to Ginny Schweitzer (522-9593) or contact the Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice at 569-2729.



### MINISTRY COORDINATORS NEEDED!

Our Calling and Discernment Ministry is still looking for Coordinators/Co-Coordinators for Christian Education Ministry and Outreach Ministry. These are extremely important Ministries in the life of our church. These Ministries already have members, but no Coordinators.

The Bylaws of the Church state that:

Each Ministry shall have a Coordinator or Co-Coordinators who will oversee the activities of that particular Ministry. **The Coordinator is not expected to carry out all the responsibilities of the Ministry**, but to encourage others who find interest in that Ministry to offer their gifts whenever and wherever possible or necessary. Actions taken by the Ministries will be in direct response to the needs, interest, willingness, and energy of the Congregation. The Ministry Coordinators shall:

- Oversee a specific Ministry as determined through their calling and discernment;
- Communicate with and assist other Ministry Coordinators to achieve overall Church goals;
- Explore opportunities for interdisciplinary ministry;
- Convene meetings of each Ministry at least twice each year;
- Submit an annual report to the Membership listing the activities of the Ministry throughout the year.

Please consider offering to coordinate either Ministry and if you need help discerning if one of them might be your calling, please contact Evelyn Truhn.

([truhne@aol.com](mailto:truhne@aol.com) or [603-522-7188](tel:603-522-7188))

Please give this some prayerful thought and think about sharing your talents!

## BAD WEATHER CANCELLATION

Cancellations due to bad weather will be posted on: WMUR Channel 9, WCSH Channel 6, and on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC/>

## BUT, I'M SO TIRED, GOD!

I am weary. I am tired of being pulled in this direction or that. I work, I have a family—whether they're children still at home, or adults at home, or grandchildren I see on the weekends. There is Church—I'm always asked to help out or I may ask something of others. I'm on several ministries and there is always something going on. And of course—it doesn't stop there-- I also do things for the community.

I am drained. Exhausted. I'd like to just step back from it all and let someone else take over for a little while. Right? I deserve a break, Right? I just need some time to myself to rejuvenate myself. I need a genuine smile back on my face. But there is so much to do. I'd just have to wait.

I am lonely. I may have lost my spouse or child or my friend. The grief is sometimes too much to bear. Sometimes I just want to crawl into a little ball and cry. Relax, God's Children. Sit in a quiet place, close your eyes, take a deep breath, hold it a few seconds and let it out. Do that several times. With your hands in your lap, your shoulders then relax. Breathe in the spirit of God which is always there and welcome an inner peace. Repeat. Invite the Spirit of God in.

May the Lord give you strength and may you gather strength from others. Together we are stronger, tasks are smaller. They're also more fun. May your Spirit awaken!

During this Holiday season, may the Spirit of the Lord be with you. Peace be with you!

*With love,  
Chris Feddern, Stewardship*

ōThe Lord gives strength to his people,  
the Lord blesses his people with peace.ō  
Psalm 29:11

## ADVENT CLASS TO BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 29



As we enter into this season of waiting and anticipating, please consider joining us for an Advent class. We will be starting on Tuesday, November 29th at 12:00 in Fellowship Hall. The format will be discussion based on the UCC Advent Devotional entitled "Wolves and Lambs." This devotional presents a thought-provoking entry for each day in Advent - written by members of the Stillspeaking Writers' Group (composed of UCC ministers and various others).

The booklet is now available and costs \$4.00.

For more information, you can contact Julie Kessler (call: 871-8066 or email: [julielouisekessler@gmail.com](mailto:julielouisekessler@gmail.com))

## CHRISTMAS BELLS IN THE VILLAGE

-**Christmas Bells in the Village**' concert will be held at the Church on December 10 at 5:30. Please join us for this beautiful and uplifting hand bell concert as we usher in the Advent season. Jan Stanley and the Bell Choir have been preparing many months for this joyous event and we look forward to their gift of music so generously offered!

The doors will open early to the Fellowship Hall for a warming welcome as we showcase the missions of the Church and our many options for Alternative Giving. The suggested donation is \$10 and the proceeds will benefit the Wakefield Food Pantry and Ministries of the Church. Snow date is Dec. 17.

The Wakefield Inn and Restaurant is pleased to offer a special pre-concert dinner at 4 p.m. For reservations, please call the Inn at [603 522-8272](tel:6035228272).

**DONATE NOW**

What a fabulous way to make that last minute alternative-gift giving possible! Our online donation tool provides a quick, easy and secure option for your charitable giving, whether it is to fund one of our missions specifically, to make a special one-time donation or as a recurring pledge. This online donation feature provides the ability to donate whether you are local or far away for the winter! It is easily accessed on our website at [www.fccwakefieldnh.org](http://www.fccwakefieldnh.org)

*Chris Feddern, Stewardship*



## ZIMBABWE PARTNERSHIP NEWS OUTREACH RUFUMISO STYLE



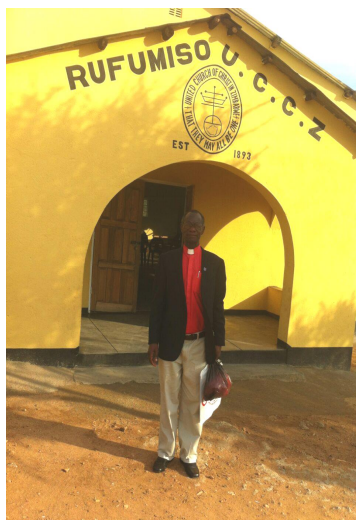
Our travel team has been in touch with Samuel Basera, a middle aged gentleman who is a deacon at Rufumiso. Samuel, who walks between 2-3 hours from his home to reach the Rufumiso Church is excited about a new evangelism and lay leadership that he is doing. Think Vitality Team, Zimbabwe style. Samuel attended a week long training in October with another training to take place in 2017. His training project?

To bring ðback slidersö back to church and bring their lives to Jesus Christ. He writes that between now and December 2017 he will take part in a membership drive. He says, ðI will follow our back sliders by visiting their places. I will hold revivals in all of the six preaching points once a month. I will introduce Bible study before worship. I will preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and bring souls to the Kingdom of God by sharing the good news to the nation.ö

Amazingly, he is Rufumiso's one man vitality team and he has no funding! Rufumiso has been without a settled pastor for more than a year so lay people take on huge responsibilities to keep their church alive. Let's pray for Samuel's success in all things because as he says, ðThis is a tough project but with God and with your prayers I will be successful.ö

*Connie Littlefield*

Here are two photos that Rev. Mutsumbei sent me that he took when he was there last Saturday. What a nice paint job! Anyway, the church is going to have an official dedication of their new and beautiful building -- just 11 years in the making since we first started this back in 2005. Thought it might be nice to celebrate this and our 18.5 years of partnership!



## WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Please pardon our appearance while the Church Website is being overhauled. This may take awhile. In the meantime, though, you should be able to get information you are looking for such as the latest Steeple Views, the Calendar, and Sermons. The website teamö Carol Jeffery, Frank Frazier and Martha Jo McCarthy are doing their best to get it done as soon as possible. Thanks for your understanding!

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

Please join us for the ðHanging of the Greensö on December 2 at 2 p.m. This is an opportunity for any and all to help with putting up the greens, banners and other decorations in the church for the Advent and Christmas season. It only takes 2 ó 3 hours total to complete this work and as the saying goes, ðmany hands make light work.ö

### PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UCC ONA CELEBRATION

Honoring 25 years of commitment to diversity and Plymouth Congregational UCC's pride of being the first Open and Affirming UCC church in New Hampshire and further honoring all NH Churches with the same commitment.

#### **In Praise of Diversity** An Art Exhibit

Saturday, April 29, 2017 to June 30, 2017  
Viewing when church office is open and by arrangement.

#### **Call for Entries**

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 29, 4:30 p.m.  
Followed by a late supper for the artists

Deadline for Entry: April 1, 2017

Eligibility: One submission from each ONA church in New Hampshire

Artwork Specifications: All art must be in presentation form, (framed when called for,) wired to receive the hook of our hanging system. No saw-tooth hangers.

Entry fee: none

Jury: We will hang as many as space allows. Remember that these will be hung in the sanctuary so please be discrete and used good taste for a diverse viewing population.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2718 WAKEFIELD ROAD  
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**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24 - 6 PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE  
10 A.M.**

## CHRISTMAS BELLS IN THE VILLAGE

A joyous hand bell concert, ringing in the season of Light and Christ's Peace

Performed by the Wakefield Memorial Hand Bell Choir

First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC  
2718 Wakefield Road, Wakefield, NH 603 522-3189



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016~ 5:30 P.M.  
Suggested Donation \$10.



The Wakefield Inn and Restaurant is pleased to offer a special  
pre-concert dinner at 4 p.m.  
For reservations, please call the Inn at 603 522-8272.