

STEEPLE VIEWS



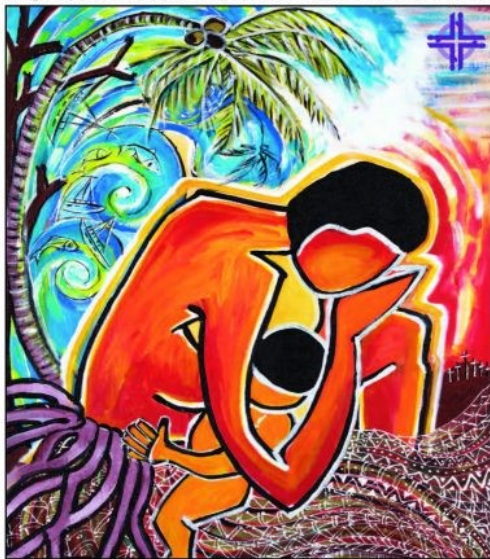
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAKEFIELD
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

REVEREND DR. TERE KRUEGER, PASTOR
REVEREND GEORGE HARVEY, PASTOR EMERITUS
MARCH 2021

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World Day of Prayer – March 5

BUILD ON A STRONG FOUNDATION



World Day of Prayer • March 5, 2021

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World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions. It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome. It brings women of different races, cultures, and traditions together in fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year. Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world. The motto of World Day of Prayer is “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.”

This year the women of the World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu call us to worship with the words, “Build on a strong foundation,” inspired by Matthew 7:24-27. In the teachings of Jesus, he talks of the love of God, our neighbor, and ourselves meaning if we want to be forgiven, we need to forgive; if we want to be understood, we need to understand; and if we desire love, we need to first love. Jesus says everyone who hears my words and acts on them will be

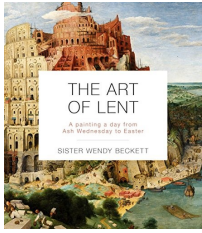
like a wise man who build his house on rock.

If we practice these teachings in our homes, communities, and nation, our world will be transformed. When we build a strong foundation in our lives and experience a pandemic as with Covid-19 or unrest in our communities, like the protests of Black Lives Matter, it may feel as if our world in on sandy ground, but the women of Vanuatu assure us that our lives and God’s creation is build on a strong foundation.

This year, you can view the World Day of Prayer Service via YouTube beginning on March 5 at 10 a.m. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edQMgNFdRdo>

*Source: NH UCC Women’s Link Newsletter

The Art of Lent



Our Lenten Faith Formation study continues through the Tuesday after Easter (April 6). This study focuses on a different type of devotional entitled "The Art of Lent" by Sister Wendy Beckett. During this study we will look at a wide variety of paintings - ancient and modern, sacred and secular, familiar and unfamiliar. Sister Wendy presents us with a painting and brief reflection for every day of Lent;

You don't have to have a degree in art history (in fact, it's preferable that you don't!). We're all invited to look at paintings in a very different way - one where the act of seeing slows us down, and invites us to prayer, to pay attention to the moment, to pause and reflect and make sense of our own relationship with the world around us.

It's not too late to join the class! One class does not build from the previous one. For anyone that wants to join in, you will receive an email each week with the pieces of art (either as links or as picture files) that we will be discussing in the next class. Just let Julie Kessler (julielouisekessler@gmail.com or 603-871-8066) know and she will add you to the distribution list and include you on the Zoom invitation. Class meets on Tuesdays at noon.

Julie Kessler

Another Souper FUNdraiser!

Many thanks to all who cooked and purchased soups for our Souper Bowl Soup Sale event. We were hoping to get close to last year's total and in the end, we surpassed last year's numbers. Our cooks made 174 containers of soup, chili and chowder leaving us with a grand total of \$870!

Thank you to our "souper" cooks: Nancy Dee, Harriet Wilson, Evy Truhn, Carol Jeffery, Ken Jeffery, Ginny Schweitzer, Julie Kessler, John Kessler, Julie Evenson, Sue Lynn, Tracy Kolb, Margie Galabrun, Sally Kratt, and Jo Szirbik. And a special thanks for our lead organizer, Julie Kessler!

Online Donation Options

Did you know that you can make a donation online through PayPal or Debit or Credit Card? If you go to our website at <https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/> and click on "Donate", you will be given the option to pay by PayPal or Credit or Debit card. There you can pay your pledge, make a donation to the Endowment Fund, to One Great Hour of Sharing, or any of our Missions.

One Great Hour of Sharing

"Water is Life. Water is Love. Let Love Flow!" This is the theme for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing. This is one of our churches 5 for 5 offerings. Our world is filled with hardships and struggles. The impact of the pandemic is felt in many ways. Families have lost jobs and are close to becoming homeless. Natural disasters do not take a vacation just because our focus is on Covid. Droughts, floods, earthquakes, fires, bitter cold, and mudslides occur in conjunction with this killing virus. To add to the mix, we find families being displaced because of war or worse genocide.

Your contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing through Wider Church Ministries will provide relief for those in need locally and around the world. Water is such a scarce resource in many parts of the world. You only have to look at our own state of Texas to see what it is like to not have clean water to drink, cook, and wash in. Also, it's exceedingly difficult to help prevent the spread of this global virus if people can't even wash their hands.

You may donate to this wonderful Mission by using the Church's side door drop box or mail to FCCW, 2718 Wakefield Road. Make sure you identify the cash or check by indicating that it's for One Great Hour of Sharing. You may also go to our church website, <https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/> and donate electronically by selecting the Donate button then selecting OGHS from the drop-down menu.

Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, for the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs. Isaiah 49:10

Outreach Ministry, Donna V Ackerman

Food Pantry

Thanks to two of our diligent Food Pantry volunteers, Marilou and Brian, we have some new items to add to our Food Pantry list for March. If you can, please provide some of the following: soups and canned meals with meats, specialty rices, mixes for cakes, muffins and frosting, hot cocoa packets, salad dressings, small cans and bags of cat and dog food. Please drop off the items to the Food Pantry on Wednesdays, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5 p.m.-7 p.m. If that is not convenient for you, there is a drop off box in the rear of the building. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. God bless you all.

Jo Szirbik, Deacon

For more information on articles you read in the Steeple Views, contact the editor, Carol Jeffery at steepleviews@gmail.com or call the church office at 603-522-3189.

Women's History Month — March 1 to March 31

Women's history Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with [International Women's Day](#) on March 8, and during October in Canada, corresponding with the celebration of [Persons Day](#) on October 18. (Source: Wikipedia).

In honor of Women's History Month, Donna Ackerman offers this poem:

Women

So many women have set the standard.
Amanda with her heartfelt and strong Inaugural words,
Kamala breaking glass ceilings while striding in her
Chuck Taylor Converse sneakers.
Maya's wise and practical idioms,
Oprah and her philanthropic support of future female
leaders.
Black and beautiful,
Proud and resilient.

Women with all their brilliance showing others how to
overcome the stumbling blocks set before them.
Megan Rapinoe striving for Human Rights,
Alice Paul never giving up in her fight for the 19th
Amendment.
Elizabeth Warren always persistent,
Audrey Hepburn and Angelina Jolie selfless acts of hu-
manitarianism.

History is ripe with the wonder's women have accom-
plished,
struggling to grow beyond the bonds that have been
placed upon them.
Intellectuals, athletes, leaders, scientists, performers,
comforters,
the lists of qualities are endless.
Shine on you amazing creatures, like the diamonds you
are,
spreading your grace.
Thank you for taking those steps for others to follow.

Donna V. Ackerman

Stewardship in Action

"We see Stewardship in action with the exuberance shown by the men and women of the NH National Guard standing out in winter and early spring weather making the State vaccine sites run like swiss clocks! Joyfully serving their communities for the health of us all."

Frank Frazier, Stewardship Ministry

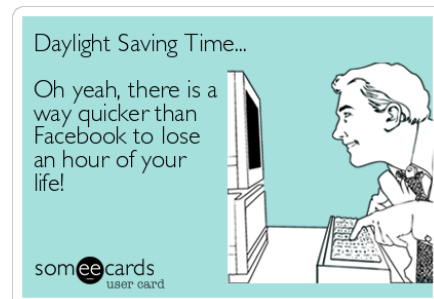
Stewardship Pause

March is such a month of promise! Winter is waning. Soon, we will feel more comfortable out of doors with the sun on our faces and warmer breezes! Thank goodness for the renewal of Springtime. We have much to celebrate and so much to be grateful for—even through this unexpected time of separation. Even though we have missed each other, we pick up the phone to connect by voice and we write cards of encouragement and offer prayers. All of this time, we have gone about the "business" of being church -- **welcoming** our new settled pastor— Rev. Tere; **planning** and **carrying out worship** services on Zoom, via Facebook and even on Channel 3 - local programming, **paying attention** to our financial condition and **so much more**. Each ministry is active - incredibly active! We may be in unsettled times still, but there is no mistaking that the Holy Spirit is vitally present here at FCCW.

So, your Stewardship Ministry is pausing to say God Blesses this Church Family members and Friends who are living their Time, Talent and Treasure!

Carol Lundgren

Virtual Worship



.. unless, of course, you're watching our worship service on Facebook Live! Or checking out our Facebook page.

We continue to gather via Zoom for our Sunday Worship. We'd love to see you there. Be sure we have your email address to send you a Zoom invitation. We are also broadcasting it on Facebook Live. For easy access to Facebook Live, go the link below. You do not need a Facebook account to see the video:

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofWakefieldUCC>

We are also uploading services to YouTube. Here's a quick way to our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCehtYIk-rtRJO7VAmnLssyA/videos>

Are you following us on Facebook? We now have over 500 followers!

Raising Funds for Educational Opportunity

My name is Julia McCarthy, a member of the First Congregational Church of Wakefield, U.C.C. I'm a 9th grade student at Spaulding High School and I have been accepted into the Oxford Scholastica Academy, for a two-week academic course at Oxford University (it is not an actual Oxford class, it just takes place at Oxford). The course is International Relations, Politics, and Leadership. I am working with the Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Coordinator at Spaulding to turn this course into an ELO class, which means it will go on my transcript and I may receive some course credit. The downside is that this course is expensive. The ELO Coordinator and I are actively looking for all kinds of scholarships that can help bring down the cost, including accessing my share of fundraised money for last year's Paul School D.C. trip that didn't happen (which was placed in a scholarship for our class' students to use for educational experiences). Even with these scholarships, it is still expensive. The Parish Helpers have very generously donated a sizable amount towards this trip! THANK YOU, Parish Helpers! Right now I am looking for jobs, including any odd jobs. I am open to anything, though I am particularly looking for cleaning, dog walking/sitting, babysitting, snow shoveling (or lawn mowing when the time comes), or anything else of the sort. I would be extremely grateful if anyone would reach out with any opportunities. Thank you!

Julia

Note from the Finance Ministry

The budget season for the 2021 - 2022 fiscal year is fast approaching! Expense estimates will be due from all Ministries and associated teams by April 1, and the proposed budget will be discussed at the Leadership Council meeting on April 14. Please watch for the memo from Finance during the first week in March for details.

New Library Donations

Thanks, from all of us to Carol Lundgren for donating these books related to spiritual growth:

From the Beginning to End by R. Fulghum (J-G)

Everyday Blessings by M. & J. Kabat-Zinn (J-G)

The Christ Within by P. Kribbe (S-J)

They are currently on the mobile shelving unit in Fellowship Hall. Feel free to borrow any items displayed on these shelves.

Linda Petkunas, Church Librarian

Safe Church Webinars

In January, Carol Lundgren, Chuck Hodsdon & Buddy Dee attended (by ZOOM) 3 Webinars, designed for Houses of Worship, sponsored by the State of New Hampshire Department of Public Health. The first of these covered fire prevention, safe egress of the church, basic first aid, AED and COVID protocols. I am happy to report that FCCW is doing extremely well in all categories. We have an early detection fire alarm system installed. We are current with our local Fire Department inspections and Permits (thanks Julie M.) We have multiple ways to exit the church and we inform the congregation at every gathering. The one improvement we CAN do is to use more outside lighting when the church is being used after dark. First Aid and AED's—We are doing better than other churches as we have multiple correctly stocked First Aid kits, trained and certified First Aid, CPR and AED volunteers. The AED is current with everything that is needed in one carry case. Of the 3,000 Houses of Worship in the State of NH, less than 200 have an AED. That is something to be proud of! COVID—The speaker, Tricia Tilley from the Department of Public Health spoke about how the Houses of Worship are the hardest hit during this pandemic and would probably be the last to be recommended to be fully open with normal activities. The good news is FCCW has followed the State's recommendations for online services, limited occupancy, wearing of masks, hand sanitizing, social distancing, records for contact tracing, and staying away if you're not feeling well. Public health recommendations have been changing regularly as more is learned about COVID and the success of vaccinations. The State is looking for 70% compliance to be reached before things are back to normal. I am looking forward to worshipping, singing and the fellowship of coffee hour.

Buddy Dee, Safe Church

Book Review

Gentle Closings --

How to Say Good Bye to Someone You Love,

by Ted Menten

This is a small book, but it's packed with beautiful brief stories. Written in 1991 it maintains the universal relevance we 'sense' when thinking about dying - either for ourselves, a loved one or someone admired who receives a diagnosis that will lead to certain death. And isn't it ironic? We are all on that path! If you are like me, you have some reservations about dying and probably do not wish to spend much time in thought about your own end of life. But someone else's ending ... well, that's a different story. And though this book is chock full of stories, they are all sweet, insightful, honest and revealing of our shared conclusion. It's worthy of your time!

Carol Lundgren

Zimbabwe News

Zimbabwe remains on a soft lockdown with only movements for essential services, i.e. food and medical attention. Vendors have are working from their homes (barbers, hairdressers, mechanics) or coming to your home while masked or selling while walking. Police can and will harass shop owners on one day and be lenient on another. People are tired of struggling to earn a few dollars each day in an already dysfunctional economy. Zimbabwe has received 200,000 doses of the vaccine from China. In a population of 15 million, government officials and health care workers are among the first to receive the vaccine.

Schools are expected to reopen in mid-March. Students attended school formally for about two months in 2020. As anticipated the national end of years exams were dismal for Grade 7 as so many do not have access to any type of online learning. Some Form 4 and Form 6 students took advantage of "extra lessons" offered privately and are awaiting their results.

FOOT and PKZ sponsored students now number 42! We make sure our sponsored students have access to extra lessons and food during the lockdown. We found ways to continue to deliver the monthly supplemental food to the children at Daisy Dube Children's Home. Distributions of food for the elderly, dresses, medical and school supplies have been paused as the team waits for lockdown restrictions to be lifted. The team looks forward to installation of a new borehole once rainy season ends.

Rufumiso Pastor and Mrs. Gwaygwaya welcomed their first child, a girl, in January. This December photo shows them standing near the uncompleted parsonage which we started working on in 2014. The Rufumiso congregation may gather with 30 or less with masks, temperature checks, hand sanitizer and social distancing protocols in place. Everyone wonders when things will return to 'normal' and they continue to place their trust that God has not forsaken us. Indeed.



Connie Littlefield

Hazel MacBrien Nursery School News

February was a very short month for us with snow days and vacation; but like our February month song we sing says; it's the shortest month of the year! We had a great Valentine party, our parents really stepped it up with the goodie bags and cards this year. Our morning class celebrated with a heart pancake breakfast, while our afternoon class had individual heart shaped pizzas from C & G. We ended the month doing snowman activities. There is still time to order Little Caesars pizza. There is an order form downstairs on the kitchen counter or you can order on line <https://www.pizzakit.com/images/Fall%202020%20Brochure%20PK0013362.pdf> Fundraiser ID# 390186. Last day to order is March 7th, so place those orders quickly and thank you for all your support you continue to provide to us!

In the month of March our 4s will be learning about tally marks, we will be tallying each day, how many are lion days and how many are lamb days. I sure hope the month of March has more lamb days. We will also be doing some coin flipping games and using tally marks to keep track.

In our three's class we continue to strengthen those finger muscles with cutting, tracing our names and everyone's favorite green minty St. Patrick's day playdough.

Shelley Daniels, HMNS

Matching Challenge!

You're being challenged to stroll through your homes to find items that aren't of use to you but could very well generate value for the church (see cover). An anonymous donor will put up to \$1000 to match money made on the sales of these donations. This matching challenge is for donations made between now and March 31!

FUNdraising Team

Online Yard Sale

Thank you to those who have donated to our online yard sale and have stepped up to meet the challenge! As we approach spring, why not start those de-cluttering chores and find something to offer to our sale? If we sell your item by March 31, the profit will be matched by an anonymous donor! What more motivation do we need that to have our efforts doubled!

For those of you who want to "shop" our sale, here is the direct link to our sales page on our website where you will find the listing of current items for sale!

<https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/online-sales/>

Celebrations!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 John Shaffer	17 Jean-Michel Galabrun
5 Deb Smiley	17 Jan Stanley
8 Nathan Fogg	18 Kayla Leyare
8 Marlena Livingston	22 John Duplinsky
9 Richard Peckham	22 Laura Parsons
11 Wendy DeCroteau	24 Michelle Garland
11 Andrew Hughes	29 Nathan Wilson
14 Penny Huckins	31 Katy Hagy
15 Gemma Golden Stanek	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4 Stephen & Lauree Royle
19 Ron & Sally Kratt

If you have a Birthday or an Anniversary in March, it's your moment to make a difference! Create a Facebook Fundraiser to support our Endowment Fund. It's easy! Instructions on setting up your Facebook Fundraiser can be found on our website here: <https://www.fccwakefieldnh.org/fundraising/>

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN



We are a community that believes that prayer is powerful! Please keep in your prayers all those who suffer in any way in mind, body and spirit, as well as those who by virtue of their service are far from home or in harm's way. 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.

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 would like to be a member of the prayer chain, or have a prayer request, please get in touch with Harriet Wilson (dhwilson39@gmail.com)

Congratulations, REVEREND Dr.Tere!

Over 100 people from coast to coast (practically) joined in the Service for Ordination into Christian Ministry of the Rev. Dr. Tere Krueger on Sunday, February 28. Through Zoom, participants from Denver, Colorado; Douglas, Wyoming, Kalamazoo, Michigan, South Haven, Michigan; Cedar Falls, Iowa; SW Association of Michigan Conference UCC, the Carroll-Stratford Association of the NH Conference UCC, and the FCCW came together virtually, led by the Holy Spirit, to ordain Terilynn Krueger into Ministry in the United Church of Christ!

It was emotional, it was thoughtful, it was celebratory, congratulatory and spirit-filled. Moving statements were made by many colleagues and friends, including her dear brother Timothy Krueger, Choirmaster, St. Andrews Episcopal, Denver and mentor, Rev. Jeffrey Dick of UCC South Haven, Michigan.

Rev. Brickner-Wood, assisted by our Moderator, Margie Galabrun, presented her with a framed certificate of ordination from the SW Association (Michigan) UCC. The Deacons gifted her with a beautiful stole and Elizabeth Fogg presented her with two prayer shawls -- one for home and one for the office!

With the virtual passing of the peace, led by Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood of the Carroll-Stratford Association, to the virtual laying on of hands, prayers flowed together marking the beginning of Rev. Tere's new life in ministry. And we all said: Praise God. Amen!




Passing of the Peace with Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood.



Laying on of hands

MARCH 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30	2 Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	3 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Diaconate Mtg Via Zoom 2 p.m.	4 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	5 World Day Of Prayer	6	
7 Third Sunday of Lent Online Worship and Communion Via Zoom and Facebook Live 10 a.m.	8	9 Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	10 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room Leadership Council 3 p.m.	11 Racial Justice Discussion Group via Zoom 4:30 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	12	13	
14 Fourth Sunday of Lent Online Worship Via Zoom and Facebook Live 10 a.m. Daylight Saving Time Begins	15 Caregiver's Support Group 9:30—10:30	16 Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	17 St. Patrick's Day Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	18 Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	19	20 First Day of Spring 	
21 Fifth Sunday of Lent Online Worship Via Zoom and Facebook Live 10 a.m.	22	23 Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	24 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	25 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 a.m. Community String Band Via Zoom— 6:30 pm	26	27	
28 PALM SUNDAY Online Worship Via Zoom and Facebook Live 10 a.m.	29	30 Faith Formation Study Via Zoom Noon	31 Grief Support Group 11 a.m. Parish Helpers Room	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>April 1—Maundy Thursday April 2—Good Friday April 4—Easter Sunday</p> </div>			

Household
Items

CHALLENGE

2021 Household Challenge ... Game on!! ... Join the fun!!

The FUNdraising Team challenges you to find 1 (or more!) items around the house that you no longer want or need, but that would be of value when sold by our online salesforce. **THIS CHALLENGE STARTS NOW!** Once you have located your item(s) or if you have questions, please contact:

Julie Kessler 871-8066 julielouisekessler@gmail.com

Margie Galabrun 522-6647 balchlaker@gmail.com

All we need is a short description, a photo and a suggested price range. (Keep in mind that we ALL think all our items are priceless— and they are ... but only to us!) Let's see just how resourceful we **ALL** can be in coming up with things to sell and add to our beloved church's coffers through online sales. ****Adding to the value right now- we have an anonymous donor who will match the sales price to add to the Endowment Fund**** So let's get ...

Ready, set, GO!!!!



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