



June 2020

Ripples &

Reflections
Reflections

By
Senior Pastor
Rev. Kevin
Pleas

*Community of Christ, who makes the cross your own,
Live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds belong,
Whose children are of every race and every song.*

—Community of Christ, Chalice Hymnal #655

Dear Friends,

June is just around the corner. If you think about where we were back in March, when our current stay at home situation began, it's hard to believe we're still largely isolating from one another. As our economy very gradually begins to open up, we're all wondering when we might open up as well. As I said in my last blog post, a decision was made by our Church Council at the last meeting to not open the church at least until September. That will give us the summer to stay safe, continue watching the news and see how things progress.

Assuming the Governor's reopening task force lifts the restriction on church gatherings, and assuming our lay leadership still feels it is a good idea, come September 13th, we will be back in our sanctuary. When, and if, that happens, we will, of course, be following any and all guidelines put out by the state of New Hampshire and our own UCC New Hampshire Conference. Those guidelines, currently being developed, are likely to include things like restricting access to one door, keeping people spaced apart in the pews, not passing offering plates, not having choral or congregational singing, and not gathering for fellowship afterwards. When we can do it, worship is going to be a very different experience for us, at least for a while. But the bottom line is this: until there is a safe and effective vaccine for Covid-19, we will do all in our power to keep our very much at-risk congregation safe.

In the meantime, we will continue to have livestream worship on Facebook, although next week the time will be changing. **Beginning June 7th**, we will shift to our summer schedule, one half hour earlier. Adam and Lauren's Hymn Sing will begin at 9:30 a.m., and my worship service will follow after they finish,

at about 10 a.m. We will continue this schedule through the summer until Labor Day Sunday, September 6th.

Also, considering this is not a normal summer, the programs we now have in place will not be ending in June as they normally would. I will continue offering my Monday through Thursday Morning Watch services. Adam's and Barbara's programs will also continue through the summer. I'm sure some of you will eventually be coming and going for summer vacations, but as none of these offerings require you to come to the building, they'll be available wherever you may go.

Further down the road, even when September comes, we're anticipating that some will still not feel ready to be out in public. Rest assured, we will continue offering online services and programs even after the church officially reopens, and for as long as that may be necessary or desirable. Now that we've taken the plunge into a more robust online presence, I personally find it hard to imagine we would ever altogether return to the way things used to be.

I know that these are confusing times. Change doesn't come easily for most of us, and the kind of changes we've been dealing with have been massive and ongoing. And yet, the fellowship of our church community remains strong and faithful. We will continue to give you updates as they come along, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or pick up the phone.

Yours in Grace,
Rev. Kevin

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Until service at church resumes, please join Adam and the Rev. Kevin on FACEBOOK LIVE Sunday Mornings at 9:30AM as they offer a live Hymn Sing and the worship service on our Facebook page! Also, join us for the 9:10 Morning Watch at 9:10 AM, Mon-Thursday.

Music text for Sunday and an outline of the service is posted on the website www.FCCManchesterNH.org under "Sunday Bulletins".

TO FIND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE GO DIRECTLY TO:
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FCCMANCHESTER

Senior Moments



Here we are again, still fighting the COVID-19 battle, but we are seeing a small light at the end of the tunnel. Some restaurants and stores are beginning to open up with restrictions. I urge you all to still be careful and adhere to social distancing and wearing your masks. I don't know about you, but I really dislike wearing my mask. It is uncomfortable and hard to breathe and the minute I get in my car after being in the grocery store, the mask comes off. But I wear it to protect others and frankly, I am offended when I see others without their masks on in a store.

I love watching on TV all the creative ways people are coping with this pandemic. There was a full hour of it on America's Funniest Home Videos last night and a lot of it was very funny and entertaining. I am not very creative and have not come up with anything special or unique, but I am doing more cooking and cleaning and getting lots of school work done.

The most exciting thing I've done is buy a new car. I've been talking about doing that for a year now, and finally did it. Larry bought a new car first and I couldn't let him have a newer car than I have. Seriously, though, there have been some good deals on cars and I did most of the process through texts and emails. The salesman, Andrew, was very nice and not pushy, and I got what I wanted for my van.

The only thing I miss on my van is the sliding side door that I could open remotely....now I have to open a door to put things in the back seat. That's my lazy streak coming out. I do love my new car, though, and it is a whole lot easier to back up than that big van.

This Summer will be a little different than past Summers, as I'm sure there will still be some social distancing and mask wearing, but I heard the governor say that he will be opening up miniature golf courses, so I think that will be a fun activity since we can't play real golf any more due to some physical restrictions. I will be getting my swim fix in Larry's pool, so I look forward to Summer.

I wish you all a wonderful Summer and keep tuning in to our Sunday services and 9:10 Morning Watches. On June 5th, I am going to lead a book/Bible study on Zoom on Friday mornings at 9:00am. The book is "The Lord is my Shepherd", by Rabbi Kushner and we will be discussing the 23rd Psalm. Even if you don't get the book, please join us for a discussion of this beautiful, loved Psalm. If you want to join in, let me know so I can send you the zoom invitation.

Blessings to you all.

Barbara Papagian, Director of Parish Care

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning Sunday, June 7th through Labor Day Sunday, September 6th

The Peithmann Family Hymn Sing on Facebook Live will start at 9:30 AM to be followed by Worship Service at approximately 10 AM.

▪ June Committee Meetings Announced ▪



Please Note: Meeting dates/times are tentative...Committee Chairs will contact you regarding invitations to ZOOM online meetings/conference calls.

- **Mon. June 1st 6PM—Deacons' Meeting**
- **Mon. June 8th 6PM—Stewardship Committee**
- **Tues. June 9th 6PM—Church Council Meeting**
- **Sun. June 14th —Outreach Committee TBD**
- **Mon. June 15th 6:30PM—Church Trustees' Meeting**
- **Sun. June 28th 11:30AM—ONA Committee Meeting**

The Reverend Kevin Pleas hosts the

"9:10 Morning Watch"

on our Facebook book page at www.Facebook.com/FCCManchester.

Join Us for the
9:10 Morning Watch
Weekdays Mon—Thurs



This special prayer service meets online, Monday through Thursday at 9:10 AM. Please tune in and join us!

Book/Bible Study with Barbara Papagian!

Begins June 5th on "Zoom"

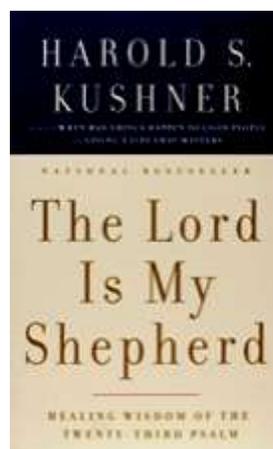
Barbara will host a special edition of a Book/Bible study class on Friday beginning June 5th. It will be based on the book by Rabbi Kushner entitled "The Lord is My Shepherd". **If you are interested in joining this group, please reach out to Barbara at**

BPapagian@fccmanchesternh.org

OR call her at the office at

603-625-5093! Please be sure to

contact her as she will need to send you an invitation to join the "Zoom" meeting group!



News from the HOME Team:



The "Meal Train Ladies" just want to let you know we are thinking of you. Peggy and I both feel it's clear that we are all missing the physical connections of handshakes, hugs and smiles, as we battle this invisible enemy.

As you know by now, that although we are unable to physically visit people to provide a little TLC, we are trying to do so by connecting with phone calls and notes. It's not the same, but it's what we can do for those we usually reach out to.

THANK YOU to those of you who volunteered to bake for us when we asked you to! We will be sure to reach out to you when we need to increase our supply.

Lauren shared one story with us she says: "Over the past two weeks she has given soup and cookies to a mother that said she is quarantined at home with her two young special needs children and appreciates the help so much."

The rainbow through this cloud is knowing that when it is safe and comfortable to do so, we will gather together again at First Church. What a celebration that will be! - Liz Verity

MEMORY GARDEN SPRING CLEAN UP—MAY 2020



Nancy Simmons, Noel Villiard, Pam LeBlanc & Larry Dearborn
Not shown: Liz Verity & Dick Jarvis



The spring clean up of the Memory Garden is complete.

Many thanks to those who helped me to weed, mulch and plant: Larry Dearborn, Dick Jarvis, Nancy Simmons, Pam Leblanc and Noel Villiard.

The Azelea bunch planted last year, was damaged over the winter so we have bought an additional one, adding more of Wesley's favorite color. Pam and Noel supplied us with new plantings from their gardens, and annuals were purchased to add a touch of color. The Building and Grounds Committee take care of our gardens so well all year long and I appreciate their help keeping the Memory Garden looking beautiful. Even though we are not gathering at church for services and events, you can still visit in the grounds to sit on the granite bench for a while, look at God's gifts of nature, and enjoy the tranquil place in the heart of the busy city.

To honor those whose memory you treasure, and to help with the annual care and maintenance of the garden, a monetary donation is always welcome. To make a donation, you can send a check to First Congregational Church, with the "Memory Garden fund" in the memo line. Should you wish to honor a loved one by your donation, please specify their name which will then be recorded in the Memory Book. - Liz Verity

THANK YOU to all who have donated to our community food pantry!

We continue to operate our food pantry during the quarantine for the hungry in our community.

If you would like to donate non perishable items to the pantry, please call the office before you stop by! (625-5093) Items we always need: boxed milk, peanut butter, canned meats, canned/dry soup & canned fruits.



Seen above: Our pantry is stocked because of YOUR continued generosity. Thank you! We pre pack bags to hand out when visitors come to our door. We are here and ready to help.

If you are interested in providing homemade items for **The FCC Meal Train**, please reach out to Peggy at frannys1@aol.com or Liz at liz-v@comcast.net.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2020

5K RUN, JOG or WALK

A SPECIAL VIRTUAL RACE!



This race will be run/walked/jogged *VIRTUALLY!*

This race allow runners (or walkers!) to run the same distance on your own at a location you choose. You would report your time to *Total Image Running* and have until June 27th to complete the run/walk. When you sign up, instructions about this option will be sent to you!

The proceeds from this event will be used to build a new playground at Green Acres school to honor the memory of Wesley Belisle.

REGISTER AS: INDIVIDUALS, YOUTH, TEAMS or VOLUNTEERS at **Total Image Running:**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NH/Manchester/WesleysWay5KRunWalk>

If you have any questions about registration please reach out to Denise Beurivage. Thank you!



HOLLY BERRY CHRISTMAS FAIR! Saturday, November 21st

The Holly Berry Christmas Fair is coming along. There are people busy making things on their own right now. If you would like to help do some sewing, painting, knitting or what ever you are good at, please contact Peggy Neveu at frannys1@aol.com or Pam LeBlanc at blanclp@comcast.net.
Seen below are some pictures of the beautiful handmade items!

Here is the list of shoppes and the organizers...

Treasurer: 1. Scott Thornton, sthornton455@gmail.com

Silent Auction and Raffle Organizer:

1. Pip Adams, pipadams164@hotmail.com

Handmade Craft Shoppe Organizers:

- 1. Sue Curtis, jsba8@comcast.net
- 2. Karen Hawver, khawver@gmail.com
- 3. Nancy Simmons, nansimmons@comcast.net

Wood Craft Shoppe Organizers:

- 1. Bill Jones, wjones0615@comcast.net
- 2. Leo LeBlanc, ohnleo@comcast.net

Dazzling Jewelry Shoppe Organizer:

1. Terri Pattee, seamstressed@yahoo.com

Pet Shoppe Organizer: 1. _____

Sweet Treats Shoppe - Baked Goods & Candy Organizers:

- 1. Kathy Nelson, beachteach529@comcast.net
- 2. Barbara Hebert, phoebey@aol.com
- 3. Martha Perich, pper71@comcast.net

Cookie Walk Organizers:

- 1. Barbara Papagian, ohboh@comcast.net
- 2. Sue Hannigen, suzcrmchez@comcast.net

Attic Treasures Organizers:

- 1. Dick Jarvis, 626-5041
- 2. Tom Irving, tdirving@myfairpoint.net
- 3. Selma Naccach-Hoff, snaccach@comcast.net

Children's Crafts and Games Organizers:

- 1. Kelda York, keldamyork@comcast.net
kyork@fccmanchesternh.org
- 2. Jennifer Longval, jlcaec@comcast.net

Popcorn Machine Organizer: 1. _____

Luncheon-Bon Appetit Cafe

Morning Snack Shack- In the kitchen and a rolling cart.

Organizers:

- 1. Liz Verity, liz-v@comcast.net
- 2. Donna Willey, willeybruce@aol.com
- 3. Joan Currier, nana.Bubbato@comcast.net

Set-Up Crew: Thursday Evening November 19th

Break Down Crew: Saturday, November 21st beginning at 3:00 pm Organizer: Peter Perich contacting Men's Group

Security: Larry Dearborn



Samples of Fair items are shown courtesy of Pam LeBlanc, Linda Bonetti & Terri Pattee





Adam Peithmann's Facebook Live Performance from May 27th is available to view any time on the FCC Facebook Page!

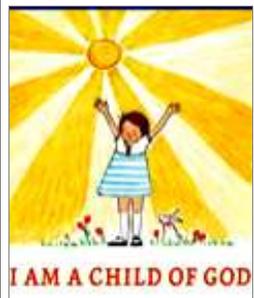
View this music performance and many others on our Facebook page:

[www.Facebook.com/FCCManchester](https://www.facebook.com/FCCManchester)

You do not need an official Facebook account to view any of the videos posted there—just enter the webpage

into your browser and scroll down to a video—click on it and you will be able to watch the videos (note: without an account you will not be able to enter text into the comments section).

Children & Youth Ministries



Even though we are unable to meet in person, the kids at FCC have been having remote Sunday School lessons!

Each week, they receive a lesson with stories, videos, questions for discussion and some work to do at home with their families. Some of the lessons they have been learning since Easter have been about Emmaus, Thomas believing in the resurrection of Jesus, Peter and John

spreading the word about Jesus' resurrection, Peter in Prison and the transformation of Paul. We still have a few more weeks of lessons before our Sunday school year comes to a close. We will really miss having our Children's Sunday this year but hope to have a small celebration when we can all gather together once again.

After our formal Sunday school lessons have come to a close, I will continue to send out activities and mini lessons to families throughout the summer. This way we can all stay connected while apart. If you would like to be added to this list please contact Kelda York at kyork@fccmanchesternh.org. I am more than happy to include you in on what we've been doing!

We do have some Horton Center news to share!

The Horton center, unfortunately, will not be holding in person summer camp this year due to Covid-19. In place of their traditional summer camp, they will

be offering virtual camp: HC@home! There is NO COST to register for these programs that you can enjoy from your home. Maybe invite a friend to participate as well!

Information will be sent out to families via email, or you can learn more about their virtual programs at <https://hortoncenter.org/hc-home/>

We can't wait to meet in person again! We hope everyone has a happy and HEALTHY summer!

Blessings, Kelda York, Children's Ministry Coordinator



News from Outreach



Our church building is closed but the work of the church goes on! . . .

Despite the need to close the church and to suspend in-person services, a great deal of work is being done by many groups and individuals in our church. The Outreach Committee would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate some of those who are reaching out to others in a time of isolation.

The Outreach Committee recognizes the work of the FCC Meal Train.



Unable to deliver meals to homes, they have been making soup and cookies to hand out to those seeking food from the food closet. These have been very well received including one mother isolated at home with two special needs children who said the extra food brightened her day.

The Outreach Committee recognizes the work of Sue Clement and her nephew, Alan, who personally delivered 22 meals, provided by Outreach, to a Manchester homeless camp. Such direct outreach is very much the work our church is called to do.



The Outreach Committee recognizes the work of those who have brought donations of food items for the food closet.

Many bring food on a weekly basis. In particular, we recognize Sue Corby, who teaches the ENA classes, and her husband, Rick Oas, who although not members, donate significant amounts of food very often. All of these donations have eased considerably the demands upon the committee's budget.

The Outreach Committee recognizes the work of the knitters.

Lead by JoAnn Ward, the small group had been meeting every Wednesday at the church to knit hats and mittens and balaclavas for donations. Many contribute without attending. With the church building closed, the group has been meeting by Facetime. If you would like to join contact JoAnn at jaward1010@comcast.com



The Outreach Committee recognizes members of the congregation who have been reaching out by phone to seniors.

Realizing that isolation is particularly difficult for seniors who live alone and have less or no internet access or skill, several members, including from the senior board and the HOME team have been checking up on them.



**Do you knit?
Do you crochet?**

If you regularly donate to FCC's knitting ministry, thank you.

We are keeping busy knitting our normal projects to meet the need for the coming winter and beyond so we can donate abundantly to the Holly Berry Christmas Fair. Anything that does not sell will start us on next year's supply. Small projects are great during the warm weather. I invite everyone to make hat and mittens sets for the children of our Thanksgiving Basket and Angel Tree families. We will need them in a variety of sizes. Make adult hats for the residents of the Manchester Mental Health facilities found on our Angel Tree. Balaclavas (helmets) and close fitting watch caps donated to the New England Seafarers Mission provide really warm garments for the seafarers who have to work outside at sea in all weather. Making adult scarves for Manchester's homeless and preemie hats for Project 10,000 are more good choices. Whatever our world situation this coming winter, it will be cold and people will need help to keep warm. Although not included in the Fair donations because they are not for sale, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is an important part of our work. I have patterns for full and pocket size prayer shawls. Contact me for help in *making* or *receiving* a shawl.

— JoAnn Ward



Women's Connection News

We know you are cooking in your homes these days!

Have some fun and enter into the Bon Appetit Cookbook cooking contest! Try something new from



the cookbook

and report back to Pam or Denise by e-mail to let them know what you tried.

Send a picture of the finished creation along with the title and who submitted the recipe in the book. Each time they receive a report they will put your name in a hat. You can enter as many times as you want.



The contest ends on June 15th when a name will be pulled and a prize will be given! The prize is a voucher for \$10.00 off the next WC event of your choice. So get your recipes into Pam or Denise!
Pam's email: blanclp@comcast.net
Denise's email: beau.de@comcast.net

Church World Service Blankets and Tools of Hope Update



I received the following note from Adam Smedberg, who works from the Springfield, MA office of CWS:

In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes, " Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Romans 12:12). We have certainly found ourselves in a season of tribulation this spring. Like yours, our hearts are heavy in the wake of so much loss and so may disruptions to our daily lives. We recognize that your congregation's spring schedule looks different than usual this year, and that hosting a Blanket Sunday on Mother's Day (and a Tools of Hope Sunday on Father's Day) may not be an option. We wanted to reach out and let you know that we are standing with you in prayer that this will end quickly. And we rejoice in the hope that next year we will continue this partnership we hold so dear and meet the needs of our vulnerable neighbors together. Please know that you are in our thoughts this year. In Peace, Adam Smedberg

However, if you are so moved and able, please send Linda Bonetti donations in the following manner: make donations payable to FCC and attributed to CWS, and she will pass them along. Thank you, JoAnn Ward

*** SAVE THE DATE! ***

Still looking ahead to when we can get back together. A summer event could be in the works, if things go well.



Here is a reminder that the **MYSTERY RIDE** will be held on **Saturday, September 26th**

Memorial Day Chapel Altar



THIS MONTH AT FCC

ACTIVITIES, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PLEASE REFER TO THE PRINTED CALENDARS BY THE OFFICE, OR GO TO WWW.FCCMANCHESTERNH.ORG

JUNE

Monday, June 1st

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service
6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, June 2nd

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Wednesday, June 3rd

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Thursday, June 4th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Friday, June 5th

9:00 AM Book/Bible Study Class w/Barbara Papagian on Zoom

Saturday, June 6th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, June 7th

9:30 AM Hymn Sing followed by Worship Service on Facebook

Monday, June 8th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service
6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting Zoom

Tuesday, June 9th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service
6:00 PM Church Council Meeting Zoom

Wednesday, June 10th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Thursday, June 11th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Friday, June 12th

9:00 AM Book/Bible Study Class w/Barbara Papagian on Zoom
6:00 PM Friday Night Piano Recital with Adam Peithmann on Facebook Live

Saturday, June 13th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, June 14th

Outreach Committee Meeting Zoom to be rescheduled

9:30 AM Hymn Sing followed by Worship Service on Facebook

Monday, June 15th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service
6:30 PM Church Trustees' Meeting Zoom

Tuesday, June 16th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Wednesday, June 17th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Thursday, June 18th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Friday, June 19th

9:00 AM Book/Bible Study Class w/Barbara Papagian on Zoom
6:00 PM Friday Night Piano Recital with Adam Peithmann on Facebook Live

Saturday, June 20th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, June 21st

9:30 AM Hymn Sing followed by Worship Service on Facebook

Monday, June 22nd

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Tuesday, June 23rd

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Wednesday, June 24th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Thursday, June 25th

9:10 AM "9:10 Morning Watch" Facebook Live Prayer Service

Friday, June 26th

9:00 AM Book/Bible Study Class w/Barbara Papagian on Zoom
6:00 PM Friday Night Piano Recital with Adam Peithmann on Facebook Live

Saturday, June 27th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Sunday, June 28th

9:30 AM Hymn Sing followed by Worship Service on Facebook
11:30 AM Open & Affirming Committee Meeting

Monday, June 29th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Tuesday, June 30th

No Church Activities Scheduled

Pledges & Donations

Thank you for continuing to mail in your pledges—it's ok to consolidate a month. You can also send via your own bank's Bill Pay, or go to Vanco via our website. Call Linda if you need help.



The Rev. Kevin Pleas will be away on vacation from Monday, June 29th through Tuesday, July 7th.

Guest Preacher, The Rev. Stephen Cushing

Sunday, July 5th

following The Peithmann's Hymn Sing at 9:30 AM

We are excited and honored to announce that The

Rev. Cushing will lead worship for us live on the

FCC Facebook page:

www.Facebook.com/FCCManchester

You do not need a Facebook account to view any of our online services. Just hop onto the page, scroll down to the video and then "click" on it to play!



First Congregational Church
508 Union Street
Manchester, NH 03104-4890

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*Time Dated Material -
Please Deliver Immediately!*

Rev. Kevin Pleas
Senior Pastor

The June 2020 Church Window

Our monthly newsletter
(603) 625-5093 (with voice mail)
(603) 622-1511
FAX: (603) 625-9107

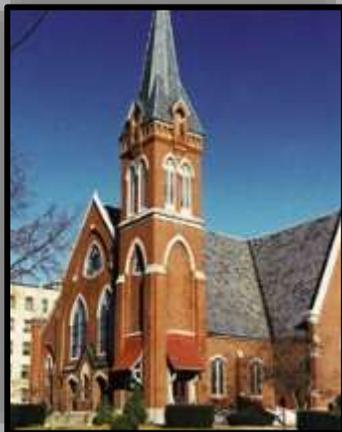
www.fccmanchesternh.org

PLEASE NOTE THAT WORSHIP SERVICES ARE ON FACEBOOK & CHURCH MEETINGS ARE ON ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

ANY OF THE UPCOMING EVENT DATES LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

THE CHURCH OFFICE & FOOD CLOSET ARE OPEN, BUT PLEASE CALL AHEAD. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UPDATED INFORMATION:

WWW.FCCManchesterNH.ORG



FRIDAY NIGHTS AT FCC!

Looking to end the week on a high note?
Beginning on Friday, June 12th at 6 pm and every Friday thereafter, Adam Peithmann will perform 20 to 30 minute mini recitals from the Chapel at FCC on Facebook Live. Come and hear your favorite hymns arranged in a variety of styles plus classical standards.
We hope to see you there!



www.facebook.com/FCCManchester

Also stay current by visiting FCC online at www.fccmanchesternh.org