



May 2020



By
Senior Pastor
Rev. Kevin
Pleas

*Let it be
that you will ever
turn yourself Godward.
In clarity and in confusion,
in distress and in delight,
may your mind
find its home and its rest
in the One whose thoughts
are ever stayed on you.*

—Jan L. Richardson, In the Sanctuary of Women
Reprinted from, Job, Rueben P.
A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk with God.
Upper Room Books. Kindle Edition.

Dear Friends,

I've been very much enjoying our Weekday Watch sessions (Facebook Live, 9:10 a.m. Monday through Thursday if you're interested.) In a short 15 or 20 minutes, it has given a group of us a chance to connect with each other and with our faith in the mornings. The book we're using, "A Guide to Prayer..." has some wonderful resources. It's set up as a daily, personal worship service, with opening and closing prayers, scripture readings and reflections. It a great way to start the day, and I'm grateful for the group of people who have decided to start their days this way with me. I'm encouraging everyone to get their own copy of the book. I think you'll find it useful for years to come.

This week, there is a terrific little reflection on prayer that I thought I'd share with you.

All Christians need to pray. We are by nature prayers. Prayer is like the air we breathe. Without prayer we quickly become less than what God created us to be. But it is also beneficial for us to grow in prayer. Jesus' disciples acknowledged their need for growth and instruction in this area of their

lives. On one occasion when Jesus had spent time in prayer and returned to his followers, the disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1). Jesus responded with what we now call the Lord's Prayer. This model prayer gave those who yearned to cultivate a deeper spirituality a pattern into which they could grow. It is not enough to pray. We need to grow in prayer; otherwise, our human potentialities will remain undiscovered and undeveloped. Prayer creates intimacy with God and reveals to us who we really are.

—Paul Wesley Chilcote, Changed from Glory into Glory

Beautifully said. Prayer is the lifeblood of our faith and ministry. Without it, God can quickly come to seem distant and unreal. We fall back on thinking we are alone in the world and have only our own resources to protect us. Those who pray tap into a strength and courage that transcends their own strengths. As your minister, there is nothing more important I can offer you than to reinforce Jesus' words to his disciples. When you pray, say, "Our Father, who art in heaven..."

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 10AM 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 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

You may also Google Search
"FCC MANCHESTER FACEBOOK"
or you can follow our links from FCC's homepage.

Senior Moments

How has God been working in your life through these past weeks of isolation? That was a question asked to me by one of my professors and maybe it's a question we should all be asking ourselves. We are focusing on this horrible pandemic and witnessing the effects it has had on peoples' lives throughout the world. It attacks people from all walks of life, from a Prime Minister to an actor to a school teacher to a waitress. No one is immune.

This is scary and frustrating and we all want it to end...now. There are people who are asking, "where is God? Why is God allowing this to happen?" These are questions that are asked all the time when there are disasters. As people of faith, we know God is all around us and if we turn to Him in prayer, He will guide us through our fears and anxiety. We know that God did not allow this to happen. It happened and God is working through the nurses and doctors and first responders. God is working through the volunteers putting together food baskets and meals for those in need. God is working through the teachers who are working above and beyond to keep educating children.

How is God working in your life? I know a lot of you are keeping in touch with each other through phone calls and emails...God at work. Some of you are cooking meals for others known and unknown...God at work. Some of you are sending cards to people, just to let them know they are not forgotten....God at work.

Kevin has found a way to bring us to worship through the internet on Sunday mornings and prayer services during the week....God at work. Adam and Lauren have given us hymn sings on Sunday mornings bringing joy into our homes through beautiful music.....God at work.

It is ok to be scared. It is ok to talk about being scared. Sometimes you can feel better by talking about being afraid. It is ok to be angry and frustrated. Talk it over with someone. Talk it over with God. Acceptance is not necessarily a good thing. Acceptance is sometimes a way of shutting other people out. We have a wonderful church community and lots of people to talk to.

We are now starting to look beyond our current circumstances. What will that look like? However you see it....see God in it. As Kevin has been talking about in the prayer times this week. We are *in* the world, but we are *of* God's world. Be safe, Be blessed, and know God is with you.

Barbara Papagian, Director of Parish Care

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It would be helpful to us if you could provide the name and number of a family member or friend that we can call if we are unable to reach you after numerous tries. This is voluntary on your part, but we do get concerned if we can't reach you. You can provide the information to Linda Bonetti, Lauren Henderson, or me and we will get it in our data base. We will not share the information without your permission.
- Thank you

The Reverend Kevin Pleas hosts a
"Morning Watch Weekday Service" on our
Facebook book page at
www.Facebook.com/FCCManchester.

This special service will run each
morning, Monday through Thursday at
9:10 AM. Please tune in and join us!



▪ **May/June Committee Meetings Announced** ▪

- **Mon. May 11th 6PM—Stewardship *TENTATIVE***
- **Tues. May 12th 6PM—Church Council on Zoom**
- **Wed. May 13th 5PM—Church Coordinators' Meeting**
- **Sun. May 17th 8:30AM—Outreach Committee**
- **Mon. May 18th 6:30PM—Church Trustees' on Zoom**
- **Sun. May 24th 11:30AM—ONA Committee Meeting**
- ***Monday, May 25th—Office Closed for Memorial Day***
- **Mon. June 1st 6PM—Deacons' Meeting**

Note: Committee Chairs will contact you regarding invitations to ZOOM online meetings/conference calls.

Prayers through email and calls....

For a call, email, or Rev. Kevin's
IN THE SPIRIT blog, email him at
RevKPleas508@gmail.com. Or call the office.
Keep in touch with Barbara at
BPapagian@FCCManchesterNH.org



The Memory Garden at First Congregational Church



The spring clean up of the
Memory Garden is set to take
place May 8th—14th.

We plan to weed, mulch and
add additional plantings,
followed by a few annuals to
add a touch of color before
Memorial day. Anyone who
would like to help with the

spring cleanup, please contact me @ 603-623-7461 or by email
@ liz-v@comcast.net for more info and times .

The Building and Grounds Committee take care of all our
gardens so well all year long and I appreciate their help
keeping the Memory Garden looking beautiful.

Please take a few minutes to stop by the garden as you enter
or leave our building, or sit for a while on the bench 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 with your donation, please specify their name, which
will be recorded in the Memory Book.

A Message from the Deacons at First Congregational Church...

While flipping through the devotional book "Wisdom for the Way" I came upon this entry:

Walking by Faith...

"We would not trust in ourselves but in God...who will deliver us. He on whom we have set our hope." 2 Corinthians 1:9-10

After reading the passage, the song from the musical Carousel "You'll Never Walk Alone" began playing in my head. "When you WALK through a storm Hold your head up high And don't be afraid of the dark At the end of the storm is a golden sky And the sweet silver song of a lark. Walk on through the wind Walk on through the rain Though your dreams be tossed and blown. Walk on, walk on with HOPE in your heart and you'll never walk ALONE."

These inspirational words can speak to us as we navigate the days without worshipping together in church. We may not be WALKING together but we are worshipping together via FaceBook, We are not ALONE as we meet via ZOOM and we have HOPE that we will again worship in our beautiful sanctuary by September.

The Deacons held their first Zoom meeting on May 4th. It was great to see each other and to be talking about how we can move forward with our online worship and hymn sing. We are filled with gratitude to Lauren and Adam and their daughters for bringing us together in song. Pastor Kevin and Pam have lead us in meaningful worship from the chapel each Sunday. We are blessed by gathering together from our homes while being one in the Spirit. Pastor Kevin's Weekday Watch is also a blessing each morning when we gather by our devices.

In the coming weeks, the Deacons plan to add a few enhancements to our online worship.

As a congregations, We are Walking together not Alone while keeping Hope in our hearts.

May the God of HOPE fill you with joy and peace. Romans 15:13

*Blessing to All,
Ruth Knowles, Chair Board of Deacons*



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 ***



This race may be run in person (if restrictions are lifted) AND/OR can be run/walk VIRTUALLY!...

The virtual option would 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 20th to complete the run/walk. When you sign up, instructions about this option will be sent to you!

IF the race happens in person...

Race starts at 9AM at Crystal Lake Park, Bodwell Road, in Manchester, NH. 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!



Stained Glass Renovations Spring 2020

Church Scholarships for 2020 — Submissions due by May 15th!

As we celebrate our 2020 high school graduates and recognize all members of our church community who are continuing their higher education, the Scholarship Committee announces the request for applications.

Over the years, many of our church members have given funds to provide scholarships for our seniors as they graduate from high school to help them with their upcoming higher education expenses. In recent years, First Congregational Church's Scholarship Fund has been blessed by substantial bequests from long time members, including Virginia Smith and more recently, Gordon P. Woolner in late 2016. Such bequests have enabled the Committee to not only increase the amount of scholarships awarded but to increase the outreach of its awards.

This year, we will honor every graduating senior, and offer the opportunity to apply for scholarships to our seniors and others to reward individual excellence and encourage further education to others at whatever stage they are in.

So, if you are a 2020 high school graduate, a church member starting out on a new career that requires further education, or in the process of attaining a postgraduate degree or certificate, we encourage you to apply.

The First Congregational Scholarships are:

The Senior Scholarship

This award may be given to deserving students and will depend upon the student's potential for new education, activity in the church, academic record, and future plans. Official school transcripts are required.

The Beth Jenkins Ernest Scholarship Award

The Award may be given to a graduating high school senior young woman who shows high potential for new education, activity in the church, academic record, and future plans. Official school transcripts are required. An essay of 300 words is also required in response to the following question: *How do I intend to express the values of First Congregational Church in my future career?* The recipient will present her essay to the congregation in Scholarship Sunday.

The William P McGuiness Scholarship Award

The Award may be given to a graduating high school senior young man who shows high potential for new education, activity in the church, academic record, and future plans. Official school transcripts are required. An essay of 300 words is also required in response to the following question:

How do I intend to express the values of First Congregational Church in my future career? The recipient will present his essay to the congregation in Scholarship Sunday.



A New Chapter Award

This award is reserved for active church members who may decide to take a new road in life, to enter a "new chapter." Perhaps this new pathway may be to pursue new schooling or enter a new career that requires further education.

The Higher Education Award

This award may be given to students who have graduated from high school who are continuing their education, whether or not they have received a Church Scholarship in the past. The intent of this award is to support our church members as they continue to pursue their education either at college undergraduate or postgraduate level or in pursuit of certificate jobs training programs. Students will be asked to respond to an essay question about how their foundation from FCC has effected their college careers and why/what they are doing and planning to do as they move forward.

If you are interested in applying for any of the scholarships please let us know, and we will provide you with the appropriate Scholarship Application. Please be aware that First Congregational Church's Scholarship program is a merit-based program for members of the church as of the application deadline.

All Scholarship Applications should be submitted by May 15, 2020.

For further questions please feel welcome to ask a committee member. Written applications are to be delivered to the church office addressed **to the attention of the Scholarship Committee chair** no later than **May 15, 2020.**

We will celebrate all of our 2020 high school graduates and recognize members of our Church community who are continuing their higher education on June 7, 2020. Scholarships and Awards will be given on that Sunday.

Ellie Stetson, Chair
Peter Perich
Lucia Carlisle
Dawn Gagnon

A Heartfelt Thank You from Lauren Henderson in the FCC Front Office....

***Thank you to all for sending my daughter Violet
birthday cards this month! It helped her feel loved
& celebrated during this time of isolation.***



Does your committee have a meeting coming up?

Please let us know if your committee will be meeting remotely in the coming weeks/months. We would like to keep everyone informed! We publish dates on our website and newsletters.

Email Linda at LBonetti@fccmanchesternh.org or Lauren Henderson at LHendersonfcc@yahoo.com

Let's show something positive coming out of this chaos!

COVID-19...What has it taught me?

Pull out my sewing machine! Making dresses instead of buying.

To take a moment to witness the beauty of spring as it blossoms outside my window.

Plan my menu so I go to the store just once a week, instead of when I need it.

To stop and appreciate the company of my spouse during this time at home.

Send 20 words or less to Linda to post on the website...
LBonetti@FCCManchesterNH.org (no names will be mentioned!)

EASTER LILIES 2020

Thank you to all those who donated an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of loved ones.

A booklet of names is available on our website.



Thank you Terri Pattee & Pam LeBlanc for arranging the plants for Easter Sunday Online Worship.



Children & Youth Ministries

Sunday School Lessons are available!

Each week Sunday School Lessons are emailed to your family along with some fun worksheets and projects. These printable worksheets and projects can also be found on the church's website, too. If you are not receiving these lessons, just email Kelda York at kyork@fccmanchesternh.org to be included!

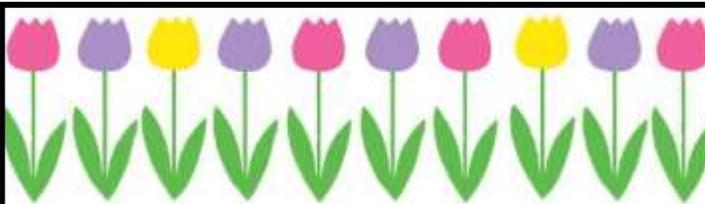


Horton Center Programs for FCC Youth!

FCC Families! As you probably assume, Horton Center will not be open this year to campers. Instead NHCUC will offer **HC@Home**... Monday through Friday camps that

will include a combination of on-line and on your own activities. Campers will still have the opportunity to interact with some of their favorite deans, counselors, and staff members. We will be registering campers to participate in our HC@Home camps, but there will be no cost for participation.

Interim Executive Director Tim Hughes and Summer Director Tivvi Paré will be rolling out all the details on our HC@Home program as the month of May progresses.





**HOLLY BERRY
CHRISTMAS FAIR!
Saturday, November 21st**

A “Holly Berry Christmas Fair” Update:

We have had a fantastic response of people who have said “yes”. This is great news! It makes for an excellent start to get the shoppes full of merchandise. We are very grateful for this. Now the organizers will be looking for crafters, painters, wood crafters, bakers, helpers and anything else that they can think of. If you see a shoppe that you would like to be a part of just let the organizers know.

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, ohnoleo@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, phoebbbb@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 19

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

Security: Larry Dearborn

Women’s Connection News

Now that we are all at home cooking our own meals and desserts, Pam and Denise are wondering how many recipes you have tried from the Bon Appetit Cookbook. How about trying something new and report back to them by e-mail to let them know what you tried?...



Let’s make this a contest!

Send them 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. They will collect the reports until June 15th when a name will be pulled and a prize will be given! The prize will be a voucher for \$10.00 off the next WC event of your choice.

So get cook’n and bak’n ladies!
Pam’s email blanclp@comcast.net
and Denise’s email beau.de@comcast.net



Looking ahead to when we can get back together... We may be having a summer event if things go well.

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



Pam LeBlanc made Lemon Chicken!
A cookbook recipe submitted by Linda Bonetti

Classroom Renovations!

Sokhom & Larry have been making good use of this time of quarantine to renovate the upstairs classroom.



Hi! Hello!

How Are You?

If you are self-isolating, we can help!

My name is _____

I live locally at _____

My phone number or email is _____

If you are self-isolating due to Covid-19 we can help with: (Check all that apply)

Pick up shopping _____

Posting Mail _____

A friendly phone call _____

Urgent Supplies _____

Cut out this form and mail it back to the church office at 508 Union St, Manchester, NH 03104 OR email LHendersonFCC@Yahoo.com OR call the church office at 625-5093 and we will help you out!

News from Liz Verity for the HOME Team:



All of our community volunteer activities as you know are currently suspended, but as soon as we are able to start up again, we will be sure to let you know!

As the Meal Train is not able to operate the way we usually do, Peggy and I are connecting by notes and phone calls with those members of our FCC community we usually serve. We try to let people know they are on

our minds and in our hearts, at this different time. If you know of someone who could particularly use a note or a phone call please let us know, and we will try to make that connection happen.

Thank you to our volunteers who have made soup, baked cookies and muffins which Lauren has added to the food given out from our food closet to those who still come to our door. She tells us that the extra homemade goods are very welcome by all.



We will also try to continue to provide a meal for those people and families where it would be helpful in times of hardship and we will be guided in that by Rev. Pleas and Barbara Papagian. As we all regroup and learn to deal with our Covid-19 world, I hope this update finds you and those you love safe and well.

At Lauren's suggestion, added to this newsletter is a special help card (see above) for any member of our church family that could use to get extra help due to being self-isolated because of Covid-19. Please mail back the card or call the church office at 625-5093 and we will try to provide the help you need.

The rainbow in 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!

Videos Available on Our Website!



Did you know that there are many FCC videos you may access from our website by clicking on Videos under News & Events. It includes the Facebook link to services, past choir highlights, and recently recorded musical performances by our Director of Music, Adam Peithmann!

Just log onto www.FCCManchesterNH.org.

Click the News & Events tab, and click on Videos in the drop down menu.

A very special thank you to Neil Funcke for recording and posting these special videos for all to enjoy!

Would you like to add your cellphone number to our Church Directory listing?



Please email Linda LBonetti@FCCManchesterNH.org

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.



First Congregational Church
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Rev. Kevin Pleas
Senior Pastor

The May 2020 Church Window

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

FAX: (603) 625-9107

www.fccmanchesternh.org

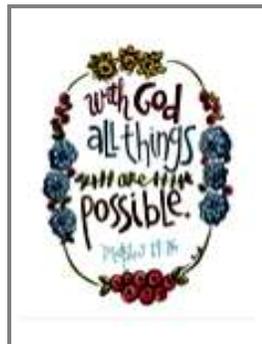
Please note that worship services & all church gatherings have been suspended until further notice.

Any of the upcoming event dates listed in this newsletter are subject to change.

The church office is staffed Monday-Friday for limited hours and we are not accepting visitors. The food closet is available for limited hours, with restrictions, until further notice.

Please visit our website for the most updated information:

www.FCCManchesterNH.org



Barbara Papagian will lead the online worship service on Mother's Day Sunday, May 10th!

Tune into our Facebook Live at 10AM!
Watch Adam & Lauren Peithmann host their hymn sing, then Barbara will follow with live holy worship in the chapel.
www.Facebook.com/FCCManchester



www.facebook.com/FCCManchester

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