



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



Published Friday, January 8, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we each are free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world.

-Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks-



Happy New Year Everyone! We say that every year and we said it at the beginning of 2020 which turned out to be a year of pandemic, violence, extreme political discord, and violent storms. It didn't seem to be a very happy year at all.

We have choices of how we are going to look back on 2020. We can fixate on all the negatives, or we can remember the negatives and pray for all those affected by them and at the same time think of the many positives and be happy remembering them. Think of all the creative ways people found to help others in need, to encourage our first responders and hospital workers by giving them gifts and ringing bells as they got off their shifts. Think of families spending more time together and getting outdoors and exercising and enjoying God's creation. Think of the wonderful church services that Adam and Kevin have created. How could you not feel joy and happiness when you saw and heard the choir singing.

We got through the sadness and the joy of 2020, and we look forward to 2021 and hope for less sadness and more joy, and whatever happens we know that God is with us in our sadness and joy and we thank Him for His presence in our lives. So sing out loud and strong, "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!"

I'm sure most of us are feeling shock and sadness concerning the events in Washington DC Wednesday.

Kevin is sending out an "In the Spirit" piece addressing that. I urge you all to pray for our country, our Senators and Representatives, the President and Vice President Elect, and all those aides and security who were in danger and watched out for one another. Please pray for the family of the woman who died.

It is one death too many. I pray that calmness prevails in the coming weeks and months.

God bless you all. God is with us.

-Barbara Papagian-

January Deacon's Byline

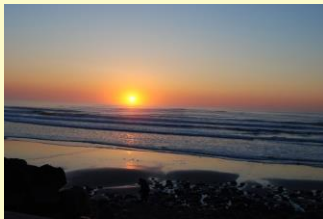
Submitted By Ruth Knowles

In this monthly feature, you will find a short story, poem, Bible verse or inspirational quote that has been meaningful to one of our Deacons.

In preparing for my duties as a docent for Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, I read the memoir *The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife* by Connie Scovill Small. It follows her journey with her husband Elson Small as lighthouse keepers from Channel Light in Lubec, ME 1921 to Portsmouth Harbor Light in Newcastle, NH 1948. It is an interesting read of duty, courage, resourcefulness and the uncertainty of life in service to the men and ships at sea. Yet life was surrounded by beauty.

I was inspired by Connie's quote at the end of the book. It speaks to me on several levels. "As we start 2021, may you think of January as the sunrise of a new year with hope and inspiration. With God's Grace, in the sunset of December may we all find comfort in a year well spent."

Blessings to each of you in the coming year.



***"May the sunrise give you hope
and inspiration"***

Hampton Beach, NH



***"The sunset, the comfort of a day
well spent"***

**Rocks National Lakeshore
Lake Superior, Michigan**

Trail Walks with the Perich Family

Since last March when we all started to stay home due to the pandemic and as the weather got nicer, we started going out most Sundays on a walk to different areas. Some of the areas we went to were Tower Hill in Auburn, Dorr's Pond here in Manchester, East Candia Depot in Candia, Wason Pond in Chester, to Madame Sherrie's Forest and her castle remains in West Chesterfield, New Hampshire, Manchester and Londonderry Rail Trails, Bear Brook State Park and numerous trails around Massabesic Lake.



One day we walked a trail at Massabesic Lake and discovered how low the water line was. We decided to bring our granddaughters back to see it. It was a school day for our oldest granddaughter Brooklynn so we talked about water usage, how low the water was and how not to waste water. There were also some high school girls working on a project for school, so we talked about the project with them, took pictures of the girls, and sent the pictures to their teacher.

Finally, we found the bench dedicated to Wesley Belisle, so we took the time to discuss with our granddaughters who Wesley was and about water safety. It was wonderful walking outside with each other and enjoying the beautiful New Hampshire scenery. -Peter and Martha Perich-



Outreach News
A Message from Hallsville School in receipt of holiday gift cards...

Dear Congregational Church,

Hallsville School would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your continuous support. Through your generosity we have been able to provide food for our neediest families during an unprecedented difficult time. The families are appreciative of the gift cards and we, the staff, are thankful for your congregation's willingness to help.

Your kindness has helped alleviate stress for many of our families and for that we are grateful. Wishing you a healthy and safe 2021!
Sincerely, Stacey Evans, School Social Worker



Join us for Weekly Trivia
with Pip Adams!

This week's Questions

1. What is it that stands up, but grows down?
2. "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" was originally published under what name?
3. What Christmas carol does the Peanuts gang sing at the end of "A Charlie Brown Christmas"?

[Answers from Last Week...](#)

1. What well-known Christmas Carol was the first song ever broadcast from space in 1965? . . . **Jingle Bells**
2. What common eleven letter word is always spelled incorrectly? . . . **Incorrectly**
3. In what modern-day country was Saint Nicholas born? . . . **Turkey**

Open & Affirming Zoom Gathering

Saturday, January 30, 2021

9 AM to 12:30 PM

*Sponsored by the ONA Concerns Mission
Group of the NH Conference of the UCC*

Event activities include:

- A Worship Service led by Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight
- Keynote webinar with Andy Lang,
Executive Director, UCC ONA Coalition
- Panel discussion with Andy Lang, Carol Soucy,
Michael Denney & Rev. Gordon Rankin
- Special poetry reading by award winning poet,
James Crews

Participants can register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4lCluEJDS0OUJMP_JSbdhQ
up to the time of the event. Link will be sent upon
registration. For more information about this event please
email John Rowe: johnmwr@hotmail.com

Sending Photos to Adam for the Worship Slideshow!

The best way to get photos to Adam is through a website called: wetransfer.com

When sending photos via text message or email, they almost always are compressed. That means when Adam inputs the photos into Premier Pro, the photos turn out very blurry. When using the above website, however, the photo is not compressed and they can be inputted with crystal clear clarity!

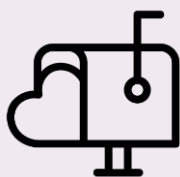
If you take photos on your phone, simply go to your web browser and enter – wetransfer.com. It will walk you through the steps. You can send them to him via email link. Each transfer has a 2 GB limit which means you can send dozens and dozens of photos for each transfer. The website is free and you don't have to sign up to take advantage of it.

Thank you for sharing your photos!

Women's Connection Zoom Gathering!

The Women's Connection will be hosting a special Zoom Gathering on Wednesday, January 20th at 6:30 PM. It will be a fun "game night" you won't want to miss!

Please reach out to Pam or Denise if you would like to join. They will send you the link and tell you how to access Zoom. Pam: blanclp@comcast.net or Denise: beau.de@comcast.net.



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send *Thinking of You* cards to Wylene Fuller as she is experiencing serious back pain. She will be going to an orthopedic surgeon this Friday in Boston to see if they can help alleviate her pain.

Wylene Fuller, 54 No. Bend Drive, Manchester, NH 03104



News and Events at First Congregational Church Announcements by Barbara Papagian

This Week's Happenings

- Rev. Kevin Pleas will lead worship this Epiphany Sunday, January 10th and his sermon is titled, "I Am Well Pleased". There will be a Service of Communion and all are welcome to join in the sacrament using your own version of the bread and wine at home. Pip Adams will be our Scripture Reader.
- Rev. Kevin continues to host the "9:10 Morning Watch" each Monday thru Thursday morning on Facebook Live at 9:10 am.
- On Tuesday, January 12th, the Connecting the Congregation Team will meet on Zoom at 2:00 pm and then later that evening at 6:00 pm, the Church Council will also meet on Zoom. The Outreach Committee will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 pm.
- Book Club will be meeting on Friday mornings at 9:30 am for 8 weeks beginning this morning, January 8th on Zoom. The book we are using is *The Book of Job, When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person* by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner. If you are interested in attending, email or call me to let me know so I can send you the Zoom invitation.

***Future and Ongoing Happenings**

- The Deadline for the upcoming February Church Window Newsletter is Friday, January 15th. Please submit your articles and pictures to Lauren at LHendersonFCC@yahoo.com. Thank you!
- The FCC Outreach Committee announces that there WILL BE an annual "Souper Bowl" Food Drive this year despite the pandemic. More details to come soon!
- The Church Office will be closed for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday on Monday, January 18th. The Office is normally open M-F from 9AM to 2PM but we are closed on major holidays and also for poor weather conditions. Please call ahead when you want to stop by to be sure we are here to welcome you (625-5093).

Barbara Papagian, Director of Parish Care bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

"Friday Funnies"

God is talking to one of His angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24 hour period of alternating light and darkness on the Earth. Isn't that good?"
The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?"
God says, "I think I'll call it a day."



(I hear you all groaning now)

www.FCCManchesterNH.org



First Congregational Church
508 Union Street
Manchester, N.H. 03104
Office Phone: (603) 625-5093
Office Fax: (603) 625-9107

Church Office Email: BPapagian@fccmanchesternh.org

www.FCCManchesterNH.org

Photo: Sokhom outside repairing the frame of an entrance on Union Street side, September 2020