



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



Published Friday, January 15, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.
-Martin Luther King Jr.-



I like the above Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. quote very much. I don't think it means that we proceed blindly into all sorts of situations. I think that we need to go prayerfully into any new endeavors. We need to think about if we will be doing this with God's blessings. We need to think about whatever we are undertaking does not hurt other people or our environment.

We may not know entirely what we are getting into or where the "stairs" will lead us, but if we know that God is leading us, all will be well.

I'm sure Dr. King was aware of what he was getting into on his journey to make the world aware of the injustices being done to the black people in America, but he probably didn't know that he would be revered by many long after he died. He did know that God was leading him, and with him, and that is all he needed to know.

-Barbara Papagian-

Darkest Before Dawn

By James Crews

Three days into the new year,
and despite the lack of adequate light,
our white phalaenopsis orchid
has eased open a third delicate bloom.
Perhaps coaxed by the warmth
of the woodstove a few feet away,
the orchid thrives in its tiny pot
shaped like the shell of a nautilus,
sending out new stems and glossy leaves,
its aerial roots—green at the tips—
reaching upward like tentacles
to sip the morning air.

These blooms
stir something too
long asleep in me,
proving with
stillness and slow
growth
what I haven't
wanted to believe
these past few months—that hope
and grace still reign in certain sectors
of the living world, that there are laws
which can never be overturned
by hateful words or the wishes
of power-hungry men. Be patient,
this orchid seems to say, and reveal
your deepest self even in the middle
of winter, even in the darkness
before the coming dawn.



***Join us for Weekly Trivia*
with Pip Adams!**

This week's Questions

1. Coprastastaphobia is a fear of what?
2. How many times did the devil tempt Jesus at the end

of his forty day fast?

3. What three (3) word phrase is written on Martin Luther King's gravestone?

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

1. What is it that stands up, but grows down? . . . [Candle](#)
2. "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was originally published under what name? . . . ["A Visit from St. Nicholas"](#)
3. What Christmas carol does the Peanuts gang sing at the end of "A Charlie Brown Christmas? . . . [Hark! The Herald Angels Sing](#)



FCC Staff Office Renovations!



GET READY FOR THE ANNUAL "SOUPER BOWL"!

You may have been wondering if there is going to be a "Souper Bowl" Food Drive this year...

Wonder no more; there will be! The Greater Manchester Clergy Association has committed to conducting the annual competition despite church closings.

The Outreach Committee is working on a plan to make it easier to get your food goods to the church in a safe and efficient manner. We will have more details as the event draws near. In the meantime, remember that last year we won the city-wide championship, but did not beat our previous record. Can we beat it this time or will the pandemic beat us?

Blank Note Cards are Available at the Church Office!

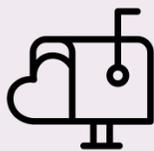
Do you need some blank note cards to send messages to family and friends?

We have assorted packs of note cards ready in individual bags at the office. You are welcome to come inside to grab one while we are open (M-F from 9-2) OR call us before you come by and we can meet you with a bag at the door.



Paper Grocery Bags Needed

If you have extra paper grocery bags at home, please consider donating them to the church to use for our community food pantry. Call us at 625-5093 if you would like to arrange a time to bring them to the church office. We are open M-F from 9am to 2pm. Thank you!



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send *Get Well* cards to Sue Curtis as she underwent breast cancer surgery this past Monday and will be having chemotherapy.

Sue Curtis, 42 Alfred Street, Manchester, NH 03104

Please send *Thinking of You* cards to Wylene Fuller. She will not be able to have the pain relieving back surgery she was hoping for.

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 Sunday, January 17th and his sermon is titled, "In the Light of the Lord". Poems by Langston Hughes will be read by Lisa Allen and Jeanine Finefrock 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.
- The Church Office is closed on Monday, January 18th in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. The Church Trustees' will meet that evening (1/18) at 6:30 pm on Zoom.
- The FCC Women's Connection will have a special "BINGO game night" gathering on Zoom on Wednesday, January 20th at 6:30 pm. There is a worksheet for the BINGO game that you will need sent to you along with the Zoom invitation, so please reach out to Pam or Denise by tomorrow, Saturday, January 16th, if you are interested in joining (blanclp@comcast.net or beau.de@comcast.net).
- Book Club will be meeting on Friday mornings at 9:30 am for 8 weeks on Zoom through Friday, February 26th. 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 (Barbara Papagian) to let me know so I can send you the Zoom invitation.
- Today is the deadline for the upcoming February Church Window Newsletter. Please submit your articles and pictures to Lauren in the front office at LHendersonFCC@yahoo.com. Thank you!

***Future and Ongoing Happenings**

- Our FCC Open and Affirming Committee invites you to the Open and Affirming Zoom Gathering on January 20, 2021 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm! The online conference is sponsored by the ONA Concerns Mission Group of the NH Conference of the UCC. Event activities include: 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, Rev. Michael Denney & Rev. Gordon Rankin, and a special poetry reading by award winning poet, James Crews (his poem is featured above). Registration is free and it's an easy process. Click on the NHCucc link <https://www.nhcucc.org/weekly-news>. Then click "News Link" and you'll see the conference information and link to registration. All that's needed for registration is your name, email address, and add "FCC Manchester" for "Company Name." We hope you'll join in this special event.
- Friday Night Mini Concerts with Adam Peithmann are now planned for the last Friday of the month! Tune into Facebook to see the next session on Friday, January 29th at 6:00 pm.
- The Church Office is 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

"Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.'" Acts 10:34-35

"Friday Funnies"

Hymns for Speeding Drivers...

45 MPH - "God Will Take Care of You"

55 MPH - "Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah"

65 MPH - "Nearer My God to Thee"

75 MPH - "Nearer Still Nearer"

85 MPH - "This World Is Not My Home"

95 MPH - "Lord, I'm Coming Home"

Over 100 MPH - "Precious Memories"



Photo: A "Light in the Heart of the City". Our sanctuary lights were kept on each night during the week of Christmas to showcase our renovated stained glass windows, December 2020

First Congregational Church

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