



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



**Keeping the Members and
Friends of First Church Connected!**

Published Friday, February 5, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

We can be of service by bringing some kindness, care, groundedness, and balance to those around us.

-Sebene Selassie-

WWJD? What would Jesus do? We hear that a lot and it is a good question to ask ourselves when we have a difficult decision to make.

Of course we can't perform miracles, but we can always keep in mind the teachings of Jesus. Most important of all is to remember to do unto others as you would have others do unto you and love the Lord with all your heart and love your neighbors as yourself.

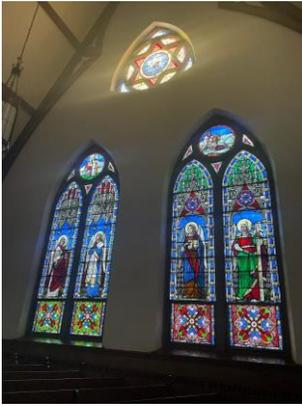
Do what is right ethically and morally and things will work out.

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you;.."

Matthew 7:12

-Barbara Papagian-





February Deacon's Byline

Submitted by Donna Willey

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.

A friend gave this to me many years ago and I would like to share it with you...

Everyday is a reason for giving and giving is the key to living.

So let us give "ourselves" away. Not just today but everyday. And remember a kind and thoughtful deed, or a hand outstretched in time of need.

It is the rarest of gifts, for it is a part not of the purse but of a loving heart. And he who gives of himself will find true joy of the heart and peace of mind.

-Blessings, Donna-



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

This week's Questions

1. Which fruit floats because 25% of its volume is air?

2. What is the most abundant metal in the earth's crust?

3. What was Babe Ruth's first name?

Answers from Last Week. . .

1. What U.S. newspaper is nicknamed "the Gray Lady"? . . **The New York Times**

2. What country has the most vending machines per capita? . . **Japan**

3. Carrots are a good source of which vitamin? . . **Vitamin A**

The Next Women's Connection Event Announced!

Saturday, February 13th at 9:30 am is our annual Valentine's Day gathering.

This will have a Zoom Valentine's Day theme. We usually have our breakfast at this time so we decided to stick with it. Email either Pam (blanclp@comcast.net) or Denise (beau.de@comcast.net) by February 10th to let them know you want to attend and you will receive a return email with another ladies name and address to send a Valentine's card out to them before the Zoom meeting.



You will also get a Zoom invite as the time gets closer. Come, wear red, pink, purple or something with hearts on it to help celebrate the day!

The Open & Affirming Committee would like to highlight the following production in this month of honoring Black History:



NH PBS Channel 2/802 or online: "The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song". Aired on February 16th and 23rd from 9 - 11 pm.

Online: <https://www.pbs.org/show/black-church/>

THE POWER OF MUSIC

You are invited to attend a virtual concert with Elizabeth Blood!

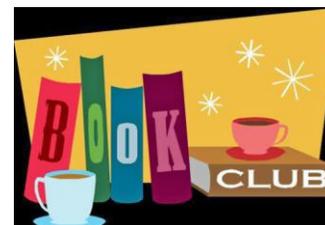
"Celebrating Piano Music of Black Composers" is offered by the Manchester Community Music School. Elizabeth Blood, pianist, will be joined by Sean Parr, musicologist, for this lecture-recital on **Thursday, February 18th at 7:00 pm.**

The program will explore piano music by Black composers including works by Florence Price, H. Leslie Adams and Margaret Bonds. This program will be held on Zoom and is free and open to the public.

To register for this event simply email MCMS staff member, Daisy, and she will take care of your registration. Her email address is: daisy@mcmusicschool.org

Book Club/Bible Study Update

This morning marked the last session of the Book Club's study of *The Book of Job* with Barbara Papagian. This session ended earlier than expected but gives the opportunity for a new one to begin!



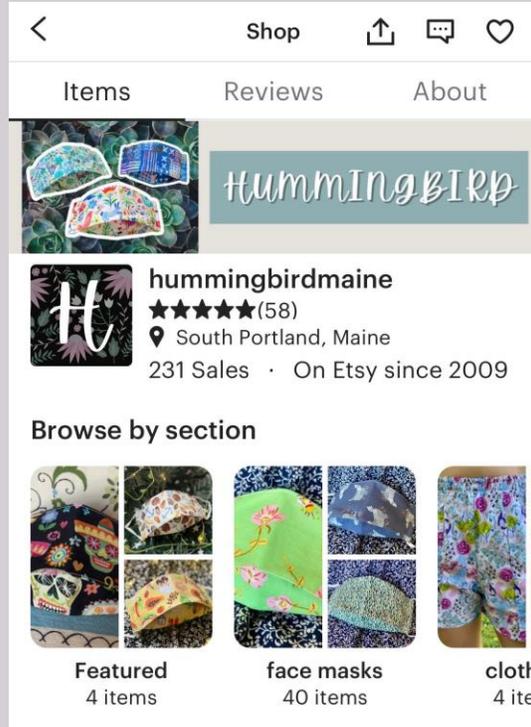
Next Friday, February 12th at 9:30 am, John Rowe is starting a new Bible study session on *Isaiah, Part 2*. The Zoom Link Invitation is below and all are welcome to click to join...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85365943280?pwd=SDFCaGxCeFBCRnA2UkhzOHhSR3pydz09>

Meeting ID: 853 6594 3280

Passcode: 906109

Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)



Abby Curtis has her own online shop!

Did you know that one of Abby's many talents includes sewing beautiful face masks, clothing and accessories!

From Abby about her shop. . .

I started sewing this summer making clothes and accessories for my own enjoyment. I listed a few clothing items on Etsy just to see what would happen. Shortly after, I started making masks with my grandmother at their summer home on Peaks Island off the coast of Portland, Maine. We set up a little table at the end of the road from my grandparent's cottage and put out masks to sell.

The majority of what I sell on Etsy is masks, and more often than not, it's with repeat customers who are in the area. The feedback I've gotten has been great and people really seem to love the masks I make. My favorite part of what I do is choosing unique and colorful fabric for my masks. It's been fun spotting people in the area wearing my masks!

To check out her shop, go to: **[handmade clothing & accessories by hummingbirdmaine on Etsy](#)**

Relay for Life Fundraiser with Eric Gagnon

****Please note Eric's address was printed incorrectly last week but his correct address is now listed below****

A cause dear to Eric Gagnon's heart --- the "Relay for Life" American Cancer Society community-based fundraiser is happening now and Eric invites you to donate if you feel inclined. He is proud to announce that through his efforts and the enormous generosity of friends, he has raised over \$1000 so far. Deadline to donate is June 5th.

To donate, please send checks made out to the **"American Cancer Society"** to:

Eric Gagnon
39 Walnut Street, Apartment #3
Manchester, NH 03104





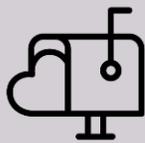
Girl Scout Cookies Update!

You will have two opportunities to order Girl Scout cookies through the church office!

Beginning today (2/5) through next Friday, February 12th, you may call the church office to reserve your cookies/then mail or drop off payment (625-5093) OR you may visit the office to place your order in person. Please see the cookie menu pictured. Each box is \$5.

If you miss this opportunity to order, there will be another sale through the church office in early March.

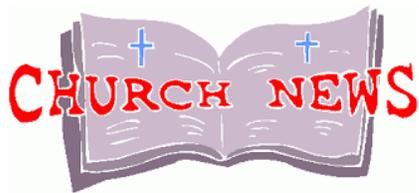
Thank you for supporting our Girl Scouts!



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please sending **Prayers for Healing** to **Diane Clement**. Diane underwent surgery on Tuesday, 2/1 and we pray for her healing and comfort.

Diane Clement, 13 Old Suncook Road, #105, Concord, NH 03301



News and Events at First Congregational Church

Announcements by Barbara Papagian

This Week's Happenings

- Rev. Kevin Pleas will lead worship this Sunday, February 7th at 10:00 am and his sermon is titled, "The Medium and the Message". Sam Knowles will be the 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 Stewardship Committee will meet this coming Monday, February 8th at 6:00 pm. The Connecting the Congregation Team will meet Tuesday, February 9th at 1:00 pm and Church Council will meet that evening at 6:00 pm. The Outreach Committee will be on Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00 pm --- All meetings are held on Zoom.
- *Join Us in Supporting the 2021 "Souper Bowl" Food Drive:* The pandemic can't stop FCC from holding the Souper Bowl VIII! There are too many people in

Manchester who don't have enough to eat. There will be some changes this year... Instead of asking you to risk the crowds at the grocery store and then cart them to church where the staff and outreach volunteers would have to organize and count the items, we are asking for monetary donations which will go to the New Horizons food pantry. Just make out a check to FCC, put "Souper Bowl" in the memo line, and bring or mail it to the church office by this coming Monday, February 8th, 2021. Each dollar will count as one food item. Help us to keep this great tradition alive as we have kept so many other of our church traditions alive despite the closing of the building.

***Future and Ongoing Happenings**

- The Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held online on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 pm. It will be led by the Reverend Kevin Pleas, Barbara Papagian and Adam Peithmann.
- The Annual Meeting is going to be virtual this year on Sunday, March 7th at 11:30 am on Zoom. The Zoom invitation will be sent out prior to the meeting date and the meeting will open at 11:15 am with a start time of 11:30 am.
- The FCC 2020 Written Committee Reports are available on our website: www.FCCManchesterNH.org and Financials will be available for pickup, emailed by request, or mailed in mid-February.
- Please mark your calendar for Barbara Papagian's Ordination scheduled for Sunday, May 16th! More details to come!

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

"...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.". This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."... Matthew 22:37-38

Friday Funnies

Things pastors dream of hearing in church. . .
"I love it when we sing hymns we've never heard before"
"Since we're all here let's start the service early"
"Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas"
"I volunteer to be a permanent Sunday School Teacher"



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Photo: From the 2019 NH Special Olympics Summer Games event