



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



Published Friday, February 12, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

Listen to your heart and trust the direction you are being pulled. Something inside you already knows what to do.

-Spring Washam-

Savor

by James Crews

This morning I choose to savor
the spill of yellow lamplight
where lady beetles gather to warm
the armor of their spotted shells,
and blue jays already screeching
at the empty feeders in the yard,
surely a form of speech calling me
to see their need and bring out a few
scoops of sunflower seeds for them.

I savor the way a line of snow
balances on a bare oak branch,
not a flake out of place, and how
creosote dims the woodstove window
until a log inside, hollowed by fire,
resembles a tiny cabin with several
lit windows of its own. How can we
save the world if we've forgotten
the simple act of pausing to admire
the slim disc of a winter sun rising
as fog sifts across the mountains,
this ghostly breath the old-timers
still call holy smoke, stopping to point
whenever they see it.

Photo above by Hanne Lore Koehler

What a beautiful poem by James Crews. I could feel myself relaxing as I read it.

We are so wrapped up in our busy days and our noisy world that we don't take the time to see the beauty and wonder of God's creation.

I am going to put this poem beside my coffee maker and every morning read the poem while my coffee is brewing and start my day with the calmness I feel while reading the poem.

I pray for all of you to have beauty and calmness in your lives.

-Barbara Papagian-

"He has made everything beautiful in its time". Ecclesiastes 3:11



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

This week's Questions

1. A flamboyance is a group of what animals?

2. If a male donkey is a jack, what is a female called?

3. What were the two sides of World War II known as?

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

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

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

3. What was Babe Ruth's first name? . . . **George**



The Open and Affirming Committee commits to ongoing efforts that will bring religious perspective to issues of race and justice.

We highly recommend a relevant and inspiring podcast, "Be A Bridge," from The Good List podcast of Tsh Oxenreider. The 37-minute recording features a conversation with Tsh and friend Alecia, who "shares what's most helpful and loving for white friends and allies, both now and for the long-haul."

Ruth Knowles listened recently and shares on her experience...

Reflections on "Be a Bridge" podcast #34

In Bishop Michael Curry's book *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, love is defined as a verb. "It's an action, with force and follow-through. Love as an action is the only thing that has changed the world for better." It is this kind of action love that Alecia's message speaks to as we work to **Be a Bridge** to better racial understanding.

We can begin to build this bridge, not by seeing the long road ahead but by taking one step at a time. Our first action of love is by humbly walking in the shoes of our black and brown brothers and sisters as we extend our hands in friendship. Second, as an action of love, we must become educated by reading, listening and viewing material that help us better understand the struggles to combat racism. Our third action of love is to pray intentionally for our brothers and sisters. With each step taken as bridge builders, we can open our hearts to work towards change and equality for as Bishop Curry states "Everybody is God's somebody."

-Ruth Knowles-

We encourage you to listen and share your thoughts about this podcast. [Be A Bridge Episode 34](#)

The Open & Affirming Committee would like to highlight the following programs honoring Black History



"The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song".

Find it on the NH PBS Channel 2/802 or online.

Airs on February 16th and 23rd from 9 - 11 pm.

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

Description: *This moving two-part series from executive producer, host and writer Henry Louis Gates, Jr., traces the 400-year-old story of the Black church in America, all the way down to its bedrock role as the site of African American survival and grace, organizing and resilience, thriving and testifying, autonomy and freedom, solidarity and speaking truth to power. The documentary reveals how Black people have worshipped and, through their spiritual journeys, improvised ways to bring their faith traditions from Africa to the New World, while translating them into a form of Christianity that was not only truly their own, but a redemptive force for a nation whose original sin was found in their ancestors' enslavement across the Middle Passage.*



***New Hampshire Conference of United Church of Christ*
Racial Justice Mission Group Presents:**

**"White Nationalism, Contemporary Racism and the Christian Church"
with Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Racial Justice Minister, United Church of Christ
Saturday, February 20th, 2021 from 10 am – 1 pm Via Zoom Webinar**

Description: *On January 6th, white nationalists stormed the Capitol leaving behind destruction, death, and a shocked country. What is white nationalism? What is the relationship between white nationalism and contemporary racism? What is the role of the Christian Church? How do we address racialized trauma?*

Please join us on Saturday, February 20th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm by Zoom Webinar for an enlightening discussion of these questions and more facilitated by Dr. Love. The event is free and sponsored by the Racial Justice Mission Group through your OCWM offerings. **Register by Sunday, February 14th in order to receive pre-webinar resources.** See NHCUCS Weekly News for additional info: www.nhcucc.org

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**



Ash Wednesday Online Worship Service Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 pm

Please join the Rev. Kevin Pleas, Barbara Papagian and Adam Peithmann on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/FCCManchester

Book Club/Bible Study

Friday mornings at 9:30 am, John Rowe hosts a Bible study session on *Isaiah, Part 2*. The Zoom Link Invitation is below and all are welcome to click and 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)



Therapeutic Music with Susan Wilkes

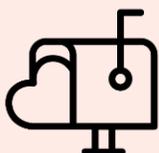
The power of music can heal, soothe and uplift our souls!

The free therapeutic music sessions offered by Susan Wilkes are a wonderful opportunity for anyone going through some physical, mental, or spiritual difficulties during these trying times. Susan is a semi-retired music teacher in Manchester and is active in our church and the Manchester Choral

Society. She is an excellent flute and guitar player and is professionally certified as a therapeutic musician.

We encourage you to reach out to Susan if you would like to learn more about this unique offering:
fccvirtualmusic@gmail.com

To see what therapeutic music sessions are all about, follow this link to a Facebook Live Susan did last week: <https://fb.watch/3yyB5XWJWx/>



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send *Healing Prayers* to **Ruth Allen** as she underwent outpatient surgery on Thursday (2/11) to relieve her back pain.

Ruth Allen, 12 Pinecrest Drive, Goffstown, NH 03045

News and Events at First Congregational Church

Announcements by Barbara Papagian



This Week's Happenings

- Barbara Papagian will lead worship this Sunday, February 14th at 10:00 am on Facebook and her sermon is titled, "Holy Friendship". Carol Soucy 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 Women's Connection will be meeting on Zoom for a special Valentine's themed gathering, tomorrow morning, Saturday, February 13th at 9:30 am.
- The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 15th in observance of the President's Day Holiday.
- The Church Trustees will meet on Monday, February 15th at 6:30 pm and The Church Reopening Task Force will meet on Tuesday, February 16th at 6:00 pm --- all meetings are held on Zoom.
- Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held online on our Facebook page this coming Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 pm. It will be led by the Reverend Kevin Pleas, Barbara Papagian and Adam Peithmann.

*Future and Ongoing Happenings

- Next Friday, February 19th is the deadline to submit articles and pictures for the upcoming March Church Window Newsletter. Please send your entries to Lauren in the church office at LHendersonFCC@yahoo.com.
- The next Mini Concert with Adam Peithmann will be held on Facebook the last Friday in February. You don't want to miss it! Tune in at 6:00 pm on Friday, February 26th.
- 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.
- Wednesday, March 10th at 6:30 pm will be the next Women's Connection Zoom Gathering. Look for more details about this event in the March Church Window.
- 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

"I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

Friday Funnies

Don't give God instructions - just report for duty!



www.FCCManchesterNH.org



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Photo above: From the 2019 Women's Connection Mystery Ride