



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, March 5, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

God answers us in 3 ways:

**He says yes and gives us what we want.
He says no and gives us something better.**

He says wait and gives us the best.

-by Lori Lyons-



We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccines out and getting administered. It has been a long road and it is so discouraging when we see the statistics of over 500,000 deaths, the rise in alcoholism and suicide and depression.

What has kept you going? What has kept you from turning to harmful substances and behaviors to try to cope?

From my observations, what it is that has been keeping you all going is the outreach activities you are doing. Making meals and cookies, sending cards and calling people. You are participating in Morning Watch and Bible Study; activities offered by the Women's Connection. Don't forget we have Susan Wilkes, who would love to meet with you on Zoom and play some soothing, therapeutic music and talk with you.

Most of all, though, we are keeping our faith in God. He is with us and His will be done.

-Barbara Papagian-

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

March Deacon's Byline

Submitted by Cal Bowie

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.

My First Big Trip!

I was in high school before I took my first plane ride. When Karen and I were married, we spent our honeymoon in Bermuda, which could be considered a "Big Trip".

But I would say my first really big trip was in 1983 when two of my hiking buddies and I made a trip to Switzerland with the intent to climb the Matterhorn. We flew Swissair from Boston to Geneva. From there we took trains to get to Zermatt. We had a room booked at the Alpenblick Hotel. The US \$ was very strong at the time, so I believe it cost the equivalent of \$15 per night.

We went to the guides' office to arrange for a guide for the Matterhorn, but it was suggested that we try a less difficult mountain first. He recommended the Rimpfichhorn (13,776 feet). We went into town and rented crampons and ice axes, and the day before the climb we met our guide at the Flu Alp hut. We went to bed early because we were to get up at 4 am. We started out with head lamps and by the time it started to get light, we were well upon the glacier with the crampons strapped to our boots. Four hours later we were at the summit. It was the first time for the three of us to have climbed higher than Mt. Washington (6,280 feet).

It was time for us to arrange guides for our Matterhorn climb, but the day before it had snowed on the Matterhorn and climbers had to spend the night at the Solvey Hut (about half way up the mountain). Those climbers still needed to get down, so there were no guides available that day.

This was Saturday and we had an early morning Monday flight back to Boston. The guide's office told us they didn't work on Sundays. We thought our trip would end without the Matterhorn. But perseverance at the guide's office paid off. They found two Italian guides and one Swiss guide (one guide per client on the



Matterhorn). I got the Swiss guide. We met our guides at the Hotel Bel Vue at the base of the Matterhorn on the Hornli Ridge. Like before, we had an 4am start and set out by headlamps.

Although the Hornli Ridge appears daunting when looking at it straight on from Zermatt. It is really not a difficult climb. There are a couple of places where you use hands and feet and the guide secures your rope. The hardest section was about several hundred feet below the summit where there are fixed ropes and you literally pull yourself up about fifty feet. Then a couple hundred feet up a steep snow field and you're at the summit (14,692 feet). The weather wasn't the best. We could only see some of the higher peaks peeking up above the clouds. It took about the same amount of time to get down as it did going up. We were back in Zermatt about 5 pm. We had a beer to celebrate then got on the train for Geneva and home to Boston.



With the Open and Affirming Committee's commitment to ongoing efforts of bringing religious perspective to issues of race and justice, last month ONA encouraged you to listen to Tsh Oxenreider's podcast, "Be A Bridge." <https://tshoxenreider.com/34/>



We featured some personal reflections from FCC podcast listeners here in the *Friday Link* all month long. Last week, Bruce Felmly shared his thoughts and this week, in response to those reflections, Bruce Kinney wants to share his thoughts as well...

I enjoyed Bruce Felmly's comments in last week's FCC Friday Link on the "Be a Bridge" podcast on a Christian perspective on racial justice issues. I highly recommend listening to the podcast if you're struggling with what you can do to promote racial justice. Here are a few thoughts from the podcast about what we all can do as individuals:

- *For you white allies, reach out to your friends of color. Let them know you are with them for the long haul. Justice is a marathon, not a sprint. Don't ask them what you can do (that's up to you to figure out), just be there, be a friend, and listen to their perspective.*
- *Support organizations that are fighting injustice, such as Be the Bridge (bethebridge.com), the Equal Justice Initiative (eji.org), and the NAACP (naacp.org), to name just a few mentioned in the podcast.*
- *Don't be colorblind. See people for who they are. Appreciate and celebrate differences, don't pretend they don't exist.*
- *Most importantly, educate yourself. There are many excellent resources you can read; a few books mentioned in the podcast include *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo, and *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. And don't just read, join a study group and talk with others wrestling with the same issues. The Racial Justice Mission Group (RJMG) of our own New Hampshire Conference of the*

UCC also has some excellent resources. For books, white papers, websites, and recorded programs, see the RJMG's website at <http://nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/justice-witness-ministry/racial-justice-mission-group>. I especially recommend the recording of a recent webinar led by the Rev. Dr. Velda Love, UCC Minister for Racial Justice, held last month for our New Hampshire Conference audience. I participated in that webinar and found it very challenging and enlightening. And if you like these resources, remember that the RJMG is funded by FCC's OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) contributions and by your pledges! -Thanks and Peace, Bruce-



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

This week's Questions

1. What is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

2. Why didn't Noah go fishing?

3. Which of the Promised Land was especially wealthy?

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

1. What sheds 50,000 cells every minute? . . . **Your skin**

2. What product was originally called Little Short-Cake fingers? . . . **Twinkies**

3. The letter "J" appears in the name of how many states in the US? . . . **New Jersey**

**The FCC Annual Meeting is this Sunday, March 7th at
11:30 am on Zoom**

The meeting will open at 11:15 am with a start time of 11:30 am.

The Zoom link invitation has been emailed to you. If you have questions about how to get into the meeting, please reach out the church office today by noon.



The FCC 2020 Written Committee Reports are available on our website:

www.FCCManchesterNH.org. Financials were mailed to your homes on Monday, February 22nd.



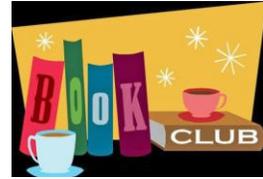
**One Great Hour of Sharing Annual Lenten Offering
Sunday, March 14th**

Outreach announces this year's *One Great Hour of Sharing* Campaign with the theme "Let Love Flow". Donations are requested by Sunday, March 14th - if you would like to contribute, please mail checks to the church office with "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ which supports disaster, refugee and development actions and so carries God's message of love and hope to people in 138 countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. *OGHS* also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Thank you for your support!

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/87247169653?pwd=MThxY0UwOHQvdmt4TmRPy1VXaGg3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 872 4716 9653
Passcode: 361028
Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

SEATED YOGA CLASS

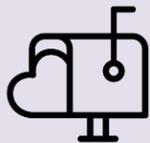
Women's Connection invites all FCC ladies to join a "Free 1 hr. Zoom Seated Yoga & Meditation class" to be held Wednesday, March 10th at 10am!



All that is needed (in addition to your computer) is:
- A sturdy chair with a flat back, no arms with a firm seat
- Comfortable clothing
- A quiet undisturbed space in your home for an hour

Our Yoga instructor is Jennifer Jean, BA, CYT200 www.chairyoganh.com

If you are interested email Denise Beaurivage (beau.de@comcast.net) or call her (603-714-5023) to get more info and register.



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

UPDATES

Fran Hastings is at her daughter's home having therapy, resting and recovering from vertigo.

Wylene Fuller continues to heal and have rehab after her recent back surgery.

**News and Events at First Congregational Church
Announcements by
Barbara Papagian**

This Week's Happenings

- **Rev. Kevin Pleas** will lead worship at 10:00 am on Facebook this Third Sunday in Lent, March 7th, 2021. The sermon is titled, "Changing Lives: Peter" and Selma Naccach-Hoff 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 ***Annual Meeting*** is this Sunday, March 7th on Zoom. The meeting opens at 11:15 am and begins at 11:30 am. The Zoom link invitation to join the meeting was

emailed to you this week. Please reach out the church office today (office hours 9am-2pm) if you need help with how to join.

- The Stewardship Committee will meet on Monday, March 8th at 6:00 pm. On Tuesday, March 9th, the Connecting the Congregation Team will meet at 1:00 pm and the Church Council will meet later that evening at 6:00 pm. The Outreach Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 10th at 7:00 pm. All meetings are held on Zoom.
- The Women's Connection invite the ladies of FCC to a Free Seated Yoga Class on Wednesday, March 10th at 10:00 am (reach out to Denise Beaurivage for more information). *Please note there will not be a 6:30 pm WC Zoom Gathering on this day as originally reported - the yoga class is the only event.*

***Future and Ongoing Happenings**

- Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 14th. It's almost springtime - set your clocks an hour ahead!
- Interfaith Women of New Hampshire will host their next online event on Monday, March 22nd at 6:45 pm via Zoom. It is titled "Let's Talk: Faith and Race". More details about this event and registration information can be found in the March Church Window Newsletter and on the IWNH website: interfaithwomennh.org.
- Upcoming Lent and Holy Week Events: Saturday, March 27th from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm - Palm Pick-up in church driveway; Palm Sunday Service - March 28th at 10:00 am; Maundy Thursday Service - April 1st at 7:00 pm; and Easter Sunday Service - April 4th at 10:00 am. All worship services held on our Facebook page.
- Please call ahead before heading to the church office in inclement weather. If your driveway is slippery at home, it will be at church too. We want to keep you safe!

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

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13



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Photos: From The UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center - evening meals prepared and served by FCC volunteers, 2018 & 2019