



# First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

## FCC Friday Link



Published Friday, April 2, 2021

### Weekly Inspirational Words

*The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise.*

*-Carl Knudsen-*



**This week we have been through the darkest moments in the life of Jesus which leads up to his Resurrection on Sunday.**

As we proceed through Holy Week, we know what the ending is going to be and we look forward to it. However in our lives, when we are going through difficult times, we don't know what the outcome will be.

This is where our faith comes in. We look to our faith in the God who will be with us throughout our ordeals; and no matter how they end, God is there to comfort and support us.

I hope you all have a Happy Easter, and rejoice in God's ultimate gift to us: His son, Jesus Christ.  
-Barbara Papagian-

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."  
Hebrews 11:1



**Maple Sugaring in Bedford, New Hampshire**

Submitted by Selma Naccach-Hoff

Spring. New Hampshire. These two terms seem somewhat oxymoronic to us natives. But there is one element that evokes that bridge between the cold of winter and the promise of renewal in spring: harvesting sap to make maple syrup. Cold nights and warm days are requisites, and New Hampshire certainly can provide these. There is something about this activity that generates a feeling of accomplishment, however long-delayed it may be.

When we cleared the land some thirty-five years ago to build our house, we felled many hard wood trees (which continue to feed our fireplaces). But we were careful not to ravage the landscape, so we were left with a goodly number of oaks and maples. We've visited many maple sugaring farms over the years, in Canada, Vermont, NY, and yes, even New Hampshire, always wishing we could do something on our own property. So, a few years ago, we tapped our maples. That initial year provided a "bumper crop." We even had a dedicated, semi-outdoor burner installed so that we wouldn't be interfering with our regular cooking. You see, the water-like substance that drips from the trees is not the maple syrup that comes in a bottle. After the boiling process, gallons of it might ultimately render one small jar of edible syrup. (The general ratio is 35 gallons of sap to one gallon of syrup.) Patience is, indeed, a necessary virtue in the maple sugaring process.

After that first delightful taste of our own, unadulterated brand, we were excited to continue the process, but succeeding years were marginal at best. Sometimes the weather did not provide the correct balance, sometimes we travelled during the height of the tapping season, sometimes animals ravaged the buckets, and last year, we were just too preoccupied.

But this year holds promise. There are warm days and cold nights, and we've been vaccinated, and the world is more hopeful. The sap is running, though slowly, and we love seeing nature doing what it does, without any prompting, without interference from us. Now, we wait and see...



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

**This week's Questions**

1. How many legs does a lobster have?
2. "Murder" is the collective noun for which group of birds?
3. Where was the Red Cross originated?

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

1. Who invented the word "vomit"? . . . **William Shakespeare**

## 2. What type of animal is the flamishgiant? . . . Rabbit

### Palm Pick-up!

Last Saturday we enjoyed a beautiful day at our Palm Pick-Up Drive-Thru.

People drove through the church driveway and received palm crosses, a prayer card, and goodie bags for the children. Kevin and Barbara gave out the crosses while the Deacons and Building Managers waved palm branches and greeted old and new friends. Craig Finefrock and Lisa Allen waved their palms by the sign on the corner of Union and Hanover Streets, inviting people to join in the celebration.



Around fifty cars drove through as well as a few people walking, a wheelchair, and children on bicycles. There were people from the community as well as church members. Even though masks were worn, we knew everyone was smiling, happy to be outside on a beautiful day, and seeing friends we hadn't seen in a year.

Thank you to Jeanine and Ruth for organizing this opportunity to greet our church and community friends. Thank you, God, for the gorgeous, warm, sunny day.

"We meet in the presence of God, who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and heals our wounds." *Common Worship*



Photos provided by Adam Peithmann - thank you, Adam!

**Bible/Book study will return next Friday, April 9th at 9:30 am on Zoom. Our next session will be "Movie of the Week".**



In this fun and new take on our Bible Study, we will discuss a movie we watched during the week. Each Friday we will choose the next movie to watch from a list we have made.

**The movie we will be discussing on April 9th is "What About Bob?" It is very funny and has a message.**

If you would like to join us, we meet via zoom, so call Barbara Papagian at the church office (625-5093) to be included on the invitation list. We will be voting via email for the movie to watch each week, so let me know if you are interested. Also, if you have any suggestions for appropriate movies, let me know. Feel free to join in all sessions or just the ones that interest you.

Have fun watching movies, eating popcorn, and joining in the movie discussion with some fun people!

**Support the FCC Food Pantry in April with Hannaford Supermarket's *Fight Hunger Bag Program!***



For the month of April 2021, the First Congregational Church Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag at the Hannaford store located at 79 Bicentennial Drive in Manchester. This is a great way to support our church pantry!

**Meal Train's Bulletin Board!**



**\*Meal Train THANKS!!!\***

We are so grateful for the wonderful people who brought in cookies for the "front line workers" in UpReach's "Caring Connections" twice weekly, 6 week program.



We packaged 658 cookies - that is 94 "Thank You" cookie bags with the last batch being delivered Weds.. FCC's freezer has been brimming with cookies and food designated for Meal Train outreach and awaiting delivery. We plan our Meal Train outreach around what is donated including

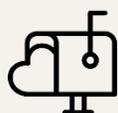
the promised weekly vegan meal for a member undergoing intense cancer treatment, and others we take care of. A hearty "THANKS" to those who help the Meal Train deliver a "we care" bag to people.



### **Larry Dearborn received 71 individual monetary gifts for his retirement!**

Larry will be using his retirement gift cards for months to come! We thank you all for helping send him off onto his next life adventure and we thank Larry for all of his dedicated work as Building Manager.

Photo: Linda decorated this tree with gift cards. Larry was then presented with the gift card tree last week during a short ceremony. He was quite surprised and overwhelmed by the generosity of his church.



### **\*Sending Cards to Members and Friends\***

Please send healing prayers to Leo LeBlanc as he is still recovering from gall bladder surgery and having testing on pain possibly related to the surgery.

**Leo LeBlanc, 30 Lindstrom Lane, Manchester, NH 03104**

Please send your condolences to Nancy Gaspar as her husband, John Gaspar, passed away on Tuesday, March 30th.

**Nancy Gaspar, Hanover Hill Nursing Home, 700 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH 03104**

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

### **\*This Week's Happenings\***

- **Rev. Kevin Pleas will lead Easter Sunday Worship at 10:00 am on Facebook this Sunday, April 4, 2021. His sermon is titled, "He is Going Ahead of You". Tom Irving 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 Senior Fellowship Board will meet on Monday, April 5th at 9:30 am and the Deacons' Board will meet later that same day at 6:30 pm. The Membership Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 6th at 6:30 pm, and the Church Reopening Task Force will meet on Wednesday, April 7th at 6:00 pm. All meetings are on Zoom.**

### **\*Future and Ongoing Happenings**

- **The Church World Service *Mother's Day Blanket Sunday* program will be happening on May 9th, 2021. Please check back here in the Friday Link and also the May edition of the Church Window for details on how to participate in this annual offering.**

- The Horton Center, Faith-based Camp and Retreat Center, will be back to in-person camp this summer! It is offering 5 weeks of camp to choose from. Scholarships are available so reach out to Kelda at [kyork@fccmanchesternh.org](mailto:kyork@fccmanchesternh.org) for more information. Read about the camps offered at [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org).

Barbara Papagian, Director of Parish Care [bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org](mailto:bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org)

"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power." 1 Corinthians 6:14



### **\*Friday Funnies!\***

***Easter is the only time of year when it is safe to put all your eggs in one basket!***



**Thank you to Pam & Terri for decorating the altar for our online Easter celebration!**

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Photo: *Time with God's Children* during the Easter Sunday Worship Service, 2019