



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



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Weekly Inspirational Words

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson-



I love mountains and a Summer doesn't go by that I don't take one or more trips to the mountains. I have climbed about eight of the 4,000 foot mountains in New Hampshire. It is humbling to me to stand at the peak of a mountain and look off into the distance at waves of other mountains going off into the distance. I have felt very close to God at those moments.

I used to go skiing in the mountains, and gliding down the slopes with the cold air in my face was exhilarating and powerful.

I have seen a lot of mountain ranges in my travels throughout the United States, and they all have their own beauty, but I love the mountains in New Hampshire the most. Probably because I have wonderful memories of times with family and friends hiking and skiing the White Mountains. Their rugged beauty can be dangerous at times, but that is part of their majesty.

God's beauty is all around us all the time, and no matter if you prefer the mountains, or the seashore, or open fields of wildflowers, they are all God's creation and we need to care for it all.

-Barbara Papagian-

"In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land." Psalm 95:4-5

May Deacon's

Byline

Submitted by
Jeanine Finefrock

In this monthly feature, you will find a short story, poem, Bible verse or inspirational quote that has been meaningful to each of our Deacons.



Baking with Lily

Who would have thought that an activity to keep a barely 2-year-old toddler busy would turn into such a passion but that is exactly what happened when Lily visited us in December of 2019 (seen in photo above). On that day, we made the refrigerated Pillsbury sugar cookies and she was able to cut the dough log into slices using a plastic knife and then place them on the baking sheets. She loved watching them bake and kept having to “check them”. She had so much fun with the canned frosting and sprinkles. I think we had more sprinkles than frosting on some of them but that was all part of the fun. They were a hit and she was so proud of herself.

As we all know, Covid started to hit shortly afterwards and our visits came to an abrupt halt. Like a lot of you, our in-person visits turned into Facetime visits and Lily would always ask “when are we going to bake again Grandma?”. Out of desperation to find a way to keep us connected our tele-baking sessions were born. At first, it was difficult for them to get groceries from the supermarket so I would buy all the shelf stable ingredients and ship them down to CT. Over the weeks and months, we made assorted kinds of muffins, cupcakes, brownies and cookies.

When the weather started to get hotter and Lily graduated to being a “big sister”, we did our best to continue our baking sessions as often as possible. We also decided that we needed to branch out and find things to make where we did not have to turn the ovens on so we started making refrigerated pies (Lily’s favorite was banana cream pie), dirt cups (she loved putting the gummy worms in), smoothies (anything with mango) and more.

Now Addy is getting older and Kevin and Karen are both working from home so we try our best to work around that and bake about once a month. For Valentine’s Day we bought her a Valentine’s apron and matching hat which she absolutely loved. When we were able to visit them at the end of February, upon our arrival, our little baker wanted to get started right away on her daddy’s birthday cake. We got right to it and while the cakes were cooling, we played with the girls. After a little while, Lily took off to another room and was a little too quiet. All of a sudden, she walked out of the kitchen holding a layer of the cooled cake and informed everyone that it had “cooled enough to put the frosting on”. How she got up and down her step ladder without dropping the cake is a mystery to this day!

Now Lily is about 3 ½ years old and our most recent baking session was for Easter when we made cupcakes. Upon waking, the first thing Lily asked was what time we were baking. When she placed the FaceTime call, she was ready to go with her new bunny apron, Valentine hat and all of her new baking supplies she received from us as an early Easter gift. She knows to look at the back of the box mix for the additional ingredients we will need and she’s pretty good with getting everything in the bowl, stirring and filling up the cupcake tins. She even practiced a new skill of using her new carrot mitts to bring a warm muffin pan to the table “all by myself”. Now that Addy is starting to eat solid food, we have a new taste tester!

It has been a blessing to be able to watch Lily grow as she develops new baking skills and we get to share in these special moments together. I hope she will always remember these times and enjoys baking forever. Who knows, she might even own her own bakery shop someday.



Adding the mix...



Filling the muffin tin...



Are they done yet?



Our new taste tester!



Join us for Weekly Trivia
with special guest contributor, Karen Hawver (until Pip returns!)

This week's Questions

1. What is the rest of the quote, "Live Free or Die"...? And who said it?
2. NH *had* the first what?
3. NH *wrote* the first what?

Answers from Last Week. . .

1. Each year, Easter is recognized on the first Sunday after what? . . . **The first moon on or after the Spring Equinox.**
2. What bread-based snack is associated with Easter? . . . **Pretzel**
3. What two games are traditionally played with Easter eggs? . . . **Easter Egg Hunts and Easter Egg Rolls.**



Calling All Quilters

From Jeanine Finefrock & Carolyn Wilson

It has been a while since we last met to sew in person and our quilt stockpile is getting low. All the quilts that have been distributed have been greatly appreciated by the recipients. We don't want to run out of quilts so we are sounding the alarm to rev up our sewing machines to take action and put the pedal to the metal. Unfortunately, the church is still closed to group gatherings at this time so we all will have to sew on our own in our own homes.

Here's the information and timeline if you are able and available to help out:

Carolyn and I are working on preparing 10 quilt kits. We will be dropping the kits off on Friday, May 7th and they will be available for pick up in the church office at that time. Please sign the quilt kit out on the sign-out sheet so we know who has which kit. We are asking for the finished quilt tops to be returned back to the church office by June 30. Carolyn will make arrangements with Susan, our quilter, to have the quilting done in July. They should be back for binding application in August.

Please let Carolyn and/or I know if you will be able to help out with this project. Jeanine: cjfinefrock@comcast.net and Carolyn: cjferguson-wilson@comcast.net

Thanks for your consideration!



You and a friend are invited to attend the 2021 Women's Connection Ninth Mystery Ride!

Date : Saturday, June 5th
Time: Arrive in the church driveway at 8:45 am.
Estimated time of return 3:00 pm.
Destination: An Outside MYSTERY!!!!???
Cost: \$15.00 not including lunch.

Lunch will be your own choice, ordered that day at an indoor-outdoor restaurant.

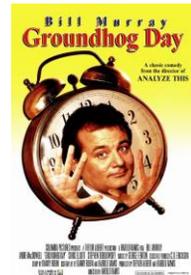
More information: Anyone who is planning on going, needs to either be able to drive your own car, or feel comfortable riding with someone.

Email either Pam LeBlanc blanclp@comcast.net or Denise Beurivage beau.de@comcast.net to sign up. Please let them know what your plan is for transportation.

Join us for "Movie of the Week Club" at 9:30 am on Friday mornings on Zoom!

The movie we will be discussing on Friday, May 14th is "Groundhog Day"!

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!



"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." - Emilie Buchwald

Children's Book Drive for Elliot Hospital May 9th - June 6th, 2021

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a children's book drive to benefit the Elliot Hospital's family/children outreach program. This program provides free NEW BOOKS to families of children from birth to age 5 to foster reading and learning skills.

Follow these easy steps to participate:

- Purchase a NEW BOOK suitable for ages birth - age 5.
- Drop off the book to the church office.
- If ordering a book online, have the book sent to the church. Address to:

Outreach Committee
First Congregational Church
508 Union Street
Manchester, NH 03104

Outreach Matching Grant: For every book donated the Outreach Committee will purchase 2 new books.

The Outreach Committee is excited to partner with the Elliot Hospital as we look forward to finding different ways to extend our community outreach.

"A book is a gift you can open again and again" - Garrison Keillor



Draw The Circle Wide: An Evening With Mark Miller

Registration Now Open

Sponsored by First Congregational Church Manchester's Music Ministry, Open & Affirming Committee, Outreach Committee, and Church Council.

You are invited to a conversation and musical presentation on Zoom with church musician, composer and educator, Mark Miller! The event is scheduled for **Sunday, May 23 at 7 pm.**

Our own Rev. Kevin, Adam Peithmann, and Jeffrey Frye will serve as Zoom Hosts that evening.

[CLICK HERE](#) to enjoy a special video advertisement Adam created!

Mark believes passionately that music can change the world. He also believes in Cornell West's quote that 'Justice is what love looks like in public.' His dream is that the music he composes, performs, teaches and leads will inspire and empower people to create the beloved community. Mark will share some of his work and we will have time for Q&A.

[CLICK HERE](#) to complete the simple, free registration process. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For more information, please see the FCC website at FCCManchesterNH.org. If you have questions, please contact Carol Soucy carolsoucy@comcast.net or 603-591-6387.

"What We're Reading and Listening To", offered by the ONA Committee.

"The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett -- This book traces the story of identical twin sisters who grow up in a black community in the south. After they run away together at age 16, their lives take very different turns as they choose to live in two different worlds -- one black, one white. This epic story follows their lives from the 1950s through the 1990s and from New Orleans to California. This book is a New York Times Bestseller and a Good Morning America Book Club Pick. <https://britbennett.com/the-vanishing-half>



"Love Is Stronger than Fear" podcast, Season 4, Episode 1: "How Do We Fight Racism"-- Join author and podcast host Amy Julia Becker for a conversation with Jemar Tisby, historian and author of NYT Bestselling book "The Color of Compromise". Looking through the lens of their shared Christian faith, they discuss laboring for racial justice and hope for racial healing. <https://amyjuliabecker.com/s4-e1-how-do-we-fight-racism-with-jemar-tisby/>



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Updates:

Pip Adams is now at home recovering from Diverticulitis.

News and Events at First Congregational Church Announcements by Barbara Papagian

This Week's Happenings

- **Rev. Kevin Pleas will lead Sunday Worship at 10:00 am on Facebook this Sunday, May 9, 2021. His sermon is titled, "Treasures of the Heart". Karen Hawver 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 on Monday, May 10th at 6:00 pm. The Connecting the Congregation Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 11th at 1:00 pm and Church Council will meet on Tuesday, May 11th at 6:00 pm. All meetings are currently held on Zoom.

Future and Ongoing Happenings

- Barbara Papagian will lead Worship Service on Sunday, May 16th. Barbara's Ordination Service will be held on Zoom later that day at 3:00 pm - please reach out to her to receive the Zoom invitation if you would like to attend this virtual event.
- Church Scholarships for 2021 are now open. Please reach out to Ellie Stetson for application forms at ebstetson@aol.com. More information on each scholarship requirement is available in the May Church Window newsletter and applications are due by May 15th.
- Father's Day is Sunday, June 20th - honor your father and paternal caregivers with \$10 donations to the *Church World Service Father's Day Tools Fund*. Donations may be sent to the church office by mail or in person. Find the order form by clicking [HERE](#) or pick up a printed copy in the church office, and return it before Friday, June 11th, 2021. Please consider emailing a photo of your loved one to Adam Peithmann to be included in the Father's Day Online Worship Service.
- Horton Center News!...It's that time of year to start thinking about summer camp. The Horton Center, Faith-Based Camp and Retreat Center, will be back to in-person camp this summer and is offering 5 weeks of camp to choose from! Scholarships are available if you are interested. To learn more, visit www.hortoncenter.org or reach out to Kelda at KYork@fccmanchesternh.org for information!

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

"I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." Psalm 121:1



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Photo: From Barbara's Commissioning Service, 2018