



# First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

## FCC Friday Link



Published Friday, June 4, 2021

### Weekly Inspirational Words

*God gave us eyes to see the beauty in nature and hearts to see the beauty in each other.*

**-Anonymous-**

Larry and I stayed in this cottage for a few days last week. It is a lovely cottage in Stewartstown, New Hampshire and there is a gorgeous view of the mountains from the deck.

It is also very isolated, and don't let that big antenna fool you.....we could not get one TV channel and wifi only worked once in awhile at various spots on the property.

I thought we might see some wild animals, but I guess it was even too isolated for them.

I loved the quietness. I loved having no TV or wifi. It was the perfect place to pray and think. It is there that the realization that I am an ordained minister set in. It is there that I felt God's hand

on me, promising to be with me through the coming years as I delve deeper into my ministry.

I am at peace and am ready to serve whenever and wherever needed.

Sometimes we just need to get away to a quiet, isolated place and be still to listen to God.

**-Rev. Barbara Papagian-**



And he said to them, "come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." Mark 6:31

## A Playground in Wesley's Memory

Submitted by Denise Beurivage



Some of you aware that my family has been actively fundraising for the past two years to build a playground to honor the memory of our grandson, Wesley Belisle. Shortly after losing Wesley (three years ago) his parents, Derek and Lindsey, were fortunate to meet many people who shared memories and Wesley's love with them. They also had some strangers come into their lives that have helped ease the pain and change their lives.

They were introduced to Scarlett Lewis, who lost her 6-year-old son in the tragedy that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School. After losing Jesse, she started a foundation to honor Jesse's memory. Scarlett went on to develop a school curriculum, the "Choose Love for Schools" curriculum that is free to any school that wants to use it for grades K-12. New Hampshire was the first state to adopt this curriculum. When visiting NH, she met with Derek and Lindsey, telling them that the Foundation they had started was the best thing they could have done. She also told them "if" they were interested in building or repairing playgrounds, she would share their contact information with the *Where Angels Play Foundation*.

It was this connection with Scarlett that connected Wesley's parents with Bill Lavin, the founder of the *Where Angels Play Foundation*. This foundation built 26 playgrounds, one for each of the children and adults who lost their lives that December day in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School. As of now, they have built over 50 playgrounds, and last month they just finished building a playground in Randolph, Massachusetts. This playground honors Officer Dennis Simmonds, who suffered injuries after the Boston Marathon bombing during the search and apprehension of the bombers, and died of the injuries a year later.

Our fundraising efforts and playground building were affected by Covid-19 but, we are thrilled to report, Wesley's Playground will be built starting June 17th at Green Acres School. *Where Angels Play Foundation* will have their "Angels Army", a group of workers/volunteers (50 or more) that will come here to build the playground from NY, CT, NJ, SC and FL. Some members of this group built the 26 playgrounds in Sandy Hook and continue to be part of the group to build over 50 playgrounds including a playground in Rwanda. There will also be Boston Firemen and Policemen coming to join the Manchester Firemen and Policemen to help build our playground.

Based on all the volunteers listed above, we are not sure how many additional volunteers will be needed. We will have more information once we get started on Thursday, June 17th. If you are interested and are available for Friday, June 18th, please email me at [denise.beurivage@wesleyswayfoundation.org](mailto:denise.beurivage@wesleyswayfoundation.org).

-Thank you, Denise Beurivage-



## **Picture Directory for First Congregational Church**

By anyone's account, it has been a long time since a pictorial directory was prepared for our church – 15 years to be exact. The Membership Team is pleased to let you know we are working on a directory that will be distributed this fall. Our 2021 Picture Directory will be a much less formal project, not something where portraits are taken and you can then order prints from the portrait company. Our intent is to make a simple directory using pictures we take of ourselves so that we can put a face to a name.



Here's how it will work. Starting June 14th, we are asking Members and Friends of First Church to take their own "selfie" pictures and email them to Lauren Henderson in the church office at: [LHenderson@FCCManchesterNH.org](mailto:LHenderson@FCCManchesterNH.org)

Pictures can be of individuals, couples, or families – it's up to you. If you have problems with this approach, such as an older cell phone or no cell phone at all – you can stop by the church office from 10:00 am to 12 noon during June or July and Lauren or Linda will gladly take your picture. Just give them a call to let them know you are coming at 625-5093. If that is not convenient for you – please call Bill Jones at 603-860-1236 to discuss coming to your home to take the picture.

If you do not wish to have your picture in the Picture Directory – that's fine – just drop Bill Jones an email to tell him you are not interested – [wjones0615@comcast.net](mailto:wjones0615@comcast.net)

When the directory is finished, we will ask people to pick up a copy during worship or at the church office, as this will save us the expense of having to mail them out. The Membership Team will also help in delivering the directories to those people who cannot pick them up.

Your cooperation in making this project a reality is most appreciated!



### **\*Join us for Weekly Trivia\* With Pip Adams!**

#### **This week's Questions**

1. Why couldn't the bicycle get out of bed?

2. In Florida, only on Sundays, it is illegal for a single woman to do what?

3. Johnny Depp is famously afraid of what?

#### **Answers from Last Week. . .**

1. What famous Walt Disney character's first words were "Hot Dog"? . . . **Mickey Mouse**

2. What is the birthstone color of July? . . . **Ruby**

3. Was salt water taffy created accidentally - True or False? . . . **Legend has it that Bradley's candy store became flooded during a major storm in 1883. His entire stock of taffy became soaked with water from the Atlantic Ocean, so he began to call it "salt water taffy as a joke. (true)**

**THANK YOU** to all of **FCC's WONDERFUL COOKIE BAKERS** from Liz and Peggy for the Meal Train and FCC's outreach



"Caring Connections" at UpReach in Goffstown wanted the Meal Train to **"THANK"** the cooks of FCC for all the cookie bags over the last 3 months for the first responders in their program. The cookies brought smiles to the UpReach personnel because someone is caring for their participants as much as they are.

36 bags were delivered last Friday for the end of the current session. Amazingly in the last three months FCC's volunteers have provided about 156 bags totaling almost 1100 cookies! **WOW!** During the same time, our cooks have made cookies for goodie bags for our church family. UpReach has not made a determination of whether or not they will have a third 6 week session but we will let you know when it is decided.

Cookies are always needed for FCC's outreach to our friends and family. Light summer soups are also appreciated. If you have questions, please contact Liz Verity ([lizverity@icloud.com](mailto:lizverity@icloud.com)) or Peggy Neveu ([frannys1@aol.com](mailto:frannys1@aol.com)).

Be a **partner**  
in the heavy lifting.  **cws**  
cws-tools.org



## Father's Day Tools for Church World Service

**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. Click [HERE](#) to use the free and easy wetransfer.com service to send photos electronically.

## 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, June 11th is "[The Help](#)".

If you would like to join us, we meet via zoom, so call Rev. 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!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



**Saturday, June 19th is the Queen City Pride Festival at Arms Park from Noon to 6:00 pm!**

**First Congregational Church will be represented at the Festival with the Open and Affirming Committee hosting a booth.**

**\*We invite you to join in the day by attending or volunteering in our booth!\***

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Carol Soucy 603-591-6387 or [carolsoucy@comcast.net](mailto:carolsoucy@comcast.net). You may also call Lauren Henderson in the church office (625-5093) or sign-up on the church office window.

As the date approaches, we will share additional info and event publicity. We appreciate the involvement and assistance offered by the Membership Committee. They are preparing print give-aways and FCC labeled water bottles to distribute that day. Join hands to share the good news of our FCC faith community!



Please note current church office summer hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Fridays from 9:00 AM to Noon. As always, we will remain open as needed! Please call before you stop by 625-5093.



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

Please send condolences to Martha Perich for the recent passing of her college roommate.

Martha Perich, 215 So. Taylor Street, Manchester, NH 03103

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

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

- Rev. Barbara Papagian will lead Sunday Worship at 10:00 am on Facebook this Sunday, June 6, 2021. Her sermon is titled, "Don't Give Up" and Selma Naccach-Hoff will be the Scripture Reader. It is Scholarship Sunday with a special awards presentation by Ellie Stetson and Peter Perich.
- Rev. Kevin continues to host the "9:10 Morning Watch" each Monday thru Thursday morning on Facebook Live at 9:10 am.
- The Deacons' Board will meet on Monday, June 7th at 7:00 pm. The Connecting the Congregation Team will meet on Tuesday, June 8th at 1:00 pm and Church Council will meet on June 8th at 6:00 pm. All meetings are currently held on Zoom.

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

- **\*You're Invited to a Virtual 5K!** . . . From June 12th through June 26th! To complete this race, it is your choice to run, walk or jog any time, at a location that you choose. Then submit your results online! To register [CLICK HERE](#). [The Wesley's Way Foundation](#), in honor of Wesley Belisle, gives back to our community in memory of Wesley through various activities related to water safety, literacy and education, parks and playgrounds and more!
- **\*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. 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. 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

Rev. Barbara Papagian, Associate Pastor [bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org](mailto:bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org)

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him..." Psalm 37:7

**\*REOPENING INFORMATION\***

As we prepare to open our building for Worship Services, we want to share the protocols/logistics being discussed by the Church Reopening Task Force. These details are subject to change and we will be updating them as we get closer to Sunday, June 27th - our tentative soft opening.

- Advance reservations are needed for contact tracing and can be made by calling the church office (625-5093) Monday thru Thursday.
  - Families/Units can sit together in a pew.
  - Entry is through the center Narthex doors ONLY.
    - Upon entry, please check name with greeter.
  - Exiting is through the casket door (side door adjacent to altar) ONLY.
- If handicap access is needed, please convey this when making reservations.
  - Collection box will be located in the narthex and near the exit door.
- There will be limited access to upstairs bathroom; no downstairs access.
  - Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available.
- Ushers will hand out bulletins to those entering the sanctuary.
  - People can seat themselves in open pews.
- No child care or Church School but the Nursery is available.
- Masks are required. Vaccinations are strongly urged.

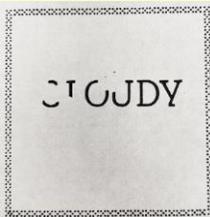
### **WORDLES!**

Word puzzles that are made up of a series of cryptic letters, words and patterns which, when combined, represent a common word or phrase!

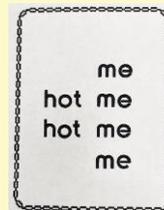
Can you figure them out? . . .

\*Kindly Submitted by Karen Hawver\*

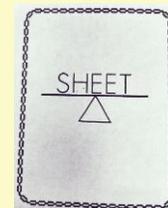
**... ANSWERS FROM LAST WEEK ...**



**\*Partly Cloudy\***



**\*Two Hot For Me\***



**\*Balance Sheet\***

First Congregational Church  
508 Union Street - Manchester, N.H. 03104  
Office Phone: (603) 625-5093 - [www.FCCManchesterNH.org](http://www.FCCManchesterNH.org)

Photo: FCC Volunteers at New Horizon's Food Prep, January 2018

