



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, July 2, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

When you see something beautiful in someone, tell them. It may take you a second to say it, but for them it may last a lifetime.

-Anonymous-



This is Independence Day week-end. There will be fireworks, barbeques, and family gatherings to celebrate our country's independence.

I am grateful to be living in America. We certainly have our problems, but how lucky we are to be free to travel the country at will, to work at jobs of our choosing, and to worship where we want.

We are free to spread God's word by words and actions, so on this day of celebrating our freedom, let's resolve to help in whatever way we can to improve our country. We can keep praying for the leaders

of our country, our state, and our city, to do what is right and just. We can keep our outreach program going to continue feeding the hungry and giving shoes and clothing to the school children whose parents can't afford those items. Most of all we can continue loving all of God's children unconditionally and leaving the judging to God.

Let us remember those soldiers who fought so many years ago for our independence and those soldiers who are serving today to keep our independence.

God Bless America and may God bring peace to the world.

-Rev. Barbara Papagian-

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Nelson Mandela

A Word on Our Return to Worship

by Selma Naccach-Hoff

We humans look with eagerness for the coming of something new, something which we've anticipated, often over preparing and, if truth be told, over anxious. The adrenalin keeps us guessing but, ultimately, we trust in God's Grace to help us overcome anxiety and anxiousness.

Such was the case for many of us as we awaited our return to a 'normal' Sunday worship in our beautiful sanctuary. And what a celebration it was – no balloons, no fireworks, merely friends returning to community, greeting one another, enjoying fellowship, singing in communion, praying together, listening to organ music and a moving sermon. Kevin's emotional journey, his decision to retire, and his love for our congregation and all we've done together resonated with all who were there. While we are not quite ready to bid him farewell, he is preparing us for his departure and the beginning of his new journey as well as ours.

Thank you to all who made Sunday such a joyous return to some semblance of normalcy. We are travelling this new road together, always and ever relying on God's guiding hand.



Images from Sunday, June 27th, our first in-person worship service since March of 2020! Welcome back!



IMPORTANT REOPENING INFORMATION

The Task Force met and reviewed the latest CDC protocols. These are our latest guidelines for Worship Services:

- We appreciate those who made advance reservations, however they are no longer required.
- Social distancing will be practiced in order to be able to sing.
- If ramp access is needed, please ring the bell.
- Collection box will be located in the narthex and plates by the exit doors.
- Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available.
- Ushers will hand out bulletins to those entering the sanctuary.
- People may seat themselves in open pews.
- No child care or Church School. The Cradle Room is available but not staffed.
- Masks are appreciated but not required if you are fully vaccinated.

- We look forward to seeing everyone, but urge you not to congregate inside the building at this time.

Thank you, The Reopening Task Force 6/23/21

A Message About *The 9:10 Morning Watch* from Rev. Barbara



I understand there has been some confusion about the future of "Morning Watch". As Kevin said, there will be a break from it for the month of July and my plan is to start up again in August. Peter Perich and I will be sharing the leadership and will be using the same book that Kevin has been using, along with some supplemental materials.

I look forward to spending time in devotion with you. I will be publishing the exact date we will start in upcoming Links, Sunday News and church website.



Join us for Weekly Trivia With Pip Adams!

This week's Questions

1. It was illegal for women to wear what in the 19th century Florence?
2. Who claimed he could "drive away the devil" by flatulating?
3. In St. Louis, Missouri, it's illegal for a firefighter to rescue who?

Answers from Last Week. . .

1. Who sang about being an eggman and a walrus? . . . [The Beatles](#)
2. Which Tasmanian marsupial is known for its temper? . . . [The Tasmanian Devil](#)
3. Where on the human body is the zygomatic one found? . . . [Facial cheek](#)

Ruth and Sam Knowles celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 26th! Seen here with the flower arrangement they provided for Worship Service on Sunday, June 27th.

These beautiful flowers, along with a special lunch with their son and amazing video from their daughter, made their anniversary a wonderful celebration. *We wish them another 50+ years of happiness!*



A BIG THANK YOU!!! From Denise Beurivage

The playground to honor the memory of our grandson, Wesley, has been built at Green Acres School in Manchester. Please see photos included with this article. This was playground number 56 since the first 26 playgrounds were built by the *Where Angel's Play Foundation* for the families of the 20 children and 6 adults who lost their lives at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT in December 2012.

Many thanks to ALL of you who baked delicious muffins (actually, dozens), slices of pound cake, banana bread, zucchini bread, coffee cake and even some cookies. All of these items were delivered individually wrapped which allowed us to set up our own BAKE SHOP each morning offering a large variety of fresh baked items for the 75 -100 members of the Angel's Army (construction crew/volunteers) who were working so hard. We were very proud to tell them that our Church was supporting them with your baked items made with love.

The Angel's Army numbered 50 – 100 each day, many of them who built Wesley's playground, had built the 26 original playgrounds. We were humbled and amazed at these wonderful men, women and teenagers that took time from their busy lives to come, paying their own way (driving or flying from many states including NJ, NY, CT, RI, MA, PA, VA, VT, TN, SC, FL and Rwanda) to New Hampshire to enable us to give this gift to Green Acres School.

Because of your generosity with the amount of baked goods, I am happy to say that we had more than enough to feed the Army. The abundance of baked goods created will also continue to feed more people as they have also been given to our FCC Meal Train to distribute to others.
Again, thank you all!

[CLICK HERE](#) for an article on the Green Acres Playground published in the Manchester Ink Link!



Summer Altar Flowers

The Altar Design Team would like to extend the invitation to anyone who would care to place a flower arrangement on the altar this summer.



The dates the church will be open and that flowers are needed for are July 11th (Kevin's last Sunday), July 25th, August 1st, 15th & 29th. Notify Lauren in the church office at 625-5093 or email Terri at seamstressed@yahoo.com or Pam at blanclp@comcast.net to chose a Sunday.

The arrangement can be flowers from your own garden, the grocery store or from a florist. If a florist is used, check with Lauren and she can set it up.



Messages from the Queen City Pride Festival...

In the Call to Worship of Sunday, June 27th we were encouraged to "Rejoice in the work God gives you to do! Rejoice that your names are known to God!" The Open and Affirming Committee, the FCC volunteers, and the Queen City Pride attendees were graced by the enthusiasm and the loving spirits of Elle Funke and Michaela Horan, two youth volunteers that lived out that call. We were all blessed by their presence and service. They'd like to share what the experience meant to them.

To be given the opportunity to volunteer at QCP was a wonderful experience. It means a lot to be able to give back to a community of people that so many of us overlook.
-Elle

Having the chance to be surrounded by my incredible community and see them all come together was truly magical! I'm so grateful that for my first Pride I also got the opportunity to help out at the booth and have the wonderful experience of meeting so many beautiful humans :)
-Michaela

Thanks to Elle and Michaela for acting on the promises of our FCC Open and Affirming Covenant.
Carol Soucy, Open and Affirming Committee Chair

THE MEAL TRAIN NEEDS COOKIES!

Cookies are NEEDED for the third session of *Caring Connections* at UpReach and FCC's summer "goodie" bags.



Caring Connections is a specialized program UpReach runs in Goffstown for first responders. They have also established one in Boscawen. At this time we are concentrating on the Goffstown program only. Please bring your cookies to the FCC office or put in the downstairs freezer marked for UpReach. Your donations are sincerely appreciated by UpReach and the first responders. Smiles abound with this outreach. Any questions, please contact Liz (liz-v@comcast.net or 623-7461) or Peggy (frannys1@aol.com or 483-8388)



Holly Berry Fair News!

WC doesn't have any specific plans for this summer except to work on projects for the Holly Berry Fair. Peggy and Pam have set up 4 dates to work on projects in the church dining room for July 15, 22, August 5 and 19 from 10-noon (doors open at 9:30 am). If you would like to come and help please email Peggy at franny1@aol.com, Pam at blanclp@comcast.net or call Lauren in the church office at 625-5093 and you will be added to the list.

We have some sewing projects, painting and ornaments to make. We will be concentrating on one or two projects each time we meet. If you feel you are not crafty we will find something you can handle and be comfortable doing. Come even if you can only be there for a short time we can give you things to take home and do. A list of what we will be doing on each meeting day will be going out soon. Keep a look out for more information.



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send 'thank you' messages to Adam Peithmann, our Music Director & Virtual Service Virtuoso, for all of his hard work putting together our services during the pandemic!

Adam Peithmann, 57 Jennifer Drive, Chester, NH 03036

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

This Week's Happenings

- Rev. Kevin Pleas will lead Sunday Worship at 10:00 am on Facebook this Sunday, July 4, 2021. His sermon is titled, "Outside the Box" and Michelle Harrington will be the Scripture Reader.
- The "9:10 Morning Watch" will be taking a break at least through the month of July. Watch for updates for when it will return.
- The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.
- Our next in-person Worship Service will be held on Sunday, July 11th at 10:00 am.

Future and Ongoing Happenings

- ***PICTURE DIRECTORY INFORMATION*** --The Membership Team is pleased to let you know we are working on a directory that will be distributed this fall. 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. 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 to 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

- The "Movie of the Week" is taking a short break and will return on Friday, August 6th at 9:30 am with the movie "The Help". Reach out to Rev. Barbara for details.
- Worship Service hours will remain at *10:00 am* every Sunday for the remainder of 2021. This time will be same for both in-person and Facebook services.



- Please note summer church office hours: M-TH from 9 am to 2 pm. Fridays 9 am to Noon. As always, we will be here if you want to stop in so please call ahead 625-5093.

Rev. Barbara Papagian, Associate Pastor
bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."
2Corinthians 3:17

Happy Fourth of July! God Bless America!

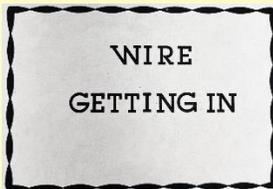
WORDLES!

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

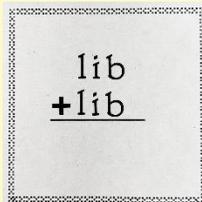
Can you figure them out? . . .

Kindly Submitted by Karen Hawver

[Answers from last week below](#)



"Getting in under the wire"



"Ad-lib"



"Turn over a new leaf"



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Photo: Rev. Pleas and Rev. Papagian, May 2021