



First Congregational Church

A Friendly Church in the Heart of the City

FCC Friday Link



Published Friday, July 9, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

Don't be dismayed at goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends.

-Richard Bach-

This picture reminds me of the song, "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow", from the musical *Annie*. No matter how good or bad our days are going, the sun always rises and always sets...well except for a few places that have all darkness or all daylight for a few months.

We can't always see the sun rise if it is a cloudy day, but it is there. We can depend on it. Just like God. We can't see Him or touch Him, but He is always there, any time we need to talk to Him, or just sit quietly in His presence. God is everywhere...in that beautiful blue sky, and in the green field. We can count on God.

-Rev. Barbara-



"...Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

A Farewell Message

By Selma Naccach-Hoff

Our church life has been filled this past year, despite the constraints of the pandemic. Whether it was the heart-warming and uplifting hymn sings from the Peithmann home, the remarkably savvy technical expertise of Adam via Facebook, or the connectivity implemented by so many dedicated members and staff, we continued to worship and sustain our fellowship with one another and with Jesus Christ.



This week, we experience another milestone, the retirement of our pastor, Kevin Pleas. His tenure with us, marked by all the many variables life has bestowed upon us, has also given us a steady, guiding hand and a renewed sense of purpose. He has encouraged lay leadership and supported the endeavors of committees and individuals, while helping us to articulate who we are and what we wish to become. While we haven't learned all these answers, our path forward will continue because Kevin has guided us so well along the way thus far.

As he leaves us to begin his new journey, we send with Kevin our gratitude for his time among us, our wish for joy in his future, and a reminder that he has indelibly touched the lives of many at FCC.

Please join us on Sunday, July 11, at 10:00 am in the sanctuary as we bid farewell to our pastor and our friend, The Reverend Kevin Pleas.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11

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



Join us for Weekly Trivia
With Pip Adams!

This week's Questions

1. What was banned in Indonesia for "stimulating passion"?
2. What was Hugh Hefner's jet plane named?
3. In June in Wyoming, it is illegal to take a picture of what?

Answers from Last Week . . .

1. It was illegal for women to wear what in the 19th century Florence? . . . **Buttons**
2. Who claimed he could "drive away the devil" by flatulating? . . . **Martin Luther**
3. In St. Louis, Missouri, it's illegal for a firefighter to rescue who? . . . **Undressed women (even if they're wearing a night gown)**

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.



Altar Flowers

The dates the church will be open and that flowers are needed for are 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.



THE MEAL TRAIN NEEDS COOKIES!

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

We need the cookies by Monday, July 12th, as the start date for *Caring Connections* is July 14th. **WE THANK YOU!**

Any questions, please contact Liz (liz-v@comcast.net or 623-7461) or Peggy (frannys1@aol.com or 483-8388).

Holly Berry Fair Craft Workshops Announced!

Peggy and Pam have set up 4 dates to work on projects in the church dining room for July 15th, 22nd, and August 5th and 19th from 10-noon (doors open at 9:30). If you would like to come and help please email Peggy at frannys1@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.

- On Thursday, July 15th, the plans are to create these milk weed pod reindeer ornaments (see photo).
- We also have two no-sew fleece throws to put together, and there are Christmas stockings, printed on fabric to cut out. These are just a few projects to get us started!
- There will be other projects on display for everyone to view and decide what will be worked on as time goes on. Please don't be shy to give your ideas too.

Continue to keep a look out for more information!



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send messages of healing and support to Selene Lyons as she suffered a brain aneurysm this week and is recovering at home. She will be meeting with a neurologist soon.

Selene Lyons, 85 Hulme Street, Manchester, NH 03109

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Please send prayers for healing to Wylene Fuller as she recently had a fall at her home. She is ok but bruised.

Wylene Fuller, 54 No. Bend Drive, Manchester, NH 03104

News and Events at First Congregational Church

Announcements by Rev. Barbara Papagian

This Week's Happenings

- Rev. Kevin Pleas will lead in-person Worship at 10:00 am this Sunday, July 11, 2021. His sermon is titled, "Serve the Lord with Gladness" and Barbara Papagian will be the Scripture Reader. There will also be a baptism ceremony during this service. A farewell reception for Rev. Kevin will follow outside (weather permitting).
- There will not be a Virtual Service on Facebook this Sunday at 10:00 am. This week's worship will be filmed live and posted next week.
- 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.
- On Thursday, July 15th at 10:00 am (doors open at 9:30) there will be a Holly Berry Craft Prep Workshop. Please reach out to Pam or Peggy for more details, Peggy at frannys1@aol.com and Pam at blanclp@comcast.net.
- Next Sunday, July 18th will be a Virtual Worship Service at 10:00 am on Facebook.

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 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" 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 virtual 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.
- There will be an *All Church Picnic* on Sunday, September 12th! This event is in the planning stages and we will be looking for volunteers to help make it a success. Watch for more details to come!

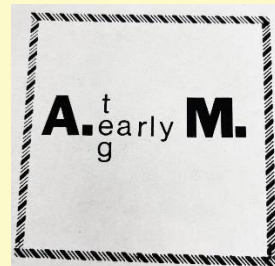
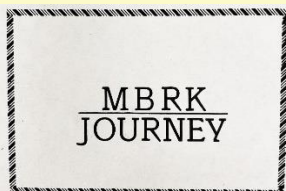
Rev. Barbara Papagian, Associate Pastor bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock."
Isaiah 26:4

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



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Printed copies of **FCC Friday Link** will be available in the church office and will be available to you by mail. Please contact the church office for a copy!

Photo: Reverend Kevin Pleas, March 2021

