



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 23, 2021

Weekly Inspirational Words

"All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." - Fred Rogers

I am looking at the clouds in this picture and remembering when I was a child, lying on the grass in my front yard and seeing different shapes in the clouds that would float by.

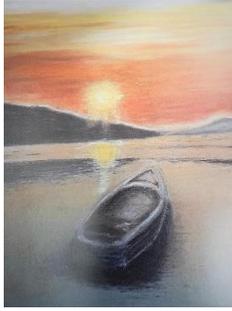
When I was working in the airlines, I had to take a basic weather course and I learned about all the different clouds. I had to change my mindset from seeing different shapes in the clouds to observing them in terms of weather that might be coming in and affecting flights.

Now when I look up at the huge expanse of sky, I see God's creation. Whether there are dark ominous clouds, or fluffy white ones, they are all God's creation. And every once in awhile I see a bear, or a shark, or Superman floating by.
-Rev. Barbara Papagian-



"Look at the heavens and see; And behold the clouds - they are higher than you." Job 35:5

Photo: *Rye Beach* by Maureen Rose Art



A Poem about the year 2020

Submitted by Liz Verity, poem & picture by her dear friend, Lesley

2020

***We've adapted, cried, held our head in our hands;
Our plans delayed to far off lands,
Reflecting on our blessings and privilege we hold;
Thoughts of those less fortunate, hungry, alone or cold,
Our earth needs our care, to live simply without greed;
The planet will always grace us, we just need to plant the seed,
The wind of change is here, we've had warnings thick and fast;
Our globe has grown dark energies, and we've not seen the last,***

***Focus on doing good, raise the vibration way up high;
Chant, sing and beat those drums, eat chocolate and apple pie,
Our ego has been a burden, a chain to disrupt our soul;
Be free and observe nature, love and healing be your goal.***

A Message from the Reverend Kevin Pleas

July 2021

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to thank you for the lovely Service and very generous retirement gifts you gave me at the end of my ministry. What a beautiful day July 11th turned out to be. I'm so glad, after so many months apart, that we were able to have an in person worship service and fellowship time on the front lawn. Many thanks to all those who worked hard to make the day so special, right down to the vegan chocolate cake! I will treasure the laughter and tears, the hugs and well wishes we shared, as well as our years of ministry together.

Shortly after the service, I took my newly retired self up to the coast of Maine for a wonderful and very restful week. I will be moving back up to Camden before long. But first, I'm in the process of literally getting my house in order, and ready for sale. As everyone keeps saying, the market is favorable, so I don't expect it to take too long. I'm hoping to be all wrapped up and moved by the end of August, although that remains to be seen.

In the meantime, I continue to follow the progress at FCC, behind the scenes. I will be keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers, and trusting that the church we all love will continue strong and faithful. To paraphrase psalm 90, verse 17: "[May] the favor of the Lord our God be upon [you], and prosper for [you] the work of [your] hands!

*Blessings and love,
Rev. Kevin*



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

This week's Questions

1. Where were fortune cookies invented?
2. In Swedish, what is "Entrance" and "Driveway" respectively?
3. When held to ultraviolet light, what animal's urine glows in the dark?

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

1. What Benedictine monk invented champagne? . . . **Dom Pierre Perigon**
2. What flavor is Cointreau? . . . **Orange**
3. What do you call a group of unicorns? . . . **A Blessing**

All in-person and virtual (Facebook) services are at 10:00 am every Sunday



- **Sunday, July 25th** In-person and Facebook
- **Sunday, August 1st** In-person and Facebook
- **Sunday, August 8th** Facebook only
- **Sunday, August 15th** In-person and Facebook
- **Sunday, August 22nd** Facebook only
- **Sunday, August 29th** In-person and Facebook
- **Sunday, September 5th** Facebook only



THE MORNING WATCH RETURNS!

The Morning Watch will be starting up on August 9th at 9:00 am, Monday thru Thursday. Barbara Papagian and Peter Perich will lead this short time of Devotional Reading and Prayer. You can access Morning Watch through our [Facebook page](#). You are welcome to join in at any time, or if you are unable to join in live, it will continue to be available on our [Facebook page](#).

The book we are using is "A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk with God", by Rueben P. Job, Norman Shawchuck, and John S. Mogabgab. You are not required to buy the book and there will be a weekly bulletin that will be accessible on [our website](#).

I look forward to sharing devotional time with you. If you have any questions please call me or email me at the church 625-5093 or BPapagian@FCCManchesterNH.org.

-Rev. Barbara Papagian-



Join Us Thursday Mornings! Holly Berry Fair Craft Workshops

The crafting workshops will continue every Thursday morning through August from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Please note the time change.

If you want to come and join the fun we would love to have you!

Even if you are not very crafty, we have lots of things that need to be done. Call Lauren in the church office at 625-5093 or email Pam LeBlanc or Peggy Neveu, and your name will be added to the list.

Last week we encouraged everyone to start cleaning to find "Attic Treasures". Some ideas of what this shop would have in it are one-of-a-kind items that you would not find at a yard sale. We do not want things like glassware, plastic ware, clothes, do-dads, for example. Instead, the crafting group would love to take glass stemware, glass plates any size and color and interesting shaped vases and glass jars or

bottles any size. Once you clean out, please put them in a box, mark it "Holly Berry Fair" and we will let you know when and where you can start dropping the items off.

Contact Pam LeBlanc or Peggy Neveu to arrange pick up. Remember to clean your jewelry box and contact Terri Pattee (seamstressed@yahoo.com) to arrange pick up of all your unwanted jewelry. Pam's email is blanclp@comcast.net or Peggy's email is frannys1@aol.com.

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.



Sending Cards to Members and Friends

Please send ***Happy Birthday*** wishes to Pip Adams! Pip celebrates his 80th birthday on Wednesday, July 28th.

Pip Adams, 13 Greystone Way, Manchester, NH 03104

Please send your messages of ***Congratulations*** to the Longval & Arsenault Families! Amelia Arsenault gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Owen Scott (see photos!), on July 17th!

Jennifer, Joe & Tyler Longval and Amelia Arsenault, 233 Glen Forest Drive, Manchester, NH 03109



Fran Hastings invites you all to a Celebration of Life for her daughter-in-law, Tammy.

It will be held at the [Puritan Conference Center](#) this Saturday, July 24th from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Please drop by and say hello to Zach and Olivia, Tammy's children who grew up at First Congregational Church.

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

This Week's Happenings

- Worship will be in-person and on Facebook at 10:00 am this Sunday, July 25, 2021. Lucia Carlisle will deliver the sermon titled "The Great Promise" and Liz Verity will be the Scripture Reader.
- The "Morning Watch" will be returning to Facebook on Monday, August 9th at 9:00 am.
- The Holly Berry Fair Craft Workshops will continue every Thursday morning from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm through the month of August.
- 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 more details.

Future and Ongoing Happenings

- ***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 the following Sundays: 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 choose 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.
- 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

"For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over all the earth."
Psalm 57:10-11

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.

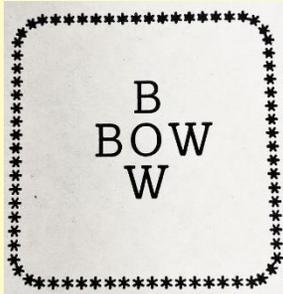
Thank you, The Reopening Task Force 6/23/21

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



First Congregational Church
508 Union Street
Manchester, N.H. 03104
Office Phone: (603) 625-5093
Church Office Email: BPapagian@fccmanchesternh.org