



# 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, August 27, 2021

### Weekly Inspirational Words

*The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.*

**-Helen Keller-**

I have often made the blanket statement that I do not like poetry.

But now, I regret making that statement. Read the beautiful poetry of James Crews featured below. Read the beautiful poetry of the Psalms.

Poetry doesn't have to rhyme. Poetry can be understandable. Yes, there is some poetry I like and some I don't like, but I don't dislike all poetry. I think I should stop making blanket statements about things, and be willing to stop to think that there are things I like and dislike about almost everything!

The blanket statement I will make is that I love the Lord my God with all my heart and soul, and I love His son, Jesus, who died so that I might live.

What are your blanket statements?

"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." 1John 3:18

-Rev. Barbara Papagian-



POETRY BY JAMES CREWS

**To see clearly**

To see clearly,  
not needing a drink  
or pill or puff  
of any pipe  
to know I'm alive.  
To come home,  
peel off sandals  
and step onto  
the cool tile floor  
needing only  
the rush of water  
over strawberries  
I picked myself  
and then a knife  
to trim the dusty  
green heads  
from each one,  
to watch them  
gleam cleanly  
in a colander  
in a patch of sun  
near the sink.



**For Those Weary of Prayer**

Surely you know that  
time of night  
when fireflies, tired of  
their own SOS,  
float right into the mouth  
of a net,  
when cicadas begin to sense they are  
nothing more than husks for the chorus  
that fills them. Surely you have seen  
a child slough his trunks and run naked  
through a sprinkler, crying out with joy  
as you call him to bed. Aren't you always  
calling the name of what you love most  
back to you, over and over, holding  
the door open and pleading, Please don't  
make me ask again—and then asking  
again until he comes?



*Photos: Sunrise at Bryce Canyon, Utah, courtesy of Martha & Peter Perich*

**IMPORTANT SAFETY PROTOCOL INFORMATION**

**\*Updated Message From the Reopening Task Force\***

Although we had hoped that, by now, the trend in positive Covid cases throughout our community would be moving downward, unfortunately, that is not the case. In fact, the numbers are climbing to where they were in very early spring with no promise of a decline soon to this ravaging pandemic. Nonetheless, we do feel that in-person worship should continue at this time, but with a more *strongly* urged message to wear masks throughout the entire service and to continue safe social distancing. Even the Choir, upon its return, will be fully masked throughout the service. As you know, the CDC continues to urge these protocols for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals when congregating inside a building. Our own Conference urges abandoning in-house worship altogether, but promotes masks and social distancing at all times.

Again, we ask that we continue to keep at the forefront the health and well-being of all our members and friends, and urge everyone to follow these guidelines so that we may continue to worship together safely in our beautiful and inspiring sanctuary. For, *“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”* (Matthew 18:20). Thank you.

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

Masks are strongly urged to protect everyone, following the CDC recommendations due to increased numbers.

Social distancing will be practiced in order to be able to sing.

If ramp access is needed, please ring the bell.

Offering box will be located in the Narthex and the 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.

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

-Thank you, The Reopening Task Force 8/25/21-



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

**This week's Questions**

1. In what country is the biggest water park in the world?
2. In what city is the ice cream sandwich believed to be invented?
3. Before the Civil War, kids had school off during which season?

**Answers from Last Week . . .**

1. What is the oldest beach in America? . . . **Revere Beach in Revere, MA**
2. What is the longest day of the year? . . . **Summer Solstice**
3. What U.S. holiday unofficially signifies the end of the Summer season? . . . **Labor Day**

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

- **Sunday, August 29th** In-person and Facebook
- **Sunday, September 5th** Facebook only





## CALLING ALL YOU WONDERFUL BAKERS!

The Meal Train is in need of cookies for an outreach project. If you are able to bake some we would appreciate it. We need them by Monday, September 6th! - Thanks, Liz and Peggy



## JOIN US FOR THE MORNING WATCH PRAYERS!

Join Rev. Barbara and Peter Perich every Monday thru Thursday morning at 9:00 AM on Facebook for the Morning Watch!

The book we are using is "A Guide to Prayer For All Who Seek God" by Norman Shawchuck and Rueben P. Job.

### The 2021 Religious Response to Hunger

Temple Adath Yeshurun continues the tradition of leading the Manchester Religious Community in the annual fall "Religious Response to Hunger Food Drive" which supports Families in Transition - New Horizons Food Pantry.



**Please bring your food donations directly to:**  
**Temple Adath Yeshurun at 152 Prospect Street**  
**Manchester, NH 03104**

**Friday, September 17, 2021 between 10am - 12 Noon**

**\*OR BRING YOUR ITEMS TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PRIOR TO 9/17 SO THAT OUTREACH MAY COLLECT AND DELIVER THEM\***

#### 2021 Religious Response High Need Food List:

Fruit juice – 64ounce bottles, Tuna- 66.5 ounce canned, Ground coffee, Healthy, individually wrapped snacks, Oatmeal – 42-ounce containers. Family sized: Salad dressings, Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo squeeze bottles. Baking items (flour, sugar, etc.), Breakfast items (no cereal needed), Canned protein, Macaroni & cheese, Drinks, Dessert mixes, Crackers/ Cookies, Beans, Rice, Fruit cups, Applesauce cups & Granola bars



### **Join Us Thursday Mornings!**

**\*Holly Berry Fair Craft Prep Workshops\***

**The crafting workshops will continue on Thursdays through September 9th from 9:30 am -12:00 pm.**

Come and see what is happening, socialize and help out even if you can only spend an hour or so, we would love to have you. If you think you are not real 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. Pam's email is [blanclp@comcast.net](mailto:blanclp@comcast.net) or Peggy's email is [frannys1@aol.com](mailto:frannys1@aol.com).

Has your attic, basement or garage been cleaned out lately? The "Attic Treasures Shoppe" is looking for interesting one of a kind type of items. Not yard sale items! We can not store Attic Treasures at this time, but start cleaning and collecting because the time is drop them off will be coming soon. If you are not sure about the items you find, just contact Peggy or Pam and they will help you decide.

The crafting group is looking for glass stemware, glass plates any size and color, interesting shaped vases, glass jars and bottles any size, to create yard sculptures. We would also love to acquire some lace, lace curtains and doilies even if they are worn and tattered. If you have anything of this nature and would like to pass it on, please let Pam or Peggy know and arrangements can be made to pick it up.

"The Jewelry Shoppe" is looking for your old unwanted, hasn't-been-used-in-many-years kind of jewelry. These pieces might be repaired and cleaned for resale or repurposed into a craft. Please contact Terri Pattee ([seamstressed@yahoo.com](mailto:seamstressed@yahoo.com)) to arrange pick up.



### **Special Olympics Volunteer Opportunities!**

First Church has had a wonderful history of supporting Special Olympics New Hampshire in the past, by volunteering as Coaches for the Young Athletes Program and helping out at Summer Games by running the Mini-javelin competition. If you have been involved in these events you know how rewarding it is. Your efforts to volunteer helps First Church advance the Special Olympics mission to change attitudes toward people with disabilities and to transform lives through the joy of sport, every day, everywhere.



#### **Young Athletes Program (YAP)**

The Manchester YAP will resume activities in mid-October on Tuesday evenings on the campus of SNHU. YAP is a weekly, one hour, sports play activity program for children ages 2 to 7, with and without disabilities. The program helps children develop physical, cognitive and social skills. We are in need of coaches to help run the weekly program. If you are interested, or want more details, please contact Bill Jones via email or cell phone.

#### **Special Olympics - June 2022 USA Games – Orlando, FL**

Special Olympics New Hampshire will be sending a delegation of 115 athletes to represent New Hampshire and compete at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games next year. Athletes will be selected from competition held this fall. First Church will run the Mini-javelin competition at two locations as follows:

- Sunday, September 19th at Monadnock Park in Claremont - (Time TBD)
- Tuesday, September 21st at UNH Durham - (Time to TBD)

Tom Irving will be helping me coordinate these competitions. If you have helped out with this event in the past it would be great to have you onboard again as an experienced volunteer. First time volunteers will be trained. If you can make one or both of these dates, please contact Bill Jones via email or cell phone.

[Wjones0615@comcast.net](mailto:Wjones0615@comcast.net)  
603-860-1236



**The final deadline to submit your pictures for the Picture Directory is Sunday, October 24th!**



This will allow us time to print and assemble the book for distribution on Member Recognition on Sunday, November 7th.

Please send your "selfie" 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.

Pam LeBlanc or Bill Jones will also be available on Sundays after the worship service, including this Sunday, August 29th, to take your picture in the parlor. Your help in making this project a success is most appreciated!



***Many Thanks!***

Pat McCarrick would like to thank everyone for sending her birthday cards for her 95th birthday on August 5th!



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

Please send your condolences to Diane Brackett on the recent passings of her two sons-in-law.

Diane Brackett, 230 Whitehall Road, Hooksett, NH 03106

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Please send prayers for healing to Ed and Carol Bellemare as Ed will be undergoing heart surgery on September 3rd.

Ed & Carol Bellemare, 176 Mitchell Street, Apt. 304, Manchester, NH 03103

# News and Events at First Congregational Church

## Announcements by Rev. Barbara Papagian

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

- Rev. Gordon Rankin will lead in-person Worship at 10:00 am this Sunday, August 29, 2021 and Rev. Rankin will also be the Scripture Reader.
- Bill Jones will be available in the parlor after Worship on Sunday to take your picture for the Photo Directory.
- The "Morning Watch Prayers" on [Facebook](#) are every Monday thru Thursday at 9:00 am.
- The Holly Berry Fair Craft Prep Workshops continue every Thursday morning from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm in the dining room through September 9th.
- The Deacons will meet on Monday, August 30th at 6:00 pm on Zoom and the Outreach Committee will meet by Zoom on Wednesday, September 1st at 7:00 pm.
- Next Sunday, September 5th will be a virtual service on [Facebook](#) at 10:00 am.

### \*Future and Ongoing Happenings\*

- The church office will be closed on Monday, September 6th in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.
- The All Church Picnic scheduled for September 12th has been cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Please note summer church office hours: M-TH from 9 am to 2 pm and 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](mailto:bpapagian@fccmanchesternh.org)

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

### 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\*

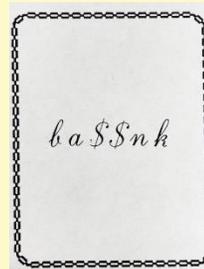
**ANSWERS FROM LAST WEEK BELOW**



"Broken Glass"



"Capitol Hill"



"Money in the Bank"

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Photo: From the Men's Fellowship Breakfast, November 2019

